
THE AUTHORITIES' ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE UNIONISATION OF HEALTH WORKERS

At Baragwanath Hospital, neither GAWU nor HWA is recognised as negotiating partners by the hospital authorities.

Interviewed by the Star, Daan Kirstein, MEC in charge of Transvaal hospital services, said that the authorities will only talk to representatives whom they consider "genuine".

Asked whether hospital authorities would meet and accept workers' committees which GAWU and other unions are forming, Mr Kirstein was cagey. "It depends where the committee comes from. Every genuine committee of people in the hospital's employ is more than welcome to come and discuss their situation. The superintendents would not be prepared to meet people from outside who instigate problems... We would not be prepared to meet unions from outside. In the government service no unions are recognised. We are not in a position to recognise them."
