

(conf)

26/2/15

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DATE 4/3 BY D.

[Redacted]

27 FEB 2015

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Department RecFind No:	[Redacted]
Division/HHS:	Townsville HHS
File Ref No:	

Brief for Noting

Requested by:

- Department Minister's office

SUBJECT: Media inquiries - reportable assaults against staff in the Townsville Hospital and Health Service (Townsville HHS)

Issue(s)

- On 30 and 31 January 2015, the Townsville Bulletin reported an alleged sexual assault at the [Redacted] in [Redacted] 2014 and allegations of reduced security staff at the campus.
- The Townsville HHS provided two responses to the paper; the first on 29 January 2015 after checking staff and security records for a 'savage sexual assault', as referenced by the Townsville Bulletin, advising that no such assault had been recorded. Following the first story the HHS received a report of a patient-related incident involving a staff member of [Redacted]
- A second, clarifying statement was then issued on 30 January 2015. The staff member had reported that an [Redacted] patient, having blood taken, allegedly inappropriately touched [Redacted] on the upper part of [Redacted] body.
[Redacted]
- The statements also confirmed no reductions in security staff at the [Redacted]
- ABC radio broadcast responses to the questions raised in January without notice this morning, 25 February 2015. This has prompted further questions from other media including WIN television and the Townsville Bulletin which have inquired about the incidence of assaults against staff in the Townsville HHS.

Background

- In 2012, there were 265 reported incidents of physical assault and 185 reported incidents of verbal assault across the hospital and health service.
- In 2013, the Townsville HHS began a work program to educate staff, visitors and patients, encourage reporting, address repeated incidents with particular patients and improve policies and processes to ensure staff are safe and protected at work.
- This led to an increase in reports in 2013 to 396 incidents of physical assault and 242 incidents of verbal assault.
- In 2014 the number of physical assaults decreased to 339 and verbal assaults to 127.

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RECORDS TEAM
06 MAR 2015
OLD HEALTH

Department RecFind No:	
Division/HHS:	Townsville HHS
File Ref No:	

NOTED

[Handwritten Signature]

DR MICHAEL CLEARY
A/ Director-General

27/2/2015

A/Director-General's comments To Minister's Office for Noting

DEAR MINISTER PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE
IS AN ELECTION COMMITMENT TO ENHANCE
SECURITY IN TOWNVILLE

Minister's Office Use Only
NOTED

NOTED

[Handwritten Signature]
CAMERON DICK
Minister for Health
Minister for Ambulance Services

Chief of Staff

4/3/15

1 1

Minister's comments

A/D-G please make funding for grants
available immediately
4/3/15

Briefing note rating

1 2 3 4 (1 = poor and 4 = excellent)

Author	Cleared by: (SD/Dir)	Content verified by: (CEO/DDG/Div Head)
Irene Jacovos	Julia Squire	Julia Squire
Senior Liaison Officer	Chief Executive	Chief Executive
Office of the Chief Executive	Townsville Hospital and Health Service	Townsville Hospital and Health Service
26 February 2015	26 February 2015	26 February 2015

Department RecFind No:	
Division/HHS:	Townsville HHS
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③ TO CFO
COPY DDG HHS

NOTED

[Signature]

DR MICHAEL CLEARY
A/ Director-General

27/2/2015

DEAR MICHAEL
PLEASE WORK WITH THE
HHS AND HHSO TO HAVE
THE FUNDS REIMBURSED
AS PER THE MANUALLY
ADVISE. THE HHS WILL
NEED TO ADVISE HOW THE
FUNDS WILL BE SUPPLIED AND
HAVE THE SERVICES AGREEMENT
ANNOUNCED

A/Director-General's comments

To Minister's Office for Noting

DEAR MINISTER PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE
IS AN ELECTION COMMITMENT TO ENHANCE
SECURITY IN TOWNVILLE

3/8/2015

Minister's Office Use Only
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[Signature]
CAMERON DICK
Minister for Health
Minister for Ambulance Services

4/3/15

PLEASE COPY TO
SDJ PHILLIPS

Minister's comments

1/3-9 Please make funding for guards
available immediately
4/3/15

Briefing note rating

1 2 3 4 (1 = poor and 4 = excellent)

Author	Cleared by: (SD/Dir)	Content verified by: (CEO/DDG/Div Head)
Irene Jacovos	Julia Squire	Julia Squire
Senior Liaison Officer	Chief Executive	Chief Executive
Office of the Chief Executive	Townsville Hospital and Health Service	Townsville Hospital and Health Service
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