

EXHIBIT 701

Re: Impending closure of Barret Adolescent Centre

From: Stephen Stathis [REDACTED]
To: Graham Martin [REDACTED]
Date: Thu, 08 Nov 2012 18:17:03 +1000

I understand about the importance of transparency, but am mindful of the implications in leaking information that Peter specifically asked Judi to keep confidential. She quite appropriately took us into her confidence, and I am concerned about the possible consequences for her, now that all C&A psychiatrists in Queensland are aware of the funding cuts. Peter may also be less forthcoming about sharing other important information (things are forever changing right now, given all the instability). Being 'out of the loop' will put us at a distinct disadvantage.

Fortunately, it appears that the cuts may not be as deep as we thought (though we won't get confirmation of that until the Board makes a final decision later this month).

I am about to go on a week's leave (9-16 Nov). We should meet up when I return. I'll ask Heather Montgomerie to organise a time. This is much to talk about.

Regards

Stephen

Dr Stephen Stathis
 Director: Child and Family Therapy Unit
 Royal Children's Hospital
 Herston Road, Herston 4029
 [REDACTED]

>>> Graham Martin [REDACTED] 7/11/2012 7:04 pm >>>

Sorry Stephen,

I do keep stepping out of line. My core belief is that all that bureaucratic secrecy is as dangerous in clinical services as secrets are in close knit families. :-)

regards

Graham Martin OAM, MD, FRANZCP, DPM
 Professor, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, The University of Queensland
 Clinical Director, RCH & Brisbane North CYMHS
 Centre for Psychiatry & Clinical Neuroscience Research (Suicide Prevention Studies)
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 [REDACTED]

On 07/11/2012, at 3:24 PM, Stephen Stathis wrote:

> Dear All

>

> Thanks Graham. This is quite rightly an emotive issue. I've spoken in person to Trevor, offering my support and talked to him about a range of possible strategies and/or options. I have not been consulted, but am soon to meet with people in the Directorate; Barrett's closure will definitely be on the agenda.

>

> I thought I'd write to all on consultants in our district. The issue of the 5% cuts (mentioned in Graham's e-mail) is not be disclosed outside our consultant group. My most recent information indicates that the cuts may not be as deep as initially thought, and I do not want to unnecessarily stress staff beyond what they are currently experiencing. The Board has been actively engaging with the Minister, and the final decision will be announced in about a month.

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> Please do not hesitate to e-mail or phone me in person if you have any questions.

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> Kind regards

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> Stephen

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> Dr Stephen Stathis

> Director: Child and Family Therapy Unit

> Royal Children's Hospital

> Herston Road, Herston 4029

[REDACTED]

>

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> >>> Graham Martin [REDACTED] 7/11/2012 1:06 pm >>>

> Trevor,

> I have sent this response to your message several ways to ensure all our colleagues are alerted.

> I apologise for not responding prior to this, but professional life has been frenetic. I have not yet had time to review what our other colleagues have said in response, but what you report is outrageous.

> This is similar to other measures being taken to get Queensland back to a Triple A rating, and to rectify the stupidity of the losses through the Queensland Health payroll scandal - without consultation, and without care for human life.

> The rhetoric is that no front line workers will be sacked, but our own service has been 'asked' (behind closed doors) to reduce our budget by 5% 'across the board'. Given that mental health is predominantly an endeavour dependent on staff and their training and skills, most services run very lean regarding ancillary staff, and we do not employ extremely expensive tests or huge costs attached to equipment, a reduction will mean loss of front line workers. Given the kind of clientele we have, and the ever-increasing severity and complexity, these measures will cost lives. Your own unit is well known to have saved the lives of many young people who were at extreme risk. Loss of the unit will cost lives.

> I cannot think what government is trying to do in targeting mental health services, except that we are an 'easy target'. We do not have strong media coverage, and our clients do not have a voice.

> I cannot think where they are getting their information from, or with whom they have consulted. It is certainly NOT with me.

> We must find out who is seeing themselves as close to power at this time (and find out what they think they have to gain).

> There are 75 or so Child Psychiatrists in Queensland. I believe we do have a voice, and should use it - either in collaboration with the College, or the AMA, or failing them then on our own.

> I believe that the kind of secrecy in which all of this kind of stuff occurs is dangerous to the future of our services. I think we should go to the press (and I do not care what any bureaucrats or others think of that move). It is time we stood up for what we believe.

> I believe we could use strike action. I am serious. We will not get the attention of these bean counters unless we do something radical. We should raise the issue, warn whoever, involve the press, and ALL child psychiatrists across the state should be involved in a 24 hour strike. I am sure our paediatric colleagues and our multidisciplinary staff will take up the slack for 24 hours.

>

> regards

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> Graham Martin OAM, MD, FRANZCP, DPM

> Professor, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, The University of Queensland

> Clinical Director, RCH & Brisbane North CYMHS

> Centre for Psychiatry & Clinical Neuroscience Research (Suicide Prevention Studies)

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