

Briefing Note

The Honourable John-Paul Langbroek MP
Minister for Education, Training and Employment

DRAFT

Action required: For Approval

Action required by: as soon as possible

Critical – decision required to ensure ongoing provision of educational services for students as a result of Queensland Health's realignment of services

SUBJECT: REALIGNMENT OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TO ACCOMMODATE STATE-WIDE CHANGES TO MENTAL HEALTH AND HOSPITAL CARE SERVICES BY QUEENSLAND HEALTH

Summary of key objectives

- Queensland Health has realigned its Brisbane children's hospitals and state-wide mental health services.
- In response, the Department of Education, Training and Employment is proposing the implementation of a new model of educational support using current resources to deliver a consistent state-wide quality service.
- To seek the Minister's approval of this new model, which also necessitates the Minister's approval to commence community consultation regarding the amalgamation of the Tennyson and Barrett Adolescent Centre Special Schools.

Key issues

1. As part of the government's re-examination of service delivery, Queensland Health has announced significant changes to the provision of children's health care services including changes to Brisbane children's hospitals and adolescent mental health programs in Queensland.
2. Currently there are five educational programs operating in 14 locations throughout Queensland, including four Principals operating across seven regions. Each has a different method of service delivery which will be impacted by Queensland Health changes (refer Attachment 1).
3. In response to Queensland Health's new method of service delivery, officers from the Department have undertaken an extensive review of educational services.
4. The Department has developed a new model, responsive to Queensland needs, which is based on current best practices as identified in literature and supported by recent models used in other Australian states and overseas.
5. The departmental review of services proposes that from the current programs and existing resources, two schools are created: one to support students who will be patients of the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital and therefore enrolled at the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital School; the other to support students in all other programs including Tennyson and Barrett Adolescent Centre Special Schools, at the proposed Tennyson Specific Purpose School as outlined in Attachment 2.
6. This model will require the appointment of only two full-time Principals, supervised by one Assistant Regional Director. The Principals will collaboratively manage the transfer of the current educational services. A specific transition plan will be developed outlining staff and resource deployment.

Implications

7. Human Resources:

- a. A breakdown of current human resources provision for each school location is provided in Attachment 1. Attachment 2 provides the proposed distribution of human resources.
- b. All permanent existing teaching and administration staff would be offered employment at Lady Cilento Children's Hospital School or Tennyson Specific Purpose School.
- c. Staff may also apply for transfer to a preferred location in accordance with usual departmental guidelines.
- d. As the functions of the Principals of the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital School and Tennyson Specific Purpose School will be different and involve the management of additional responsibilities, these positions will be required to be reviewed through the Department's Job Evaluation Management System process.
- e. It is proposed that the reviewed positions of Principal of Lady Cilento Children's Hospital School and Tennyson Specific Purpose School would be filled through an open merit process as soon as possible.

8. **Financial:** It is considered that these changes will be managed within existing budget.

9. Facilities:

- a. These proposals will be accommodated within existing Government facilities.
- b. Whilst the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital School is a new location, the facilities for this school are being provided by Queensland Health within the construction of the new Lady Cilento Children's Hospital.

10. Assets/Resources:

- a. All current assets and resources associated with the current schools will be transferred to the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital School and Tennyson Specific Purpose School.
- b. This proposal will not require additional resources and/or assets outside of those provided within the current budget, funded through the Whole School Support – Student Learning Resources allocation.

Background

11. Benefits of the proposed model are:

- Continuity of educational services state-wide to low-incidence students who are hospitalised or who have significant mental health needs
- Consistent state-wide practices and approaches during Queensland Health's transition and beyond
- Immediate response to identified student need in this highly specialised area
- Utilising existing expertise and resources to ensure quality educational outcomes for students and build system capacity, regardless of the student's location
- Management of these specialised services through one region which would promote consistency, effectiveness and efficiency
- Coordination occurring through the supervision and support of these school principals under the direction of one Assistant Regional Director
- Utilisation and realignment of the expertise and human resources from the existing model
- Effective deployment across the state of these specialist resources according to student need.

12. In order to ensure that educational delivery can continue when the new Lady Cilento Children's Hospital commences operation in November 2014, it is imperative that this Principal position (for the new Lady Cilento Children's Hospital School) is finalised as soon as possible.

13. The model of service delivery implemented by the Department should be reviewed in 2018 as part of the Quadrennial School Review process for the two newly created schools to ensure alignment with the needs of students in respect to health care delivery provided by Queensland Health.

Right to information

14. I am of the view that the contents or attachments contained in this brief **are not suitable** for publication as the Minister's approval has not yet been obtained and therefore this information is not in the public domain.

