

**From:** Bill Kingswell  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 11 November 2014 6:38 AM  
**To:** Michael Cleary  
**Subject:** Re: Labor Plans Inquiry Into Barrett Centre Closure

I will check our briefs probably DG with Ministerial noting. Might have come through West Moreton as you will remember they had a bit of a crisis.  
Bill

Sent from my iPhone

On 11 Nov 2014, at 3:41 am, Michael Cleary wrote:

Dear Bill,  
Recant media.

In relation to this I was if you were aware of who signed off on the final approval to move from an institutional to a community model?

Thanks  
Michael Cleary

## **Labor Plans Inquiry Into Barrett Centre Closure**

Opposition Leader Anastacia Palaszczuk says a future Labor Government will establish a Commission of Inquiry into the decisions and circumstances surrounding the closure of the Barrett Centre adolescent mental health unit at Wacol.

"Three young people have died in tragic circumstances following the Newman Government's closure of the Barrett Centre," Ms Palaszczuk said.

"Their families and the families of others impacted by the closure deserve to know the truth about why it was closed when warnings were loud and clear about the very real risks involved.

"The Coroner will examine the three deaths but I believe there is a need for an inquiry that can find the full facts about decisions by the Health Minister Lawrence Springborg, those in Queensland Health, the West Moreton Hospital and Health Service, and others, that led to

the Barrett Centre's closure and the tragic events that unfolded afterwards.

"The truth is the least we should deliver to those who have been so devastated."

Ms Palaszczuk said in office Labor would appoint a retired judge under the Commissions of Inquiry Act to conduct the inquiry with full powers to summon witnesses and call for the presentation of all relevant documents.

She said the Barrett Adolescent Centre in the grounds of The Park mental health complex at Wacol was like an intensive care unit for mentally ill young people and combined specialised support, residential care, and an in-house school.

She said the Newman Government scrapped the former government's plans for a replacement centre and said the Barrett Centre would close.

"The Opposition, like the families of Barrett Centre patients, warned at the time that the closure could have catastrophic consequences. Sadly that has proved to be the case.

"I was so concerned about what parents were telling me before the closure that I organised a face-to-face meeting at the centre in December 2012 between Mr Springborg, patients, parents, and staff.

"At the meeting patients and their families expressed their fears about the impact of any closure and although the Minister did not commit to keeping the centre open, he led everyone to believe the Newman Government would not abandon those at the centre and those who might need it in the future.

"He committed to continuing to deliver appropriate care for each patient. Patients were promised 'wrap-around' individualised care, but that never happened.

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"After 12 months of prevarication, the closure in January 2014 happened apparently without any objection or intervention from the Minister.

"The Health Minister has not kept the promises he made to the December 2012 meeting of parents, patients, and staff. He is directly responsible for the actions of those in his department who have handled this premature closure.

"He can explain himself at the inquiry," Ms Palaszczuk said.

Office of the Leader of the Opposition

10th of November 2014

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