

NOTICE OF MOTION

3 June 2008

Ms Hale to move—

That this House:

1. condemns the new arrangements at Long Bay that result in inmates of the Long Bay Prison Hospital being locked in their 2.5 x 3.5m cells for 18 hours a day;
2. recalls that The Premier, in his previous position as Health Minister, gave assurances in 2004 in relation to the new forensic facility that: “The quality of the health service provided will improve. Forensic patients will no longer be housed in a correctional centre, but in a Health facility that will be purpose built to cater to their needs” (Answer to Question 1219, Tuesday 19 October 2004, published in the Legislative Council's Q&A Paper 74);
3. condemns the Attorney General and Minister for Justice on the grounds that locking patients in for 18 hours a day as a precursor to the opening of the new facility, and continuing this practice in the new facility, is clearly a betrayal of Premier Iemma’s assurances in 2004;
4. notes that such a regime is contrary to:
 - a. section 12.4 of the Department of Corrective Services Operation Procedure Manual,
 - b. Section 153 of the NSW Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Regulation 2001,
 - c. the NSW Mental Health Act 2007,
 - d. Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (to which Australia is a signatory),
5. notes that a patient wrote to the Minister describing the new regime as “maddening, un-therapeutic, destructive, oppressive, savage, barbaric, depressing and frustrating”;
6. recognises, on the advice of qualified psychiatrists, that for mentally ill patients, subjecting them to long periods of solitary confinement can exacerbate psychotic or schizophrenic symptoms;
7. calls upon the Minister for Justice to end this new regime immediately, and
8. if he will not, calls on the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission to investigate.

(Notice given 3 June 2008)