

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 Nov 2012 11:24:51 +1000
To: Lesley Dwyer [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: Threatened future of the Barrett Adolescent Services

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 18 November 2012 5:59 PM
Subject: re: Threatened future of the Barrett Adolescent Services

Dear Mr Nicholls,

I have signed a petition this week against the threat of closure of the Barrett Adolescent Centre at The Park, Wacol. I would like to have an opportunity to speak to you personally to represent the mental health needs of the young people and their families who will be severely disadvantaged by the disappearance of such a unique and valued state-wide facility.

I am a social worker of 38 years experience and a Member of the Australian Association of Social Workers. I now work in private practice but have had the privilege of working at the Barrett Adolescent Centre for some years on two separate occasions during my career in government child and youth mental health services. I achieved HP 5 status and functioned last at BAC as a senior clinical supervisor and carried a clinical caseload.

The young people and their families who are referred to BAC are those that community services have proved unable to adequately support. They are often already very isolated members of our community. Without the availability of this service what will happen to these young people with the most difficult and severe mental health issues who often do very well under the comprehensive care of the Barrett Adolescent Centre. How will their families cope?

The dedicated and highly skilled multi-disciplinary staff under the direction of Dr Trevor Sadler seek to maintain or to develop the adolescent's community supports. To this end weekend and overnight leave in the community and day patient status are encouraged and a normal part of the integrated care plan of most of the adolescents. Some are from interstate because local services cannot provide for them.

I see cuts that result in reducing services in adolescent mental health appallingly backward when we know the statistics on youth suicide and the national and international call is to better educate the public and better provide for the mentally ill. Sometimes inpatient intervention does mean a young person's life can be turned around. Ask the families who have been treated at the Barrett Adolescent Centre.

I ask you to investigate this matter and support the continuation of the Barrett Adolescent Services. I would appreciate an opportunity to meet with you to discuss the matter further.

Kind regards,

