

West Moreton Hospital and Health Service
Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health
Service



**Queensland
Government**

What is the Barrett Adolescent Centre (BAC)?

Barrett Adolescent Centre is a 15-bed inpatient service for adolescents requiring longer term mental health treatment. It is currently located within The Park – Centre for Mental Health campus. The Park will be a secure forensic adult mental health facility that provides acute and rehabilitation services by December 2013.

This ongoing redevelopment at The Park means this is no longer a suitable place for adolescents with complex mental health needs.

What is happening to BAC?

Barrett Adolescent Centre will continue to provide care to young people until suitable service options have been determined. We anticipate adolescents requiring extended mental health treatment and rehabilitation will receive services through a new range of contemporary service options from early 2014.

An expert clinical reference group has determined that adolescents require specialised and appropriate care options where they can be as close as possible to their community, families and support systems. West Moreton Hospital and Health Service will work closely with hospital and health services across the state, as well as other mental health care providers to ensure appropriate care plans are in place for all adolescents who require care.

We will also work together with the community and mental health consumers to ensure their needs are met.

Who was in the expert clinical reference group?

Members of the expert clinical reference group comprised adolescent mental health experts from Queensland and interstate, a former BAC consumer and the parent of a current BAC consumer.

What will happen to the consumers currently being treated at BAC?

West Moreton Hospital and Health Service is committed to ensuring no adolescent goes without the expert mental health care they require. The goal is to ensure our youth are cared for in an environment that is best suited for them. It is in the best interests of young people that they are not cared for in the same environment as adult mental health consumers who require high secure care.

Care coordinators and clinicians will work closely with the consumers, families and services to ensure that the appropriate care and support is provided for them.

What happens if there are not enough spaces for young people in other services?

The implementation group will consider all the available services and any extra services that might be required to support this particular group of adolescents.

What will happen to the young people currently waiting for a place in BAC?

Each individual adolescent that has been referred to the BAC and is currently on the waiting list for care will be considered on an individual basis. Clinicians will work with local and statewide services to determine how their needs can be best met in a timely manner.

How can the Queensland Government know this is the best option for the young people of the state?

This decision has been carefully considered and the recommendations made by an expert clinical reference group. The expert clinical reference group considered a range of options and recommended a number of strategies to better support the adolescent needs. These strategies will include both inpatient and community based services.

What is the process, and how long will it take, to transfer the existing consumers to other services or facilities?

The governance of the adolescent mental health service has been handed to the Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service and an implementation group will progress the next step. This group will use the expert clinical reference group recommendations, and broader consultation, to identify and develop the service options.

We anticipate that some of those options will be available by early 2014.

Is this a cost cutting exercise?

No, this is about the safety and wellbeing of young Queenslanders in need of mental health support services and treatment. The Queensland Government has committed a further \$2 million dollars to support the new models of care and services.

What happens to the funding previously allocated to BAC?

Funding that would have been allocated to BAC will be dispersed appropriately to the organisations providing the new services or treatment as part of the implementation group decision making.

Will jobs be lost?

West Moreton Hospital and Health Service will work closely with each individual staff member who is affected to identify options available to them. The hospital and health service is committed to following appropriate human resource processes.

What about the education services?

The Department of Education, Training and Employment is committed to continuing education plans for all BAC consumers.

How can I contribute to the implementation process?

The implementation group will include on their membership a range of stakeholders inclusive of families, carers and consumers. As the strategies are developed ongoing consultation will occur to ensure the best possible care for our adolescents in the most appropriate setting.