

Townsville Hospital to introduce extra security after nurse assaults

TESS IKONOMOU, Townsville Bulletin

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THE Townsville Hospital will be placing a security guard in its secure mental health unit in a couple of days, after safety concerns were raised by nurses.

The response comes after the *Townsville Bulletin* reported nurses were calling for increased security in the Alec Ilin Secure Mental Health Unit, after a string of vicious assaults.

NURSES CLAIM HOSPITAL DENIED THEM SECURITY

Townsville Hospital and Health Service Board Chair Tony Mooney said an urgent review was being undertaken.

“The board executive committee last week unanimously endorsed a recommendation by the Acting Health Service Chief Executive for additional health security officers to commence at The Townsville Hospital temporarily,” he said.

“This increased security presence will take effect from this week, with one health security officer commencing on Friday June 29 and the second to follow in the coming weeks.”

ASSAULTS ON HOSPITAL STAFF WILL BE FILMED

Queensland Nurses and Midwives Union Townsville Organiser Kaylene Turnbull said the organisation would continue to work alongside the hospital.

“The QNMU is committed to continuing to protect and improve the safety of nurses and other hospital and health services staff,” she said.

“We will continue to help guide the implementation of security measures to ensure the provision of quality care and the safety of staff and patients.”