

With Compliments
Enclosed is a copy of
a letter sent to Kitty Firth.
I hope the plans are reconsidered

Sara Williams

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Verity Firth, M.P.
112A, Glebe Point Road,
Glebe, N.S.W. 2037

Dec. 17th. 2007.

Dear Verity Firth,

I wish to express my concern about the proposed changes to the Callan Park Complex, which was originally designated to the service of facilities for the Mentally Ill. There are several reasons why they are unacceptable. They are as follows:-

1. There insufficient therapeutic services for the people who are psychiatrically ill at the present time. As you are well aware, the prisons have large numbers of mentally ill patients, who are not receiving appropriate treatment.
2. It is sensible to open new services at Concord Hospital, provided there is improved transport. Services for visitors as family contact is essential to Rehabilitation and Discharge. Public Transport to Rozelle is good, by bus and the Light Rail to Lilyfield, gives good access from the Central Railway Station. It seems however crazy to offer beds at Concord Hospital and close the services at Rozelle.
3. There are reasons why Services for the Mentally Ill are not best met in a Ward in a General Hospital. The lack of Outdoor Space is a handicap, and the resentment of the General Trained Staff to the behaviour of the mentally ill presents a problem.
4. As I am sure you know, the trend at present is to admit psychiatrically ill patients, put them on medication, and discharge them within a few days. This leads to a Quick breakdown and readmission. Many patients need longer period of time in a therapeutic environment, which can be provided in a facility such as Callan Park, with its good outdoor areas.
5. At present I have retired from Active Practice, but I work as an Official Visitor to various Psychiatric Facilities. At Westmead Childrens Hospital, there is one ward for seriously disturbed children and adolescents. It has one small Courtyard to provide outdoor space. The young patients say the place is 'a Dungeon'. When one looks at the space that could be available at Callan Park, it seems tragic to lose it to the University. There is a large Waiting List for admission for adolescents to mental health facilities, with the increasing use of drugs and alcohol by young people and children the cries for help are increasing.

I hope you will reconsider the plans for Callan Park in terms of what is in the best interest of the people, both the patients and their long suffering relatives, as well as the general wellbeing of the community

Please accept my apologies for the typing errors, as it is not one of my better skills.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sara Williams". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Sara Williams, O.A.M.