



Hon Yvette D'Ath MP
Minister for Health and Ambulance Services
Leader of the House

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Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliament
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

12 NOV 2021

Dear Mr Laurie *Neil*

I write in response to your letter regarding paper petition number 3626-21, tabled in Parliament on 13 October 2021, in relation to the repurposing of the Eventide Residential Aged Care Hostel accommodation in Charters Towers. The below response was also provided for the corresponding e-petition 3496-21, tabled in Parliament on 31 August 2021.

The petitioners cite that the vacant hostel accommodation would provide a readily available and cost-effective solution to the reported shortage of low income housing. I understand they wish to gain traction on this concept, so that more accommodation can be made available within the Charters Towers community.

Eventide Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACF) vacant hostel accommodation consists of rooms for 108 individuals. These are grouped together in 13 clusters of at least 8 single rooms with shared bathroom facilities and a communal kitchen, dining, and lounge area within the cluster formation.

I am advised the hostel buildings are more than 40 years old and do not meet minimum required accommodation standards. In their current state, the hostel buildings are not classified for this purpose, nor meet the legislative requirements for an occupancy of this nature.

Notwithstanding that a change in zoning classification would be required, the cost to upgrade and refurbish the accommodation units to an appropriate standard will be significant and necessitate the need for consideration by the Department of Health and government. The hostel buildings are part of the wider consideration for facilities in the Charters Towers region into the future, including hospital and aged care.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

Yvette D'Ath
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