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PARLIAMENT MOTION CONDEMNS LONG BAY PATIENT LOCK IN

“Today Greens spokesperson Sylvia Hale MLC will move for condemnation of the government’s decision to lock Long Bay patients in cells for 18 hours a day to reduce costs” said Justice Action spokesperson Brett Collins.

“The decision contradicts Premier Iemma’s own specific assurances about Long Bay to Parliament in 2004 as Health Minister. He also declared on becoming Premier that mental health was his “light on the hill” by which he would judge himself to have failed” said Justice Action spokesperson Michael Poynder.

“The decision has been condemned by Australia’s leading psychiatrists, NCOSS, SANE Australia, the NSW Nurses Association and The Aboriginal Justice Advisory Council saying that it will cause mental illness.” Mr Poynder said.

“The Coroner in the Scott Simpson Inquest two years ago condemned the callous behaviour of Corrective Services and Justice Health towards patients, which caused a murder and a suicide. The same minister Hatzistergos and commissioner Woodham with Justice Health connivance are attempting to create prison-like conditions in the mental hospital - precisely the point on which the Coroner was so concerned” said Mr Collins.

(All references and statements are on the website <http://www.justiceaction.org.au>).

A news conference will be held at NSW Parliament today.

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