

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 Dec 2012 12:22:50 +1000
To: WM TeamConnect
Subject: Possible closure of the Barrett Adolescent Centre
Importance: Normal

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to today to further urge you to rethink your decision of the closure of the Barrett Adolescent Centre. I myself spent 10mths both as a day patient and as an inpatient there and only because of the support and therapy that only that centre can provide I can say that I have gained stability from my mental health issues for almost 3 yrs now.

The Barrett Adolescent Centre is a live in facility which provides a day program as well for mentally unwell adolescents and is the only centre to provide this in QLD. This centre is specifically designed for those with chronic or complex issues who have not had success in the acute care system and operates as a long term facility - the general stay is 12mths +/- . It has a brilliant track record of success with the recovery of patients.

The Barrett Adolescent centre provides an intensive program which incorporates a variety of different therapies including but not limited to, Art & Music Therapy, Sand Play therapy, Cognitive Behaviour Therapy, Talking Therapy, Mindfulness training; as well as ongoing and intensive therapy with trained Psychologists, Social workers and Psychiatrists which are selected and tailored to suit each patient individually. It provides all day support and several therapy sessions each day both individual and group. It also has a focus on gaining necessary life skills through things as cooking, socialising, and Adventure Therapy which develops the fundamental tools to enter into adult life. The centre also recognises the importance of education for school aged children and has a school attached which provides for English, Maths, Science, Computer Studies, Horticulture, Art, Manual Arts, Hospitality and Physical education - For the ones with more educational drive and ability the centre allows you to complete the national curriculum through a partnership with The Brisbane School of Distance Education (While I was there several patients were gaining there yr 12. Certificate) a feat for many even without mental health concerns. The Barrett Adolescent Centre conducts a well rounded program which clearly caters for every therapeutic need of such unwell patients which would have had no opportunity in any other facility in the state which cannot provide such things.

What the greatest concern though is that without a centre like this what happens to all us kids who cannot get this life saving help anywhere else. I know I would have died due to my mental health issues years ago without the help that this centre has provided me which I can also say for at least half of the patients who were there during my stay. How are you going to explain a sudden spike in adolescent death, Depression, Crime and Mental Health issues? How will the many hundreds of people this centre could help ever going to be able to enter adult life independently or sufficiently? How will you feel knowing that making this decision is sending hundreds of **children** to their death.

I strongly urge you to really look into the work and care that this facility provides and gain a better understanding of the importance of this centre and of the consequences that closing The Barrett Centre would lead to.

Yours hopefully,

[REDACTED]