

Department of Health



Queensland  
Government

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Richard Ashby, CE Metro South HHS  
 Lesley Dwyer, CE West Moreton HHS  
 Kevin Hegarty, CE Sunshine Coast HHS  
 Adrian Pennington, CE Wide Bay HHS  
 Glynis Schultz, South West HHS  
 Len Richards, Central Qld HHS  
 Kerry McGovern, Mackay HHS  
 Michael Lok, Central West HHS  
 Sue Belsham, North West HHS  
 Julie Hartley-Jones, Cairns and Hinterland HHS  
 Susan Turner, Cape York HHS

**Copies to:** Philip Davies, Torres Strait – Northern Peninsula HHS  
 Bill Kingswell, Executive Director, Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs  
 Directorate  
 John O'Donnell, CEO Mater Children's Hospital

**From:** Peter Steer, Chief Executive,  
 Children's Health Queensland HHS

**Contact No:** [REDACTED]  
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**Subject:** New Adolescent Mental Health Extended Treatment Services

**File Ref:** CHQ02745

In December 2012, the West Moreton HHS initiated the Barrett Adolescent Strategy to identify a new range of contemporary service options for the delivery of statewide adolescent mental health extended treatment and rehabilitation services. An Expert Clinical Reference Group (ECRG) and an overarching Planning Group were established to ensure broad and extensive consultation in regard to service model elements. Their recommendations were accepted and the Children's Health Queensland (CHQ) HHS, in collaboration with West Moreton HHS, has subsequently been working on the development of an expanded and enhanced range of adolescent mental health extended treatment and rehabilitation services.

In October 2013, a working group was convened and senior representation from your HHS was invited. Representatives from across the state and Hospital and Health Service Districts attended this forum, including mental health clinicians across nursing, allied health and medical professions, a carer representative, and a non-government organisation representative. The resulting model of care was then disseminated to this working group and socialised for comment at other forums including the Statewide Child and Youth Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Clinical Group and the quarterly meeting of the Queensland Branch of the Faculty of the Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists.

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We are now pleased to advise that a comprehensive model of care, comprising five service options, has been endorsed and includes:

1. Assertive Mobile Youth Outreach Service (AMYOS) – a new CYMHS service option providing mobile interventions in community or residential settings; ideally resourced with a minimum of two full time employees per AMYOS team;
2. Adolescent Day Program – an expansion of existing services with additional day program units proposed in the South-East Queensland region; treating up to 15 adolescents per day per unit;
3. Step Up / Step Down Unit – a new adolescent service option providing short-term residential treatment by mental health specialists in partnership with a non-government organisation (NGO); up to 10 beds per unit located where there is NGO support;
4. Subacute Bed-based Unit – a new adolescent service providing medium-term, intensive, treatment in a secure and safe integrated hospital-based unit located within the CHQ catchment; and
5. Residential Rehabilitation Unit – a new adolescent service providing longer-term accommodation and recovery-oriented treatment in partnership with NGOs together with in-reach services provided by mental health specialists; 5 to 10 beds per unit located where there is NGO support.

A phased approach to implementation has been developed with consideration of population, demand, and the local mental health service capacity to enhance services in the proposed locations. Consideration has also been given to local mental health service infrastructure and the capacity to support new services and integrate them within their existing team structures. It is proposed that the first phase of services be established in larger metropolitan and regional areas to ensure robust clinical and corporate governance systems, enable an integrated approach, and support implementation of an evaluation framework, all of which will be critical to the success of the new services.

Successful implementation of the full proposed model of care will be dependent upon securing new operational and capital funding. A business case, seeking funding for service implementation over a four year timeframe, is currently under development.

In the meantime, CHQ is progressing with the implementation of the first phase of services, funded through the existing operational budget. From early February, the following services are being established:

- A Statewide Assessment Panel to ensure equitable and appropriate access to adolescent extended treatment services;
- Six CYMHS Assertive Mobile Youth Outreach Services (AMYOS) Teams and two supporting child psychiatrist positions. The AMYOS Teams will be located in:
  - North Brisbane (CHQ catchment)
  - South Brisbane (current Mater CYMHS catchment)
  - Darling Downs
  - Redcliffe/Caboolture
  - Gold Coast
  - Townsville
- A new Adolescent Day Program Unit in north Brisbane by June 2014. This will be in addition to existing Day Program Units located at the Mater Hospital (south Brisbane), Toowoomba, and Townsville;
- A 5-bed Residential Rehabilitation Unit will open at Greenslopes; and,

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- Interim subacute inpatient beds at the Mater Hospital, until a longer term bed-based option in the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital can be established.

Please note, CHQ is in the process of preparing a media statement regarding the establishment of the above services and, as such, your discretion in the dissemination of this information would be appreciated.

Given our commitment to establish services in a timely manner, we are moving quickly to recruit for these services, and information about implementation of these services will be provided to the HHSs in due course.

In the meantime, should you have any questions in regard to the services being implemented, please contact us on [REDACTED]

Kind regards



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Peter Steer  
**Chief Executive**  
**Children's Health Queensland HHS**

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