




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 18 August 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Mental Health, Services

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.51 am): I rise to update the House on the rebuilding of mental healthcare facilities for young people in Queensland. Yesterday the Department of Health undertook further consultation with families affected by the decision of the Newman-Nicholls government to close the Barrett centre without a replacement. A key outcome of that meeting is that the families agreed they would work with Health Consumers Queensland and Queensland Health in the ongoing planning of the new facility that will provide residential mental health care for young people.

Through this process, families will have the opportunity to be represented on various committees, finalising the clinical model and the building design alongside experts. That consultation and cooperation is extremely important, because the Barrett Commission of Inquiry report demonstrated that the Newman-Nicholls government did not listen to advice from families or experts, even when the government itself asked for it. The commission found that the Newman-Nicholls government created an expert clinical reference group in relation to the Barrett centre. In their final report, the experts recommended that a replacement facility should be built.

The commission found that the report was provided to the office of the then health minister, the member for Southern Downs. However, the member for Southern Downs gave evidence to the commission that he had not read the report and did not bother to read it until he was preparing to give evidence before the commission itself earlier this year. The commission also found that there was no evidence that anyone in the then minister's office had read it. As many members here would remember, on 22 August 2013 the then opposition leader, now the Premier, tabled the expert clinical reference group's report in question time in front of the member for Southern Downs. However, the member for Southern Downs's sworn testimony to the commission of inquiry was that he did not read that document, even when it was tabled in front of him in this House.

I have no reason to disbelieve the sworn testimony of the honourable member. However, I think it does show how the Newman-Nicholls government closed the door to advice, to the experts and to voices other than their own. I intend to keep the House fully informed of this government's actions in providing a replacement for the Barrett centre, a process that we are determined to get right.