Recommendation

That the Minister

- **Approve** the proposed new model of educational provision for students requiring hospitalisation and those with complex mental health issues (**Attachment 2**)
- **Approve** the commencement of consultation in relation to the proposed amalgamation of services of Barrett Adolescent Centre Special School, Tennyson Special School, some aspects of programs from the Royal Children's Hospital School which are not relocating to the new Lady Cilento Children's Hospital, and regional classes for paediatric and adolescent hospitalised students, including those with mental health issues; into one statewide school, and
- **Approve** the attached public notice (**Attachment 3**) to be published in the Government Gazette, signalling the commencement of community consultation regarding the proposal.

NOTED

APPROVED/NOT APPROVED
ENDORSED/NOTED

FIONA CRAWFORD
Chief of Staff
Office of the Hon John-Paul Langbroek MP
Minister for Education, Training and
Employment

JOHN-PAUL LANGBROEK MP
Minister for Education, Training and
Employment

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Copy to Assistant Minister

Minister's comments

Action Officer Peter Blatch Assistant Regional Director Metropolitan Region	Endorsed by: Mark Campling Regional Director, Metropolitan Region	Endorsed by: CFO	Endorsed by: LALB	Endorsed by: ADG	Endorsed by: DDG	Endorsed by: DG
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Dr. Jim
Watterston

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**ATTACHMENT 1:
CURRENT MODEL OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICE DELIVERY FOR STUDENTS
REQUIRING HOSPITALISATION OR COMPLEX MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT**

Current model	Mater Hospital Special School	Royal Children's Hospital School		General paediatric wards and mental health acute inpatient wards in regional hospitals at Ipswich, Logan, Townsville, Cairns, Toowoomba, Nambour, Rockhampton and Robina.	Barrett Adolescent Centre Special School	Tennyson Special School
		Herston site	Royal Brisbane Women's Hospital Adolescent Mental Health, Acute Inpatient Ward. ACTforkids (Abused Children's Trust)			
Staff	10.4 FTE Teachers 123 hrs pw Teacher Aide	10.7 FTE Teachers 152 hrs pw Teacher Aide	2.2 FTE teachers 20 hrs pw Teacher Aide	9.7FTE teachers 139 hrs pw Teacher Aide	5.3 FTE teachers 110 hrs pw Teacher Aide	4.2 FTE teachers 83 hrs pw Teacher Aide

Mater Hospital School (MHS)

The Mater Hospital School is an educational institution recognised as a Band 8 school providing educational services to eligible students receiving ongoing intensive medical treatment at the Mater Hospital. It opened in 1977. The student cohort is diverse and transient and includes students from all educational sectors.

Children and adolescents admitted through Child Youth and Mental Health Services (CYMHS) may also be enrolled at the school as part of the Hospital Ward Program or outpatients via the Day Program. These students have been identified as requiring intensive immediate treatment or respite from unsafe or difficult situations.

The school provides educational services in a variety of settings to cater for the needs of the diverse student population. These include: in hospital wards; in classrooms; in hospital clinics and off campus e.g. in students' home schools, in students' homes, in early education centres.

Royal Children's Hospital School (RCHS)

The RCHS is an educational institution recognised as a Band 8 school providing educational services to eligible students receiving ongoing intensive medical treatment at the Royal Children's Hospital. It commenced in August 1919 and students may be inpatients, siblings of patients or children of patients.

The school provides classroom and ward based programs for school-aged students across both the Royal Children's Hospital and the Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital. Both services include learning, teaching, consultation with medical staff, liaison with the students' base schools, access to resources, ICT programs and support for re-entry to students' base schools.

Educational programs at the school focus specifically on continuity of students' base school curriculum. Hospital school teachers contact base schools to obtain an overview of the students' current programs, including subject areas, content and assessment. Students use information and communication technologies in learning and are encouraged to keep in touch and exchange information with their base school community.

ACT4kids (Abused Child Trust for Kids)

In addition, teachers from RCHS deliver educational programs at the ACT4Kids (Abused Child Trust for Kids) at Woolloowin through the provision of 1.0 FTE teacher and 20 hours per week teacher aide time. The RCHS Principal supervises the delivery of the outreach educational program at the Early Education Program and the achievement of planned educational outcomes for children. This is funded as an outreach program to respond to children who have experienced trauma and/or abuse. Children deemed to be developmentally at risk are referred to the Woolloowin Centre by Child Safety Services, Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services. Community referrals are arranged through the Abused Child Trust.

Barrett Adolescent Centre Special School (BACSS)

The BACSS is a Band 7 special school providing educational programs to adolescents being treated through both inpatients and outpatients. Until 2014 it was located at The Park – Centre for Mental Health, Wacol. As a transition arrangement, it has operated adjacent to Yeronga State High School during 2014.

