



WAAMH

Western Australian Association
for Mental Health

MEDIA RELEASE

6th November 2014

World Class Alternatives Needed to “Archaic” Graylands

The WA Association for Mental Health (WAAMH), the peak body for community mental health services today welcomed comments by Professor Bryant Stokes calling for the closure of Graylands Hospital.

A range of world class services in local communities, both metropolitan and regional, are needed to replace the services at Graylands referred to as “archaic” by Professor Bryant Stokes yesterday, according to WAAMH.

WAAMH President Alison Xamon welcomed the statement by the Acting Director General of Health at the parliamentary estimates hearing that he wanted a decision made to close Graylands and for patients and services to be moved to more appropriate locations.

“The facilities at Graylands are outdated and are not conducive to recovery and WAAMH supports reinvestment that would enable more people to access a range of contemporary services in their local communities,” said Ms Xamon.

“WAAMH is concerned to ensure that any resources currently invested in mental health must remain fully invested in mental health. Even though the number of people experiencing mental health issues is slowly increasing compared to other health issues, funding for it remains comparatively less than for other health issues”.

“There is still considerable misunderstanding of mental health and WAAMH believes there must be sustained public education about the safety and desirability of supported home-like services located in the community” said Ms Xamon. WAAMH is concerned to ensure there is no repeat of the very stigmatising public debate that occurred about the government’s decision to establish disability justice centres.

About WAAMH

The Western Australian Association for Mental Health was incorporated in 1966 and is now the peak body representing the community-managed mental health sector in WA. With more than 100 organisational and individual members, our vision is to lead the way in supporting and promoting the human rights of people with mental illness and their families and carers, through the provision of inclusive, well-governed community-based services focused on recovery. WAAMH advocates for effective public policy on mental health issues, delivers workforce training and development and promotes positive attitudes to mental health and recovery. Further information on WAAMH can be found at <http://www.waamh.org.au>

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