

Anika Hume

From: Editor - Torres News <editor@torresnews.com.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 29 September 2015 6:31 PM
To: Anika Hume
Subject: Torres News article and questions
Attachments: OTN28SEP15TN001.pdf; OTN28SEP15TN004.pdf; OTN28SEP15TN005.pdf; OTN28SEP15TN006.pdf

Hi Anika,

Attached is the feature in this week's Torres News RE the cost of dying in the Torres Strait.

In a nutshell the region's only undertaker, Barry Williams, due to retire in a couple of years has revealed the high cost of transporting the deceased from the Outer Islands to the regions only undertaker.

planes or even helicopters have to be chartered, cost thousands to families.

Mr Williams has suggested placing morgues in the outer Island communities, an idea supported by local government, but shunned as too hard by Qld Health.

Since my inquires Qld Health has all of a sudden started talking to Mr Williams after years of being ignored.

Mr Williams proposes training attendant undertakers in each of the communities, meaning the dead can be prepared and buried in situ without the cost of flights.

Mr Williams also slams Qld Health for poor state of region's morgues.

MP Billy Gordon said he would talk to the Minister about this problem.

Questions for the Minister

Has Mr Gordon spoken to him about this?

Has the Minister been aware of this issue?

Would the Minister consider Mr Williams plan?

What options do residents have if no solution is provided by Qld Health.

I may have some other questions, I will think of them tomorrow.

Regards,

--
Aaron Smith
Editor
Torres News

M:

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Regional & Remote Newspapers
Torres News | Western Cape Bulletin | Arafura Times | Cooktown Local News

Anika Hume

From: Anika Hume
Sent: Wednesday, 7 October 2015 4:53 PM
To: 'Editor - Torres News'
Subject: Inquiry regarding cost of dying in Torres Strait
Attachments: New mortuary for Thursday Island.doc

Importance: High

Hi Aaron,

Huge apologies for the delay in getting this to you.

Please see the below responses to your questions as well as the attached release regarding work beginning on a new Thursday Island mortuary.

Please attribute the following answers to Minister for Health Cameron Dick

Has Mr Gordon spoken to the Minister about this?

"My office has been discussing this issue with Mr Gordon."

Has the Minister been aware of this issue?

(See above)

Would the Minister consider Mr Williams' plan?

"I encourage Mr Williams to submit his ideas for the government to consider."

What options do residents have if no solution is provided by Qld Health?

"There is no question this is a complex issue and must be worked through with multiple stakeholders.

"The Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service and the Torres Strait Island Regional Council are working together to investigate the costs, logistics and cultural appropriateness of temporary morgues on island communities.

"Queensland Health's Director General has also been involved in discussion on this issue in person as recently as late August when he met with council and health service representatives on Masig.

"The Torres and Cape HHS Executive General Manager (North) has also been discussing these issues with Mr Williams.

"We will keep the community informed of progress as it occurs."

Thanks,
Anika

Anika Hume
Media Adviser
Office of the Hon. Cameron Dick MP
Minister for Health, Minister for Ambulance Services

P M
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Title	First Name	Last Name	Position	Company Name	Confirmed attendance	Notes
Mr	Billy	Gordon MP	Member for Cook	MP		

Irrelevant information - s.73 of the RTI Act

RTI

Ministerial Roundtable

Tuesday 29 September 2015

Time	Irrelevant information - s.73 of the RTI Act
Venue	
Meeting Chair	
Secretariat	
Invitee's	Mr Billy Gordon MP Member for Cook <i>(apology)</i>
	Irrelevant information - s.73 of the RTI Act



**QUEENSLAND ABORIGINAL AND ISLANDER
HEALTH COUNCIL – ICE ROUNDTABLE**

FRIDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 2015

CAMERON DICK

MINISTER FOR HEALTH

MINISTER FOR AMBULANCE SERVICES



Irrelevant information - s.73 of the RTI Act

6. Fellow politicians:

- **Mr Billy Gordon, MP Member for Cook**

Irrelevant information - s.73 of the RTI Act

Pages 6 through 12 redacted for the following reasons:

Irrelevant information - s.73 of the RTI Act - no references to the Member for Cook/Cook Electorate

Health Minister's visit to Torres and Cape HHS

Date/Time: Tuesday, 18 August 2015 – Thursday 20 August 2015

Irrelevant information - s.73 of the RTI Act - no references to the Member for Cook/Cook Electorate

Page 14 redacted for the following reason:

Irrelevant information - s.73 of the RTI Act - no references to the Member for Cook/Cook Electorate

Wednesday 19 August

Irrelevant information - s.73 of the RTI Act - no references to the Member for Cook/Cook Electorate

1330 - 1415

Lunch in courtyard adjacent to the Community Wellness Centre and close to the dialysis unit.

Member for Cook Mr Billy Gordon

Pages 16 through 17 redacted for the following reasons:

Irrelevant information - s.73 of the RTI Act - no references to the Member for Cook/Cook Electorate

Function Profile

Thank you for the invitation to attend your function. To assist in the preparation for this event it would be appreciated if you could complete the following information and forward it to Helen O'Mara as soon as possible.

Name of Organisation	Queensland Aboriginal & Islander Health Council
Purpose of function	To discuss strategies to address the growing threat to Indigenous Queenslanders from methamphetamine use.
Role (ie making a presentation, delivering a speech)	Deliver a short speech and contribute to general discussion
Venue of function <small>(Please include a building name (if applicable), street address, contact phone number and any other useful information, eg. map)</small>	The Queensland Parliamentary Annexe
Contact person's name, title and telephone numbers (inc. mobile)	Irrelevant information - s.73 of the RTI Act - no references to the Member for Cook/Cook Electorate
Date of Function:	11 September
Time Minister should arrive:	9.00am
Time Minister is free to depart:	4.00pm

Irrelevant information - s.73 of the RTI Act - no references to the Member for Cook/Cook Electorate

Irrelevant information - s.73 of the RTI Act - no references to the Member for Cook/Cook Electorate

Please indicate the name and organisation of any other speakers

- Mr Billy Gordon, MP Member for Cook

Irrelevant information - s.73 of the RTI Act - no references to the Member for Cook/Cook Electorate

Irrelevant information - s.73 of the RTI Act - no references to the Member for Cook/Cook Electorate

Page 20 redacted for the following reason:

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