Tennyson Special School (TSS)

TSS is a Band 6 special school which caters specifically for children with severe behavioural adjustment and mental health issues who cannot be supported successfully in mainstream primary school settings. The school provides a service to all state schools in Queensland, though due to capacity limitations, support is usually limited to schools in the near Brisbane area. Up to 10 students can be enrolled at Tennyson at any one time. Placement at the school rarely extends beyond six months.

Regional Services

There are 9.7 teachers based in general paediatric wards and mental health acute inpatient wards in regional hospitals at Ipswich, Logan, Townsville, Cairns, Toowoomba, Nambour, Rockhampton and Robina. They are supported by 139 Teacher Aide hours weekly. These teachers are supported in a variety of different ways and supported by Principals of neighbouring state secondary or special schools.

ATTACHMENT 2: PROPOSED MODEL FOR DELIVERY OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

NAME OF SCHOOL	Lady Cilento Children's Hospital School	Tennyson Specific Purpose School
Background	Renamed Mater Hospital School and Royal Children's Hospital School	Amalgamation of the Barrett Adolescent Centre Special School, components of the Royal Children's Hospital School not relocating to the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital School with the existing Tennyson Special School to form a specific purpose school which will operate across the state
Enrolments	All current students at the Mater Hospital School and school aged students from Royal Children's Hospital School	All other school aged students of Queensland receiving health and/or mental health care as long term inpatients of local hospitals other than Lady Cilento Children's Hospital School and students with complex mental health issues and/or significant behavioural issues
Proposed Staffing	Principal Deputy Principal	Principal Deputy Principal Outreach programs Deputy Principal School programs
	21.1 Full time equivalent teachers 275 Teacher Aide hours per week	21.3 Full time equivalent teachers 352 Teacher Aide Hours per week

The departmental review of services proposes that from the current resources managed within Metropolitan Region, two specific purpose schools coordinate service delivery for the provision of educational programs for students receiving health care services provided by Queensland Health. This requires:

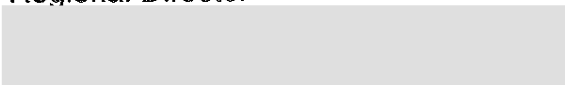
1. Renaming of the Mater Hospital Special School and relocating components of the Royal Children's Hospital Special School to form the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital School to provide educational services for students enrolled in the hospital.
2. Amalgamation of the Barrett Adolescent Centre Special School, components of the Royal Children's Hospital School not relocating to the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital with the existing Tennyson Special School to form a specific purpose school which will operate across the state to support school aged students receiving health and/or mental health care as long term inpatients of local hospitals other than Lady Cilento Children's Hospital. It will be known as the Tennyson Specific Purpose School in the short term and subject to government naming conventions once the school community is re-established. This specific purpose school would be responsible for the:
 - i. Provision of educational services for students with mental health concerns receiving Tier 2 and 3 treatment provided by Queensland Health in the Brisbane area.
 - ii. Provision and/or coordination of the delivery of educational programs for adolescent students previously enrolled at the Barrett Adolescent Centre who require the most intensive educational support
 - iii. Coordination of educational services for students with mental health concerns receiving Tier 2 and 3 treatment provided by Queensland Health in areas outside of the Brisbane Central Business District through increasing access to current local resources and services and providing additional capacity to meet the needs of such students.
 - iv. Coordination of the work of regional staff based in general paediatric wards and mental health acute inpatient wards in regional hospitals at Ipswich, Logan, Townsville, Cairns, Toowoomba, Nambour, Rockhampton and Robina.
 - v. Provision of educational services to students aged 14 and above who are patients of the Royal Brisbane Women's Hospital as well as those students admitted to the Adolescent Mental Health, Acute Inpatient Ward.
 - vi. Provision of support to teachers and teacher aides working with the *ACTforKids Abused Children's Trust*, as currently provided through the RCHS.
 - vii. Students with severe behavioural and mental health issues who would continue as previously to be enrolled on a sessional basis at Tennyson Special School.

EXHIBIT 446

14/251245

PROPOSED SCHOOL AMALGAMATION NOTICE
Education (General Provisions) Act 2006

Under s.18 of the *Education (General Provision) Act 2006*, the following schools are proposed for amalgamation:

School name	Region	Contact details
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barrett Adolescent Centre Special School • Tennyson Special School 	Metropolitan Region	Mr Mark Campling Regional Director 

Consultation regarding this proposed amalgamation of schools has now commenced. Members of the school communities are invited to contact the Regional Director for further information.

JOHN-PAUL LANGBROEK MP
 Minister for Education, Training and Employment