

4 October 2024

Mr Gerard Hayes
General Secretary
Health Service Union NSW/ACT/QLD
Level 2, 109 Pitt Street
Sydney NSW 2000

secretary@hsu.asn.au

Dear Mr Hayes,

Re: Mid North Coast Local Health District (MNCLHD) Integrated Care, Allied Health and Community Services (ICAHCS) Directorate – Organisational Structure Review - Regional Assessment Service (RAS) and Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT) – inclusive of the Aged and Related Care Services (AARCS) team, Hastings and Coffs Harbour Clinical Networks.

I am writing to you regarding the review of the organisational structure for the Regional Assessment Service (RAS), Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT), and the Aged and Related Care Services (AARCS) teams. This review aligns with the broader reforms initiated by the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care, which may impact your members.

Background

The RAS, ACAT, and AARCS teams operate within the Hastings Macleay and Coffs Harbour Clinical Network, comprising various roles in administration, nursing, allied health, and health management. These teams are dedicated to providing assessment services for older adults across our District.

In response to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, which made 148 recommendations—including one aimed at improving the Aged Care Assessment process—the Department of Health and Aged Care is implementing significant reforms. These reforms include the integration of the RAS, ACAT, and AARCS workforce into a Single Assessment Workforce.

Current Situation

Given these reforms, it is necessary for the LHD to review our Model of Care to ensure that it reflects the available market share and supports the goal of simplifying access to both in-home and residential aged care services. This would also include a review into our organisational structure to incorporate necessary changes to accommodate any changes to our Model of Care.

To ensure that the District is positioned well to adapt where appropriate to the changing landscape, we propose to undertake a period of consultation with key stakeholders to inform any proposed changes to our existing structure. With the information available to the LHD at this current time it is anticipated that it will be necessary to undertake this in a phased

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approach. Phase 1 will need to begin by January 1, 2025, with the interim structure concluding by June 30, 2025. Phase 2 will then commence on July 1, 2025, representing the final iteration of the new structure.

In accordance with our relevant policies and commitment to consultation to inform this process we are inviting staff and relevant stakeholders to participate in a consultation period regarding the assessment service structure in light of the reforms.

Consultation Workshop

We would like to invite the Health Services Union (HSU) to an consultation workshop scheduled for Wednesday, October 9, 2024, at 3:00 PM. This session will take place at the Port Macquarie Community Health Centre, Morton Street, Port Macquarie, NSW, 2444, in Room 4, or you can join via MS Teams ([Join the meeting now](#)).

If you are unable to attend at that time, we would be more than happy to arrange a meeting at a mutually convenient time to discuss this further.

The consultation period for feedback will remain open until the end of business on Friday, November 1, 2024.

If you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to reach out to me at juaques.kruger@health.nsw.gov.au or 0467 348 396.

Yours sincerely



Juaques Kruger
District Manager Aged Care
Mid North Coast Local Health District