



Minister for Health and
Minister for Ambulance Services
Member for Woodridge

Ms Leanne Linard MP
Member for Nudgee
Chair
Health and Ambulance Services Committee
Parliament House
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Dear Ms Linard

As you are aware, on Saturday 2 May 2015, the Government announced the release of an Exposure Draft for the Mental Health Bill 2015. As I indicated in Parliament today, this is an important advance for Queenslanders. Mental health consumers, families and the broader public can expect to benefit through an overhaul of the state's mental health legislation. The Government intends to consult broadly, seeking written submissions before the closing date of Friday 26 June 2015. It is my expectation that I will then introduce a Mental Health Bill 2015 in the September parliamentary sittings.

Following this announcement, I note that the Member for Caloundra has introduced a Private Members Bill addressing mental health reform. I understand that, by resolution of the House, the Private Members Bill has been referred to your committee. The Private Member's Bill is to the same broad policy area, but has significant differences and omissions compared to the Government's Exposure Draft.

I strongly support the full consideration of all private members bills by the Parliament through the committee process. However, in this instance, I believe that separate consideration of mental health reform bills by your committee may not be the most prudent use of the Committee's limited time and resources. In this regard, I suggest to the Committee that it consider deferring taking submissions and conducting hearings on the Private Members Bill until after the September Parliamentary sittings, when the results of the Government's consultation is clear.

This would allow your committee, and interested stakeholders to properly consider the different options for mental health reform. It would also support a cognate debate on these Bills addressing mental health reform in the Parliament.

I look forward to working with the committee to reform mental health legislation for Queenslanders.

Yours sincerely

CAMERON DICK
Minister for Health
Minister for Ambulance Services