

West Moreton Hospital and Health Service Media Statement

HOLDING STATEMENT

Xxx 2013

Please attribute the following to West Moreton Hospital and Health Service Chief Executive, Ms Lesley Dwyer:

1. IF NO DECISION IS MADE

No decision about the future of Barrett Adolescent Centre has been made.

The Expert Clinical Reference Group has now concluded its investigation of options for a statewide model of care for young people requiring longer term mental health treatment.

The group has put forward seven recommendations for consideration, and these recommendations are now being considered by West Moreton Hospital and Health Service.

Our goal is to ensure no adolescent goes without the expert mental health care they require. Any decision made by the Health Service ~~will~~must take into account the need for a consistent, best-practice, ~~statewide~~ approach to caring for young ~~people~~people requiring longer term mental health treatment.

We must also consider the delivery of contemporary models of care for young mental health consumers in an environment that is safe for them and this may include partnerships with non-government organisations.

2. IF DECISION IS MADE TO CLOSE BAC

West Moreton Hospital and Health Service is committed to ensuring no adolescent goes without the expert mental health care they required.

It has been determined that it is in the best interests of young people requiring longer term mental health treatment that Barrett Adolescent Centre (based at The Park Centre for Mental Health) will close by end 2013. The Park is a high secure adult mental health facility. It is not a suitable place for adolescents. Our goal now is to ensure our youth are cared for in an environment that is best suited to them. It is in the best interests of young people that they are not cared for in the same environment as adult mental health consumers who require high secure care.

The Barrett Adolescent Centre will close by the end of September 2013. However, I can assure consumers, their families and the community that closure of the Barrett Adolescent Centre will not mean that this very important type of the end of mental health care for young people will no longer be available in Queensland. On the contrary, it is planned to direct additional, new mental health

resources to local communities across the State, so that young people have greater access to high quality mental health services closer to home. These additional resources will specifically support young people with longer term mental health needs.

The decision to close Barrett Adolescent Centre follows thorough investigations by an Expert Clinical Reference Group which put forward seven recommendations for a statewide service for young people requiring longer term mental health.

West Moreton Hospital and Health Service has accepted all seven of the recommendations from the Expert Clinical Reference Group. The HHS will now work closely with other hospital and health services across the state, as well as other mental health care providers to action these recommendations and establish develop a services that meets the needs of these young people. Under a new statewide model of care, Queensland's youth will continue to receive the excellent mental health care that they have always received.

~~Until this service has been developed, Barrett Adolescent Centre consumers will continue to be provided with the care they require at Barrett.~~

~~Under a new statewide model of care, Queensland's youth will continue to receive the excellent mental health care that they have always received.~~

~~The Park is a high secure adult mental health facility. This is not a suitable place for adolescents.~~

~~Our goal now is to ensure our youth are cared for in an environment that is best suited for them. It is in the best interests of young people that they are not cared for in the same environment as adult mental health consumers who require high secure care.~~

ENDS

Media contact: 