

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMMISSIONS INQUIRY ACT 1950
COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY ORDER (No. 4) 2015

BARRETT ADOLESCENT CENTRE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

Submissions on behalf of Dr Trevor Sadler

1. These submissions are made on behalf of Dr Trevor Sadler, psychiatrist. He occupied the positions of Acting Medical Director of the Barrett Adolescent Centre (**BAC**) between 1986 and 1995 and Business Unit Director between 1995 and the latter 2000s. He was thereafter referred to as the Medical Director or Clinical Director of the BAC until 10 September 2013. He has extensive experience in adolescent mental health, in both the inpatient and community settings.
2. Leave was granted on 30 September 2015 for Dr Sadler to be legally represented. These submissions are limited to those issues which are relevant to Dr Sadler's interests.

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3. In light of the detailed submissions of Counsel Assisting, the only issue considered below is whether a lack of clinical governance was a reason for closure. The weight of the evidences establishes that it was not. Counsel Assisting's submissions at paragraphs 264-266 are adopted and relied on in this regard.
4. There are further pertinent points to be made.
5. The decision to close the BAC was communicated by the Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drugs Branch (**MHAODB**) to Ms Kelly at a meeting on 25 October 2012. The reasons did not relate to clinical governance issues.¹
6. Prior to the announcement of the closure decision, there were numerous documents created relevant to the decision to close. These included Agenda Papers for the WMHHS Board meetings, Minutes of the WMHHS Board meetings, Briefing Notes to the Director-General and Briefing Notes to the then Minister for Health. In none of these documents are clinical governance issues raised as a reason for closing the BAC.
7. On 2 November 2012, Sharon Kelly met with Drs Sadler and Stedman to inform them that the BAC would be closing. On 5 or 6 August 2013, Lesley Dwyer met with Dr Sadler and Nurse Clayworth to inform them that the BAC would be closing in early 2014. One would have thought that if clinical governance had been one of the reasons for closure, Ms Kelly and Ms Dwyer would have raised this with Dr Sadler at their respective meetings. They did not.
8. Ms Kelly was requested by the Commission to address a number of issues in a statutory declaration. One of these issues was *'the reasons for the decision to close BAC'*. In

¹ Exhibit 66, para 9.2-9.8 & 'SK-9'

