



**Queensland  
Government**  
Queensland Health

# MEMORANDUM

**To:** Shirley Wigan  
Executive Director  
Mental Health Services  
Darling Downs - West Moreton Health Service District

**Cc:** Katrina Mathies  
Director  
Mental Health Services  
Darling Downs - West Moreton Health Service District

✓ Dr Terry Stedman  
Director of Clinical Services  
The Park - Centre for Mental Health

**From:** Dr Trevor Sadler  
Director  
Barrett Adolescent Centre  
The Park - Centre for Mental Health

**Contact No:**  
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**Subject:** *RESPONSE TO THE 2009 REVIEW OF BARRETT ADOLESCENT CENTRE BY GARY WALTER, MARTIN BAKER AND MICHELLE GEORGE*

**File Ref:** G:\Bac-Administration\Dr Sadler\BAC Review-May10.doc

Unlike the McDermott et al Review (2003), the recent Review repeatedly made comments which were inaccurate, incorrect or untrue. At times omissions to check facts are either acknowledged, but inferences made regardless. Other times veiled statements are used such as "it is not clear". Inevitably the inferences cast a negative light on the clinical and operational functioning of the Centre.

This Response highlights in red the factually incorrect statements, followed by evidence available to the Reviewers for a correct statement.

A number of recommendations are based on incorrect observations. The reduced number of relevant recommendations seriously diminishes the value of the Review.

There are a number of reasons to expect the Review to be limited. The Reviewers had a short time frame (2 days), the Centre did not have knowledge of the terms of reference, and so did not have documentation available to the Reviewers (eg minutes of meetings) and there was a seven month time lapse between the Review and the Report in which some information may have been lost. Nevertheless the Review makes many incorrect statements rather than acknowledge the difficulties they faced. It is almost fraudulent and unethical to present it as an accurate Review.

Some inaccuracies should have been evident at District level. For instance, the Reviewers criticised the lack of certain processes. The lack of these would have reflected poorly on both Facility and District management processes. The Australian Council of Healthcare Surveyors who visited the Centre in 2008 would have noted them as evidences of serious shortcomings. I am unsure then why the District did not attempt to identify all incorrect statements before releasing the report outside the District. The Centre is depicted in such a poor light, the release of the report has defamed the reputations of senior clinicians.



**Dr Trevor Sadler**

Director

Barrett Adolescent Centre

6 May 2010