



Warehousing reform

BACKGROUND

In July 2008 NSW Health commissioned a review of the future of NSW Health warehouses. The report has delivered a new warehouse and distribution network model.

There are 15 major warehouses across the state servicing hospitals and community care facilities. The range and type of products that are normally warehoused include items where bulk purchase achieves price savings and other items where a steady supply of product is required, for example:

- Needles and syringes
- Dressing packs
- Gloves, masks, caps, boots
- Bandages
- Toilet paper
- Cleaning products

WAREHOUSE DISTRIBUTION REFORMS

The review recommended that NSW warehousing operations be consolidated into five warehouses - two in metropolitan Sydney and three in regional NSW. This consolidation of warehouses reflects current industry benchmarking standards.

The five warehouses are; Sutherland, Concord, Cardiff, Wagga Wagga and Orange.

These warehouses will become distribution centres servicing multiple Area Health Services.

Warehouses at Broken Hill and Regents Park are outside the scope and will remain as they are.

The warehousing reforms will bring about improved product pricing and inventory efficiencies without clinicians losing access to the products they require.

The reforms will also generate significant savings in the short to medium term to be returned to Area Health Services for investment in frontline clinical services.

MARCH
2009



Public Information Fact Sheet

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LOOKING AFTER EXISTING WAREHOUSE STAFF

For warehouse staff it will mean some will continue to work at the same location and the same job, while others will operate from alternate premises or need to be redeployed within the health system.

Area Health Services and Health Support Services will determine on a warehouse by warehouse basis the scope of the changes required.

Through the Union Specific Consultative Committee process, Health Support Services (HSS) will establish the structure and position descriptions for the five retained warehouses. Statewide recruitment to the positions within the five retained warehouses will then commence in accordance with the existing recruitment procedures with priority given to displaced or affected staff.

COMMUNICATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

HSS is committed, as part of our process for change, to ensure all stakeholders affected by the reforms will be actively consulted and engaged. If you have any questions you can contact Health Support Services at info@hss.health.nsw.gov.au or telephone 8644 2013