

### NSWNMA Question on Notice

**Question:**

Ms Trish Doyle: Further to that, yes, there's a crisis now and we've heard from a number of different witnesses and read about people's deep concerns in submissions. On a weekly basis, fortnightly basis, how is the local health district now consulting with you?

**Answer:**

Pertinent to the context surrounding the above question, the NSWNMA is not aware of recent local health district consultation specifically related to maternity and obstetric patients.

Broadly, consultation occurs quarterly through the Joint Consultative Committee at the local health district level, and at monthly Specific Consultative Committee meetings at each hospital. Of note, these meetings are not exclusive to the NSWNMA, with other unions also present, including ASMOF and HSU.

Should specific nursing or midwifery concerns/ issues arise during the Joint Consultative Committee or Specific Consultative Committee meetings, the NSWNMA or hospital management can seek to form a Union Specific Consultative Committee. This Committee, comprising NSWNMA officials and members, as well as district management and human resources officials, holds a round table discussion that comprehensively analyses facility or local health district issues, enabling open discussion and resolution before escalation can occur.

When changes are implemented at a site, the local health district generally approaches NSWNMA for consultation. Concerningly, however, the NSWNMA has not always received consultation requests from HNELHD and therefore, the onus has fallen to the Association to initiate the consultation meetings.