

Mr Gerard Hayes
Secretary
Health Services Union NSW/ACT/QLD
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Mail to: secretary@hsu.asn.au

Safe Haven pilot program extension of opening hours

Dear Health Services Union

I am writing to inform you of an exciting development regarding South Eastern Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD) Safe Haven program. We have recently secured additional funding to initiate a temporary pilot program that will extend our service hours to include Thursday evenings. This pilot program will run from 1st July 2024 until 30th June 2025, during which time Safe Haven will operate from Thursday through Tuesday, 4:00pm to 10:00pm.

The Safehaven is open to guests/community 5 – 10pm. The staff shift is 4 - 10pm to allow for handover, set up, and a debrief after guests leave.

Currently, our operating days are Friday through Tuesday, 4:00pm to 10:00pm, covering five evenings a week. The temporary pilot program will extend our services to six evenings a week, thereby enhancing our capacity to support the community.

To manage this extension, we have assessed our staffing needs and determined that while we can cover the additional Thursday shifts with our existing staff, this will inevitably create some gaps in our coverage. As such, we will need to backfill these gaps and recruit additional personnel, including the use of casual staff where necessary, to ensure a smooth transition and maintain our service standards throughout the pilot period.

As part of this initiative additional Suicide Prevention and Mental Health training will be offered to staff to increase knowledge and skills.

We are aware that this temporary change may impact our current workforce, and we are committed to managing this transition in a way that minimises any disruptions. We will be working closely with our HR department to facilitate the recruitment process and ensure that all staff members are informed and supported throughout this period.

We value the input and cooperation of the union in this matter and are open to any suggestions or concerns you may have. Should you require any further assistance or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact Deborah Shea Lead Human Resources Business Partner on Deborah.Shea@health.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely



Christopher Hay
General Manager
SESLHD Mental Health Service
Date: 7 June 2024