HealthShare NSW

Mr Gerard Hayes
Secretary
Health Services Union

secretary@hsu.asn.au

27 March 2026

Waste - Block Model Implementation - John Hunter Hospital

Dear Mr Hayes,

I am writing to notify the Health Services Union about permanent implementation of a "Block Model" for waste management at John Hunter Hospital.

HealthShare NSW (HSNSW) recently consulted with staff and the union to deliver a three month trial of the Block Model approach which has delivered improvements to efficiency, safety and service responsiveness.

The trial helped to address several operational challenges in the existing waste and linen collection process, noting that under the previous system separate linen and waste runs across multiple areas on site were required. This resulted in long travel distances for staff, slower turnaround times, and overfilling risks in disposal rooms.

Review of the three month trial with staff has now concluded and feedback gathered during midpoint and three-month review meetings has confirmed that the Block Model is functioning effectively, with nil concerns raised. All staff expressed agreement to adopt the Block Model on a permanent basis.

Regarding the impacted staff, no hours will be removed and there are no financial implications to staff.

HSNSW will closely monitor the impact of this change. We are grateful for the collaboration on this initiative to date and we welcome feedback from both staff and the HSU throughout the implementation process.

Should you require further information, please contact Erin Bell, HR Business Partner, HSNSW, at Erin.Bell@health.nsw.gov.au or 0487 995 382.

Sincerely,

Wendy Hughes
Chief Executive
HealthShare NSW

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