

**Executive Support Unit**  
**MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE – ACTION SHEET**

Recfind Doc Type: MIN

MINPREM

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MINMP

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RCVD IN ESU: MINAD

7/12/12 MINNRR

MINU

Reg No: MI 186707

**DUE EXECUTIVE SUPPORT:**

3/1/13

**ACTION OFFICER:** MDOG

**COPIED TO:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Response required:** Yes  No  Action Direct / Board to respond

**Response signatory:** Minister for Health  Assistant Minister  Chief of Staff

**Closing contact details:** Departmental  N/A

**Response Template\*:** A B C G

**Standard Letter:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ESU Option Letter Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Redirect to:** \_\_\_\_\_

\* Templates can be found on QHEPS by clicking on Corporate Templates under *I am looking for* or from the tool bar click on Business Support, and under Administration click on Templates. Alternatively, in Word, File / New and then click on Qld Health Templates (in the task panel on the right hand side of the page). It is important that you access the templates from the website *every time* (and not use a previous template) as the templates are updated regularly.

**Briefing note required:** YES / NO

**Briefing note template\*:** A B C

**COMMENTS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**ESU Contact:** Deane Cochran (um)

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:**

Department Ref #: \_\_\_\_\_

- Acknowledgement Letter
- Acknowledgement Email
- Acknowledgement Not Required

Policy Advisor: **Andrew**

Re-Issue: Email: Southern Downs COJ  
Peter Kop

Closure of Barrett Adolescent  
Centre

**RESPONSE:**

- Minister
- Assistant Minister
- Chief of Staff
- Board Chairs
- Refer to Department for Direct Reply (**Action Direct**)
- No Response Required (**Note and File**)
- BRIEFING NOTE REQUIRED
- BRIEFING NOTE NOT REQUIRED

Previous Dept Ref #: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**COMMENTS / REQUESTS:**

Min response -> Mr Kop 07-12.

Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Courteney Hawkins**

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**From:** Andrew Bibb  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 5 December 2012 7:28 AM  
**To:** Health  
**Subject:** FW: closure of Barrett adolescent centre

Andrew Bibb |Senior Policy Advisor/Electorate Liaison Office of the Minister for Health The Hon Lawrence Springborg, MP  
147-163 Charlotte Street. Brisbane. Qld. 4000  
Telephone: [REDACTED]  
E-Mail: andr [REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Southern Downs Electorate Office | [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, 4 December 2012 4:48 PM  
To: Andrew Bibb  
Subject: FW: closure of barrett adolescent centre

Andrew,

For your attention.

This person is not a Southern Downs constituent.

Ian.;

-----Original Message-----

From: Southern Downs Electorate Office  
Sent: Tuesday, 4 December 2012 4:47 PM  
To: 'peter kop'  
Subject: RE: closure of barrett adolescent centre

Dear Mr. Kop,

I acknowledge receipt of your e-mail of 2nd December to the Hon. Lawrence Springborg, MP, Minister for Health, regarding the closure of the Barrett Adolescent Centre.

Your e-mail has been forwarded on to Mr. Springborg at his Ministerial Office for his attention and response to you.

Ian Jackson,  
Electorate Officer for  
Hon. Lawrence Springborg, MP,  
Member for Southern Downs,  
PO Box 444,  
STANTHORPE. 4380

Telephone: [REDACTED]  
E-mail: [REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: peter kop [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, 3 December 2012 8:23 PM  
To: Southern Downs Electorate Office  
Subject: Fwd: closure of barrett adolescent centre

----- Forwarded message -----

From: peter kop [REDACTED]  
Date: Sun, 2 Dec 2012 17:04:35 +1000  
Subject: closure of barrett adolescent centre  
To [REDACTED]

Dear Sir

I am writing to you to ask for you to support the retention of the Barrett Adolescent Centre. This centre specialises in the treatment and rehabilitation of adolescents in Queensland with mental health issues. It is an extended rehabilitation unit that focuses on the care of chronic and treatment resistant mental health issues. The centre allows youth to achieve their developmental milestones as well as reintegration into society. An holistic approach is used as well as a least restrictive environment. While some of the youth are involuntary the unit encourages voluntary admissions and adheres to minimal seclusions and does not use chemical or mechanical restraints.

Family and carers are actively involved in treatment outcomes and the youth have a strong voice in the direction of care.

A youths strengths are the focus of recovery and as soon as the youth is able they are integrated into the community services that are available.

There is an attached school that specialises in engaging with youth who have not been able to attend school sometimes for many years. the program is tailored to the youths needs.

During the thirty years the program has been running many lives have been saved by being an inpatient in the centre. these youth have gone on to leads productive and fulfilling lives with families and careers as well as tertiary education.

Past patients have often kept in contact with the centre and the staff and at times will attend events at the centre and speak to current patients about their lived experiences.

This facility is the only one of its kind in Queensland and as patients have stated "its their last chance". Many are unable to go home due to abuse issues or having been abandoned. The centre assists the youth to identify where they would like to live and supports this as well as further schooling or finding employment.

The staff liaise with NGO's, other departments such as child safety and with the education department.

Close contact is kept with the referring agencies such as CYMHS, Headspace as well as other sources.

There has been strong support for the continuation of this service from experts in adolescent mental health such as Professor's Patrick Mc Gorry, Brett Mc Dermott, Graham Martin as well as many others. the family and patients began a petition and there is a parliamentary e-petition as well as support from many others.

The State government is closing the centre after advice from mental health central office and the health district is supporting the closure due mainly to financial issues.

This centre is a state wide service that is unique in Queensland and is being modeled by other states and countries.

The health district has stated that the closure was in line with national mental health strategies but after reviewing some of their outdated and selective examples for the closure this excuse does mirror the national mental health strategies.

The building is old and needs replacing but the service provided is vibrant and has a dedicated core of staff that specialise in the complex treatment of adolescent mental health.

If the unit cannot stay in this district or at this site then there is a need to retain the service at another site. The director of the unit D.R. Trevor Sadler is highly respected by his colleagues and is a saint to past and present patients. He has dedicated many years to the centre and the closure has aged him. It is an injustice and disservice to the the youth of Queensland that because of not being "sexy" or "Media worthy" and "not of voting age"

these adolescents will lose what is possibly there last chance for a fulfilling life to save money.

I beg you as a person as with a voice to support this centre and the vital work it does.

Yours sincerely peter kop

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