



Parliament of Western Australia  
Legislative Council

**Hon Stephen Dawson MLC**  
Member for Mining & Pastoral Region



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Hon Simon O'Brien MLC  
Chairman  
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs  
Parliament House  
PERTH WA 6000

2 January 2014

Dear Mr O'Brien *Simon*

**Petition No 23 – Increase Number of Mental Health Beds in New Perth Children's Hospital**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission on Petition No 23 regarding increasing the number of Mental Health Beds in the new Perth Children's Hospital, which I tabled in the Legislative Council on 3 December 2013.

I confirm that this issue has not been taken to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations.

The Barnett Government's decision to build a new children's hospital in Perth is to be welcomed however I am concerned that the new facility will not have enough mental health beds to cater for Western Australia's growing population into the future.

While the new hospital will contain twenty mental health beds for children, most of the beds will not in fact be new beds as such but rather beds that currently exist at Princess Margaret and Bentley Hospitals.

My constituents tell me that they currently struggle to access the existing mental health beds due to the beds often being full and I am concerned that the new hospital will not take the pressure off the waiting lists.

I would urge the Standing Committee to look into this matter further.

Yours sincerely

**Hon Stephen Dawson MLC**  
Member for Mining & Pastoral