



Robyn Preston MP

Member for Hawkesbury
Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly
Shadow Minister for Mental Health and Medical Research
Shadow Minister for Veterans

MEDIA RELEASE

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WIN FOR HAWKESBURY HOSPITAL WORKERS

Staff at Hawkesbury Hospital have been advised they will now have a choice in the treatment of their entitlements when they transfer from St John of Health Care to NSW Health or HealthShare NSW on 1st July 2024. This covers all clinical, non-clinical and general workers at Hawkesbury Hospital.

Hospital staff and their representatives have been fighting for this outcome since the announcement in January that NSW Health will take over operations of Hawkesbury Hospital. Staff had been informed their leave entitlements were going to be paid out and could not be transferred to their new employer. This would have had significant tax implications for many staff and workers would have had to start with zero annual leave entitlements when they commenced under NSW Health.

I joined Hawkesbury Hospital staff in their campaign to carry over leave entitlements to NSW Health and HealthShare NSW. I made this point during rallies and in my Parliamentary speeches, through media articles and through my representations to the Minister for Health.

Ms Preston said, “I congratulate every health care worker on a sensible result. Hawkesbury Hospital health care workers have cared for this community for generations including through the recent natural disasters. We owe them a fair go and our respect.”

Secretary of the Hawkesbury Branch of the Nurses and Midwives Association, Ben Wright said, “Today’s news comes as a great relief for my colleagues, many of whom were incredibly distressed by the thought of losing control of their leave entitlements.

We are grateful for the support of the Hawkesbury community. It’s good to know that the Hawkesbury cares for us as much as we care for the Hawkesbury.”

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