

Executive Support Unit
MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE – ACTION SHEET

Recfind Doc Type: MIN ☒
 MINPREM ☐
 MINPREMD ☐
 MINMP ☐
 MINMPD ☐
 RCVD IN ESU: MINAD ☐
 MINNRR ☐
 MINU ☐

Reg No: MI 192663

DUE EXECUTIVE SUPPORT:

14/10/13

ACTION OFFICER: MD09 / MD25

COPIED TO:

Response required: Yes ☒ No ☐ Action Direct / Board to respond ☐

Response signatory: Minister for Health ☐ Assistant Minister ☒ Chief of Staff ☐

Closing contact details: Departmental ☐ N/A ☒

Response Template*: A B C G

Standard Letter: _____

ESU Option Letter Number: _____

Redirect to: _____

* Templates can be found on QHEPS by clicking on Corporate Templates under *I am looking for* or from the tool bar click on Business Support, and under Administration click on Templates. Alternatively, in Word, File / New and then click on Qld Health Templates (in the task panel on the right hand side of the page). It is important that you access the templates from the website *every time* (and not use a previous template) as the templates are updated regularly.

Briefing note required: YES / NO

Briefing note template*: A B C

COMMENTS: Refers MI188384 + MI188112.

*MD25 to provide input on Townsville Hospital if appropriate
*MD09 - to co-ordinate response.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

- ☐ Acknowledgement Letter
☒ Acknowledgement Email
☐ Acknowledgement **Not Required**
☐ Thank you & Noted Letter

Department Ref #: _____

Policy Advisor: Mark**RESPONSE:**

- ☐ Minister
 ☐ Dept Contact required
☒ Assistant Minister
 ☐ Dept Contact required
☐ Chief of Staff
 ☐ Dept Contact required
☐ Hospital and Health Service
☐ Refer to Department for
 Direct Reply (**Action Direct**)
☐ No Response Required (**Note and File**)
☐ BRIEFING NOTE REQUIRED
☐ BRIEFING NOTE NOT REQUIRED

Re-Issue: _____

young people who need
the Barrett Centre & Not
OK

Previous Dept Ref #: _____

COMMENTS / REQUESTS:

Reviewed by: _____

Date: 17/9

Sent to ESU by: _____

Date: 19 SEP 2013

Donna De Brenni

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 15 September 2013 2:02 PM
To: Health
Subject: Young People who need the Barrett Centre R NOT OK!

Dear Mr Springborg

It was ironic that Thursday was RUOK day as the young people and staff at Barrett were certainly not ok [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

by QLD Health to help everyone cope with this situation was inadequate and too little, too late, and apparently took its toll on already stressed and ill young people who are singularly ill equipped to cope with trauma in their lives.

I am so disappointed in QLD Health. I have seen the "recommendations" the expert panel produced - after months of work and supposed consultation - and any talk in there of looking after patients' health and welfare seemed so wide of the mark after the events of last week. The managers of this process at QLD Health should be ashamed of endorsing such rhetoric in that document while so totally ignoring it in practice.

The "recommendations" put out by the Morton Health Expert panel on the future of Barrett, are a lot of well-worn but meaningless platitudes that I struggle to have any faith in. They do nothing to reassure me that QLD Health has any strategies, processes or outcomes planned for young people with mental health and welfare issues.

In fact the recommendations are so general, I wonder if the expert panel have any idea of what it is like to actually live with a seriously ill young person who has a mental illness – the physical and mental stresses that families have to work through, trying to find solutions or treatments for their child. It makes me wonder if the point of the expert panel and their recommendations, coupled with the undermining that is going on to the staff morale at Barrett hides another agenda – perhaps to get rid of the Centre altogether, concerned and vocal parents notwithstanding. Save money? Put the problem back into the hands of the community – parents and NGO's?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Yes - Close Barrett at the current location but not until a substitute facility has been prepared for those children who will not survive 'wrap-around' care in the community. Provide community care as well (although the number of homeless people with mental illness on the streets is not encouraging) but don't close long-term care options that provide what these children need on hand and coupled with schooling. As Barrett does.

And do it in a purposeful, strategic and thoughtful way. Stop the erosion and undermining of Barrett that is making a mockery of 'care and welfare' being shown for the patients and staff. The staff are now so badly depleted and demoralised: long term and valuable members have been forced to leave – either because of the job insecurity staying there, or the subtle harassment that appears to be going on - not so subtle in the case of last week's terrible processes with the removal of the head psychiatrist.

This issue will not go away. Parents and community members are disturbed and angered by the callousness and lack of thought for welfare being shown in this process. Please review how you are going about this change and salvage what good will is left. Assist us to help protect our children in cooperation – not opposition - with you, the department officially charged with the same mission.

Thank you for reading my email.