

Ian Holland

Committee Secretary

Senate Select Committee on Mental Health

Department of the Senate

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

26-4-2005

Dear Mr. Holland,

As a consumer of mental illness I have always been aware that our state of Queensland is very inadequately funded.

As a volunteer to the Cairns Base Hospital mental health Unit on a Thursday every week I notice that there is a terrible lack of craft material for the clients to be able to use & make things with this craft. As a patient in the mental health Unit, "Robinson House" in Wagga Wagga N.S.W. there was always a great range of craft products which were both suitable for men & women clients to make things. If they wanted to take the things that they made they could pay for the cost & then were able to take them home & thus keep them in their possession & be proud of them. During the year I spent at Wagga I made many things which I still have, so I would like the same for Cairns.

Yours faithfully

Marian Forster