

# Hon Colin de Grussa MLC

Member for the Agricultural Region

Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC  
Chairperson  
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs  
via [env@parliament.wa.gov.au](mailto:env@parliament.wa.gov.au)

28 June 2019

Dear Mr Swinbourn

## PETITION NO 119 – QUADRIPLLEGIC CENTRE CLOSURE

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the committee regarding Petition No 119 – Quadriplegic Centre Closure.

The primary petitioner Mr Glenn Neville contacted me some months ago to express his concern regarding the closure of the state Quadriplegic Centre. I, along with the 375 people who signed the petition, share Mr Neville's concerns.

The State Quadriplegic Centre in Shenton Park has long offered a unique, and incredibly important, respite service to people who have suffered high-level spinal cord injuries. The Quadriplegic Centre is unique in the level of independence it offers clients during their respite, while still providing the necessary amount of support and care each individual requires.

After suffering severe injuries that result in quadriplegia, a person's life becomes one of significant structure and routine. They rely heavily on support workers and carers to assist them with day-to-day activities and personal care, including getting in and out of bed, showering, dressing, preparing food and pressure care. The Quadriplegic Centre offers a respite service that allows clients independence that they do not always get to experience at home. They can come and go as they please, with easy access to public transport, while still receiving the care and support required.

I have spoken with people who have utilised the services at the Quadriplegic Centre, and they have all stressed the importance of being able to break from routine, and enjoy a level of independence others take for granted. The role this opportunity for independent respite plays in improving the mental health of quadriplegics cannot be disregarded.

Alternative respite centres suggested by the Minister for Health are geographically inappropriate, smaller and do not offer the same level of independence as the Quadriplegic Centre.

I urge the Minister for Health and the State Government to reconsider their decision to close the State Quadriplegic Centre. This Centre is unique, and its services are so valuable to the people who have suffered traumatic injuries. These services, along with the suitable location and appropriate accommodation, must be retained.

Please do not hesitate to contact me via 9071 6555 or [colin.degrussa@mp.wa.gov.au](mailto:colin.degrussa@mp.wa.gov.au) should you require any further information.

Kind regards



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