

West Moreton Hospital and Health Service Issues and Incident Management Plan

Issues synopsis

SITUATION ANALYSIS:

- Barrett Adolescent Centre (BAC) is located within The Park – Centre for Mental Health (The Park) and provides a state wide service of extended treatment and rehabilitation for up to 15 adolescents with severe and complex mental health disorders.
- As part of the Queensland Plan for Mental Health 2007-2017, a capital allocation had been approved to rebuild BAC in a new location as:
 - The capital fabric of BAC is no longer able to meet the requirements of a contemporary model of care for adolescent extended treatment and rehabilitation; and
 - In the future, the Park will become exclusively a secure and forensic mental health facility..
- It was planned to build the Adolescent Extended Treatment and Rehabilitation Unit Redlands, adjacent to the Redlands Hospital. It was to be commissioned in 2014. Due to environmental and other issues, the Project could not proceed and has now ceased.
- The capital allocation previously attached to the rebuild has been reallocated to other capital priorities and capital funding is no longer available for a rebuild of BAC.
- It has become imperative that:
 - alternative contemporary service options be identified to replace the services currently provided by BAC; and
 - an implementation plan be developed to achieve these outcomes.

MEDIA PROGNOSIS

- This issue has already attracted significant negative media attention and will continue to do so for some time.
- There is a perception that adolescents requiring longer term mental health inpatient treatment will no longer be able to access that type of treatment. There is also a perception by some that any model other than BAC would be sub-standard.
- To reassure the community it is necessary to reiterate that care for these adolescents will continue, and that any service options put forward will be based on best practice and will provide patients with the highest quality care that is appropriate to their individual needs.

MAJOR ISSUES AND RESPONSES / FAQs

Has the expert clinical reference group made any recommendations?

The expert clinical reference group met for the last time on 24 April 2013, and submitted their seven recommendations to the overarching Planning Group. These recommendations identified the key components and considerations for how Queensland can best meet the mental health needs of

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adolescents requiring longer term mental health care. These recommendations have also been considered by the West Moreton Hospital and Health Board, and other key stakeholders.

Has a decision been made about the future of Barrett Adolescent Centre?

It has been determined that alternative statewide service options will be developed for adolescents requiring longer term mental health care. BAC will cease operations at end of December 2013.

Who is developing these new service options?

The options will be developed collaboratively between West Moreton Hospital and Health Service, Children's Health Queensland and the Department of Health. Other key stakeholders will be involved in this process, including consumer and carer representatives.

What will these options look like?

It is likely that they will comprise a variety of treatment options including inpatient care, and individual, family, and group therapy sessions.

What about the current BAC consumers?

The adolescents currently admitted to BAC will continue to receive the highest quality care that is most appropriate for them. The care for these young people and their families will continue to be a priority for West Moreton Hospital and Health Service.

Are young people going to miss out?

We want to make sure young mental health consumers receive the right treatment, in the right place, and at the right time. The new statewide service options will focus on the specific needs of the young people within this target group.

Is this just another budget cut ?

No, this is not about cost cutting. All recurrent funding from the BAC will support the new statewide service options. This is also not about cutting beds or ceasing longer term mental health care for adolescents in Queensland. This is about delivering contemporary models of care for young mental health consumers in an environment that is safe for them and closer to their homes.

What about the school on site?

Education is a valuable and integral component in our provision of best practice mental health care for adolescents. The Education Department is responsible for the provision of educational services to this target group and will continue to be engaged in the process in order to meet the needs of these young people.

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CURRENT STATUS

Media is aware of an impending decision regarding the future of Barrett Adolescent Centre.

KEY MESSAGES

- Adolescents requiring longer term mental health treatment will continue to receive the high quality of care suited to their individual needs.
- BAC will close at end of December 2013 when alternate service options will become available.
- The Park is secure and forensic adult mental health facility. As part of The Park, this means BAC is not an appropriate environment for the treatment of adolescents.

RECOMMENDED APPROACH

- Media holding statement in the first instance
- Media statement announcing decision
- Media statements – progress updates
- FAQs
- Letters to stakeholders
- Standard Ministerial response