



Minister for Health and
Minister for Ambulance Services
Member for Woodridge

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The Hon. Mark McArdle MP
Member for Caloundra
PO Box 3998
CALOUNDRA QLD 4551

By Email Caloundra@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr McArdle *Mark,*

I refer to your letter dated 13 October 2015.

The *Mental Health (Recovery Bill) 2015* is a Private Member's Bill you have introduced into the Legislative assembly. As a member of the House you are entitled to introduce and seek support for Private Member's Bills. I recognise and acknowledge the importance of the issue of mental health law reform.

As the Minister for Health I am responsible for the development and implementation of Government policy. This includes the area of mental health law reform. The Government has developed and introduced to the Parliament a comprehensive legislative overhaul of this important policy area in the *Mental Health Bill 2015*. This bill has had extensive public consultation as well as enjoying cross-departmental deliberation through the usual Cabinet and internal government process. You would be aware of these processes following your period of service as a Cabinet Minister in the Newman Government.

The *Mental Health Bill 2015* represents the Queensland Government's position on reform in this area of public policy.

I acknowledge there are common reform directions between the two bills. Despite some similarities the *Mental Health Bill 2015* has:

- resolved several policy problems still evident in your Private Member's Bill;
- is structurally different to your proposals in a number of areas;
- does not contain the significant drafting errors found in your Private Member's Bill; and
- has benefited from an extensive exposure draft process.

I do not support the further use of scarce Parliamentary Council resources to produce yet another piece of legislation.

The parliamentary process is the appropriate forum to consider and resolve different legislative proposals. I have confidence that our colleagues in the Health and Ambulance Services Committee will identify and report on the differences between the bills, and this will inform considered debate in the Legislative Assembly.

I do not support an extension in the reporting date for the Committee. These are vital reforms that will have a significant impact on the lives of thousands of Queenslanders.

Given the similarities in approach I look forward to the LNP's bipartisan support for these important reforms.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cameron Dick', with a stylized flourish at the end.

HON CAMERON DICK MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Ambulance Services

CC: Ms Leanne Linard, Chair, Health and Ambulance Services Committee