

West Moreton Hospital and Health Service Media Response

Enquiry received: 1/11/13

Journalist: Kristen Burke

Organisation: Griffith Uni

Contact email: [REDACTED]

Deadline: 5pm

Subject: Barrett Adolescent Centre

Response:

Please attribute the following to Ms Sharon Kelly, West Moreton Hospital and Health Service Executive Director Mental Health and Specialised Services:

What was the last communication received regarding what would happen to the residents of the centre? Is there any more consultations with parents scheduled?

The West Moreton Hospital and Health Service remains committed to safe, smooth and individually appropriate transitions of care for each young person currently attending the Barrett Adolescent Centre. West Moreton clinicians and service leaders, including myself, have met with parents and carers of the young people at Barrett, to provide information and seek their input into the changes that are occurring. Our clinical team is in constant contact with the families of the consumers.

We have also continued to disseminate personal emails and phone calls to the parents and carers with any new information that comes to hand, and have provided eight Fast Fact sheets so far (these are available at <http://www.health.qld.gov.au/westmoreton/html/bac/default.asp>). In addition to this, I have invited all parents and carers of current adolescents admitted to Barrett to prepare written submissions that will be used to inform the development of the new service options. Some of these parents will then be providing their feedback in person to the statewide Steering Committee next week.

It is extremely important to engage the families of adolescents at the Barrett in a considerate and meaningful way throughout the transition, and West Moreton continues to respond to feedback from the parent and carer group about how we can best do that. We will ensure that this is done in a range of different ways, to try and best meet their needs and assist them with the transition.

Do you know why the relocation to Redlands was stopped?

Due to environmental and other issues, the Queensland Government determined that the project could not proceed and has now ceased.

Do you have any advice/suggestions for the community awaiting the outcome?

We are working closely with Children's Health Queensland, which is leading the work on the development of the new service model options. This work is progressing well, and continues to be a matter of high priority for us all for early 2014. This a flexible date of closure for the Barrett building. There will be no gap to service

delivery for our consumers, and their individual care needs will influence when the building actually closes. The safety and individual needs of each of the adolescents is our highest priority.

ENDS

Media contact: 