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Ref: HE/A1/M2/df08

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> May 2008

Mr Guy Dickson  
Secretary, Select Committee on Glenside Hospital  
Parliament House  
North Terrace  
ADELAIDE SA 5000.

**Submission to Legislative Council of South Australia  
Select Committee on  
the Proposed Sale and Redevelopment of the Glenside Hospital Site**

- (a) The effect of the delivery of services by the proposed co-location of mental health, drug and alcohol, rural, regional and state-wide services and the possible security implications*
- (b) The effect of the proposed sale of 42% of the site and its impact on the amenity and enjoyment of open space for patients and the public, biodiversity, conservation and significant trees*
- (c) The impact of the reduction of available land for more supported accommodation*

The medical understanding and treatment of mental health is better today than at any previous time in the past and should be expected to continue to improve. It is therefore essential that the Glenside property be retained by the state government in totality so that current activities and future advances can be catered for.

Mental health is recognised as an illness. Contributing causes often overlap, necessitating a multi functional engagement. The Glenside Hospital site is able to provide the space and amenity to fulfil these needs. Gone are the days when every person assessed with a mental illness was locked up.

It is impossible for sufficient health professional specialists in the various mental health fields to be living and working in rural and regional South Australia. While we need many more in the regions, when they are not there Glenside provides a central site for the efficient and effective delivery of services. A central site such as Glenside is an issue of social justice so that patients, family and friends from across the state can have reasonable access e.g. a person flying or driving in to visit a patient. The support of family and

friends is a vital aspect of treatment and recovery. It would be beneficial for some accommodation for country families to be available on site, similar to Greenhill Lodge for cancer patients.

The abuse of drugs, both illicit such as methamphetamine and legal such as alcohol, is likely to increase in the short term. **Attachment 1.** *Party drug hits work.* Glenside can be adapted as a specialist facility to treat patients, both in-patients and out-patients.

South Australia should aim for world's best practice that would be recognised nationally and internationally. Paying patients from other states and from overseas may choose such a place for treatment e.g. West Australian footballer Ben Cousins going to USA for treatment for a drug problem. Glenside could be developed to provide appropriate accommodation on site hence the retention of the whole of the site is imperative.

The state government's cuts to rural and regional health, especially country hospitals, brings an urgency to the treatment of country mental health patients. In October 2007, the Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Gail Gago said psychiatrists and General Practitioners would be able to order the detention of mental health patients under proposed new mental health laws so that country hospitals could provide secure care for up to seven days. However the Minister failed to explain that it is regional hospitals, not country hospitals, that would have this facility. Some people will have to travel 400 kms or more to access this type of treatment. The reality is that treatment for some will be an impossibility. **Attachment 2** *Radio interview 2005.*

Some accommodation at Glenside could be purpose built for people who are currently in the penal system as an outcome of mental health issues that cannot be addressed. **Attachment 3.** *Constituent's letter re son's condition.* While the case in question had other issues that were considered, the point is that a person who needed psychiatric treatment was incarcerated for three months without appropriate treatment. The prison system is already overcrowded therefore confinement for those with psychiatric needs in alternative and more appropriate facilities would lessen the pressure on prisons.

If the young man had been transferred to James Nash House, then it would have been financially and physically impossible for his family to support him through regular visits. The relocation of James Nash House to a facility at Mobilong would make things worse for country people. **Attachment 4.** *Location for new mental health facility.*

This is not an isolated case. **Attachment 5.** *System 'fails' mentally ill.*

The delivery of mental health services is concentrated on the Adelaide metropolitan region. **Attachment 6.** *Community mental health service revamp.* **Attachment 7.** *Glenside consultation a farce.* This effectively ignores rural and regional South Australia – about one third of the state's population – leading to odd decisions such as the deployment of a person at Port Lincoln as a half time arts officer for Eyre Peninsula and a half time mental health project officer for southern Eyre Peninsula. **Attachment 8.** *Arts officer coming.*

Glenside could be developed to provide the intermediate services that are needed to make the state's mental health system holistic, including inter-departmental structures.

**Attachment 9.** *Mentally ill in need of help now.* **Attachment 10.** *School counsellors.*

Glenside must be retained, in its entirety for the benefit of South Australia.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Liz Penfold". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Mrs. Liz Penfold MP**

*Member for Flinders*