



Queensland
Government

West Moreton Hospital and Health Service

Enquiries to:	Sharon Kelly
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Our Ref:	EDMH 20131120

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you again for taking the time to speak with me last week. I acknowledge and value the perspective of your experiences with the Barrett Adolescent Centre (BAC).

In speaking with you I understand there has been a lot of information from a number of sources about the process and I felt it was appropriate for me to provide the update.

I recognise that you felt our service had not been as supportive as we could in linking in [REDACTED] with appropriate adult services and there had been some mixed messages regarding accessing the psychologist. I understand [REDACTED] has been attending outpatient appointments and I hope that the clinical team have been able to give you some better details in the past week.

As I discussed with you, the West Moreton Hospital and Health Service (WMHHS) is committed to ensuring that all young people have suitable and appropriate transition plans in place prior to the closing of the BAC building. BAC will not be closing on 13 December 2013; this date simply relates to the completion of the regular school term. As previously noted, the closure date of the Barrett Adolescent Centre building is the end of January 2014. This is a flexible date that will be responsive to the needs of young people and the service options available. Importantly, we remain committed to ensuring that there will be no gap to services for BAC consumers.

I have endeavoured to ensure that you are contacted about changes at BAC before they occur and I and my colleagues have held meetings with parents and carers on a number of occasions and will continue to do so throughout this process. The treating team at BAC are keeping your adolescent informed about what is happening on a regular basis. The Clinical Director and Case Coordinators are your best point of contact regarding the healthcare of your adolescent and are available for you to contact via phone or email.

To date I trust you have received (via email) nine fact sheets (and or updates) on the BAC since the project began in November 2012. These fact sheets are also available from the WMHHS website <http://health.qld.gov.au/westmoreton/html/bac/default.asp>. Fact sheets and updates will continue to be provided to parents and carers by WMHHS until full transition has occurred. Also available from the website are copies of the frequently asked questions and the ECRG's recommendations.

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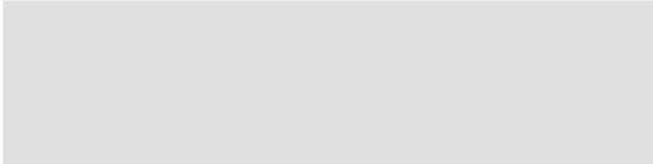
Phone [REDACTED] Fax [REDACTED]

I am aware that all current BAC parents and carers were invited by WMHHS to submit a written submission to the statewide project, expressing views and experiences regarding the current and future service options in Queensland for adolescents requiring extended treatment and rehabilitation. One collective parent submission was received from several BAC parents and carers. Some of the parents and carers who contributed to the submission presented it to the Steering Committee of the Statewide Adolescent Extended Treatment and Rehabilitation Implementation Strategy on 4 November 2013.

I want to assure you that the closing of BAC is not a cost cutting exercise and that all funding for services provided by BAC will continue well into the future. It is not about cutting beds or ceasing longer term mental health care for adolescents in Queensland. It is about delivering contemporary models of care for young mental health consumers in an environment that is safe for them and where possible closer to their homes.

If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me on

Yours sincerely


Sharon Kelly
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Mental Health and Specialised Services
West Moreton Hospital and Health Service
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