

MI138394
MO: H/06/04871

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Corner Alice and George Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your further letter dated 7 June 2006, regarding the Petition received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly No. 666-06. This petition appears to provide further signatures to the identically worded petition number 636-06 which I responded to on 30 May 2006.

While I understand that this issue has caused concern for the community, no new information is available, and I refer petitioners to my previous response.

However, to briefly reiterate responses to the key issues of concern:

1. As I have previously advised Parliament, no decision has been made about retention or disposal of specific facilities, in response to the Forster recommendation regarding divesting aged care facilities. Before any decision is taken, extensive consultation would occur on a site by site basis.
2. Beds were transferred from Charters Towers to Townsville based on an assessment of demand occupancy levels at both locations. Residents with dementia require a specialised program of support with appropriate security and staffing. The level of specialised nursing care required is not available at Charters Towers.
3. Giving due consideration to the current national workforce shortage, and demand across the two locations, the recommissioning of beds at Eventide Charters Towers in the short to medium term is unlikely.
4. As has been announced, the Government has made the decision not to transfer Government run HACC services to non-Government providers.

I thank the members of the community for advising me of their concern.

Yours sincerely

STEPHEN ROBERTSON MP