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Dear Mr Ellis

Thank you for your letter dated 1 November 2013, in relation to closure of the Barrett Adolescent Centre. The Honourable Lawrence Springborg MP, Minister for Health, has asked that I respond on his behalf.

The Minister very much appreciates you taking the time to consider the needs of adolescents who require mental health services and acknowledges your concerns about the closure of the Barrett Adolescent Centre.

Extensive progress is being made through the Statewide Adolescent Extended Treatment and Rehabilitation Strategy Steering Committee and a range of working groups. The intent is to ensure that adolescents requiring mental health extended treatment and rehabilitation will receive the most appropriate and contemporary care for their individual needs. The clinical treatment for those adolescents currently in the Barrett Adolescent Centre will be carefully managed to ensure that there are no gaps to their ongoing care requirements.

The Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service (CHQ HHS), in partnership with other key stakeholders, will continue to progress this initiative to provide more contemporary treatment options that builds on rehabilitation and health outcomes, enabling young people to thrive in their local communities. The model of care under development is nearing completion, with work being undertaken to finalise the details of all service options, including a Tier 3 service. CHQ HHS also acknowledges the importance and value of educational programs that align with this model of care, and will continue to work in partnership with the Department of Education Training and Employment in developing the best ways to do this. The next step will then be to engage with stakeholders, including parents, carers and consumers, regarding the developed model of care.

Further information with regard to the Barrett Adolescent Strategy can be found at website [www.health.qld.gov.au/westmoreton/html/bac](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/westmoreton/html/bac), which will be updated regularly over the coming months.

Thank you again for your concern in this matter.

Yours sincerely

**DR CHRIS DAVIS MP**  
**Assistant Minister for Health**

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