

commission for
children and young people
and child guardian

Telephone: [REDACTED]
Reference: [REDACTED]

20 SEP 2013

Ms Sharon Kelly
Executive Director
Mental Health and Specialised Services
West Moreton Hospital and Health Services
Locked Bag 500
SUMNER PARK BC QLD 4074

Dear Ms Kelly,


I write to you regarding the pending closure of the Barrett Adolescent Centre. Specific concerns have been brought to my attention by a member of the community who has direct involvement with the Barrett Adolescent Centre. The specific concerns reported are as follows:

- the closure of the Barrett Adolescent Centre will provide a gap in services for a specific group of young people who are patients at the centre
- the short time frame of early 2014, to transition patients to alternate support services is not in their best interests
- the transition timeframe is not adequate in allowing appropriate support networks to be established for patients
- the transition process does not provide an adequate timeframe for the Mental Health Commission and the Mental Health Drug and Alcohol Advisory Council to consult with each other and key community members to formulate appropriate service delivery models that will best support this group of young people, and
- the young people currently accessing the services of the Barrett Adolescent Centre are experiencing increased anxiety due to the uncertainty associated with the closure and transition process.

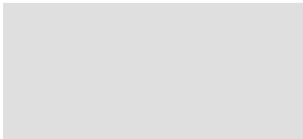
In assessing the abovementioned concerns, I reviewed your letter dated 16 August 2013, where you responded to a request made by Ms Michelle Bullen, A/Director Systemic Monitoring and Review Program with the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian (Commission), for an update regarding the Barrett Adolescent Centre. In your letter you confirmed that young people receiving care from the Barrett Adolescent Centre during early 2014 will be supported to transition to other contemporary care options that best meet their individual needs. You further advised of key stakeholder consultation that has occurred. Given the Commission's legislative responsibility to regularly visit the centre and verify the safety and wellbeing of the young people, it would have been valuable to be part of this consultative process.

The Expert Clinical Reference Group (ECRG) recommendations submitted to the West Moreton Hospital and Health Board were not attached to your previous correspondence. I therefore acknowledge that I do not have detailed information relating to the proposed model and transition process. However, I continue to hold concerns for service delivery around the planning and consultation preceding the transition of young people from the Barrett Adolescent Centre during early 2014. Due to these concerns, it would be appreciated if you could assist with:

- confirmation of the timeframe for the proposed model to be implemented
- details of the contingency plan to ensure young people accessing the Barrett Adolescent Centre continue to receive the same level of care if the proposed model is unable to be implemented within the specified timeframe
- strategies implemented at the Barrett Adolescent Centre to minimise the level of anxiety experienced by young people with mental health or substance misuse issues and their families, carers and support persons over the transition process; and
- communication strategies implemented to ensure young people understand the transition process and possible extension timeframes if the model cannot be implemented within the proposed timeframe.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter. If you require further clarification please do not hesitate to contact Ms Diane Nash, Manager, Complaints Resolution Team or 

Yours sincerely



 Barry Salmon
**Acting Commissioner for Children and Young People
and Child Guardian**

cc Dr Lesley van Schoubroeck, Mental Health Commissioner, Queensland Mental Health Commission