



Minister for Health and  
Minister for Ambulance Services  
Member for Woodridge

1 DEC 2015

Mr Neil Laurie  
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Queensland Parliamentary Service  
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Dear Mr Laurie

I write in response to your letter regarding petition number 2461-15, tabled in Parliament on 26 October 2015, in relation to *Inadequate Provision of Services and Conditions at the Cairns Hospital Mental Health Unit*.

I understand that a meeting was held between officers of the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service and the Principal Petitioner, Ms Janelle Jefferey on Friday, 11 September 2015. The meeting was also attended by the local member of Parliament, Mr Rob Pyne MP, Member for Cairns.

Health Service officers explained that Cairns Hospital was nearing the final stages of redevelopment, which included the Mental Health Inpatient Unit. The process of redesign had a strong focus on the patient experience.

To date the Cairns and Hinterland Mental Health Service infrastructure development has included the following initiatives:

- opening of a new 15 bed wing of the inpatient area allowing for the transition of less acutely unwell people out of the existing unit;
- redevelopment and upgrading of the existing unit to improve the living areas;
- redevelopment of the paediatric services in Cairns Hospital to include two mental health beds within the new adolescent ward;
- opening a new purpose built Mental Health Community Care Unit with individual accommodation for up to 20 people;
- the re-engagement of a non-government organisation partner in the delivery of a 12 bed Adult Prevention and Recovery Care service in Cairns;
- the submission to Cairns Regional Council of plans to open a Youth Prevention and Recovery Centre in Cairns by 2017; and
- youth residential service provision for five young people requiring extended care within a community based setting.

Quality improvement activities implemented to date, as a result of the ongoing review include:

- approval and creation of an additional Nurse Educator position in partnership with James Cook University. This position will provide enhanced mental health nursing education and development within the Health Service in addition to educating new student nurses progressing through the tertiary education system; and
- a new role of Nursing Director, Patient Safety and Quality has been created with the specific focus of working within the Cairns Hospital Mental Health Unit to ensure that service provision is focussed upon this area.

Further developments are also underway in relation to clinical governance and leadership, medication safety and the individual rights of consumers.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cameron Dick".

**CAMERON DICK MP**  
**Minister for Health**  
**Minister for Ambulance Services**