

## Private & Confidential

24 July 2023

Jeremy Lappin  
Industrial Officer  
Health Services Union  
L2/109 Pitt Street  
SYDNEY NSW 1215

Via email: [Jeremy.Lappin@hsu.asn.au](mailto:Jeremy.Lappin@hsu.asn.au) and [Tracey.Gaddelin@hsu.asn.au](mailto:Tracey.Gaddelin@hsu.asn.au)

Dear Jeremy,

### Re: Additional Theatre Opening – Maitland Hospital

I refer to your email dated 26 June 2023 outlining your concerns with the proposal to open an additional theatre at Maitland Hospital and how this may impact both Radiographers and Pharmacy Technicians in the provision of service delivery to support this change.

Firstly, if this was not made clear in previous correspondence, the purpose of the opening of the additional theatre is not to undertake additional work but to bring work being done after hours back into hours. The timeframe to bring on the additional theatre is not expected to occur until September/October 2023 as we continue to work towards recruitment of the nursing and anaesthetic workforce required to support the additional theatre.

After receiving your concerns, further discussions have occurred with the management team of Hunter New England Imaging Service (HNEI) and with the Director of Pharmacy – Lower Hunter Sector.

As a result of those discussions I advise as follows:

#### Radiographers

HNEI acknowledge that shifting theatre works from evening to business hours may have some effects on Radiographer staffing. Although the proposed changes are not aimed at increasing theatre workloads, it will have some impacts on the way HNEI roster Radiographers to cover the Emergency Department and Theatre simultaneously.

HNEI advise that they will support the opening of the additional Theatre at Maitland Hospital by providing Radiographer coverage by an on-call arrangement and payment of the on-call allowance daily.

#### Pharmacy Technicians

As stated above, as the plan for the Additional Theatre is to bring current workload done out of hours to in business hours, it will be the same amount of cases just done in a different configuration.

Following discussion with the LHS Director of Pharmacy, this change should not impact on the current Pharmacy Technician workload. We continue to monitor the Pharmacy Technicians workloads and opportunities for improvement in their daily work flow, and will seek opportunities to enhance the pharmacy service when required.

We will continue to work with both HNEI and the LHS Pharmacy Service to monitor any impact to workloads or impact to patient flow once the Additional Theatre is operational and reassess the allocation of these resources and make any necessary adjustments if required.

If you have any concerns could you please provide a response by close of business **Monday 7 August 2023** via [Christine.Osborne@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Christine.Osborne@health.nsw.gov.au) or contact me on (02) 4087 2058 or Lynn Hurst, Senior Human Resources Consultant on (02) 4985 3449.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C Osborne".

**Christine Osborne**  
General Manager  
Lower Hunter Sector  
Hunter New England Local Health District

c.c L Hurst, Snr HR Consultant