

RETENTION OF PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS

**THERE IS A STRONG AND URGENT CASE FOR
THE RETENTION OF EXISTING PSYCHIATRIC
HOSPITALS:**

**CALLAN PARK IN SYDNEY
JAMES FLETCHER IN NEWCASTLE**

FORGET THE DE-INSTITUTIONALISATION / COMMUNITY CARE CONCEPT OF MENTAL HEALTH

- **IT DOES NOT WORK -- IT NEVER WORKED AS A STAND ALONE SYSTEM OF CARE.**
- **IT WAS ADOPTED AS A SOLUTION TO MENTAL HEALTH CARE WHERE HOSPITALS WERE IN A DEPLORABLE STATE THROUGH SEVERE NEGLECT.**
- **ITALY (THE INITIATOR OF THE CONCEPT) AND THE UNITED KINGDOM HAVE BOTH BEEN FORCED TO ADMIT DE-INSTITUTIONALISATION OF PSYCHIATRIC CARE HAS FAILED.**
- **AS PART OF A MIX OF CARE – YES. BUT DEDICATED STAFF AND HOSPITALS ARE ESSENTIAL**
- **OTHER COUNTRIES – LIKE THE USA – HAVE A SITUATION OF FAILURE ON HAND BUT REFUSE TO ACT. 2% OF ITS POPULATION IS INCARCERATED AND 25% OF THE THOSE INMATES HAVE SERIOUS PSYCHIATRIC PROBLEMS. THE PRISONS AND THE POLICE ARE FORCED TO FILL THE GAPS IN THE ROLE OF PROPER PSYCHIATRIC CARE.**

**IN THE 1980'S , AUSTRALIA ADOPTED THE
FINDINGS OF THE 1983 RICHMOND
REPORT.**

**THIS REPORT RECOMMENDED THE
ADOPTION OF DE- INSTITUTIONALISATION.**

WRONG WAY

GO BACK

**THE RESULTS FOR PEOPLE WITH MENTAL
ILLNESS IN NSW ALONE:-**

4,500 IN GAOL;10,000 HOMELESS;

**MORE THAN 3,000 PREVENTABLE
DEATHS SINCE 1989**

IN 2005, PROFESSOR RICHMOND SPOKE OUT AGAINST THAT DECISION. AS QUOTED IN “THE AUSTRALIAN” HE SAID

” FUNDAMENTALLY, THE PLANNING AND PRECEPTS OF THE 1980’S WERE FOR A DIFFERENT KIND OF COMMUNITY.” THE AUTHOR OF THE RICHMOND REPORT WENT ON TO CALL FOR THE PROVISION OF MORE DEDICATED PSYCHIATRIC BEDS AND MORE SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION.

HIS RECOMMENDATION WAS BASED ON :-

- A) THE RADICAL CHANGE IN THE POPULATION GROWTH IN AUSTRALIA SINCE THE 1980’S**
- B) CHANGES IN HOUSING AVAILABILITY**
- C) CHANGES IN EMPLOYMENT STRUCTURES**
- D) THE IMPACT OF THE AVAILABILITY OF ILLICIT DRUGS.**

PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL BEDS PER HEAD OF POPULATION IN 2001

COUNTRY	BEDS/100,000 OF POPULATION
• JAPAN	280
• CANADA	190
• NZ	130
• FRANCE	120
• UK	58
• AUSTRALIA	41

AUSTRALIA DOES NOT COMPARE WELL WITH OTHER OECD COUNTRIES. ONLY TURKEY HAS FEWER BEDS

RECENTLY, AMPLE EVIDENCE HAS BEEN PRESENTED TO GIVE FULL CREDENCE TO PROFESSOR RICHMOND'S CALL FOR MORE DEDICATED PSYCHIATRIC BEDS TO MEET THE NEED OF A CHANGING SOCIETY.

- **COMMISSIONER OF POLICE FOR NSW , IN THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD OF 5 JANUARY 2006, WAS REPORTED AS SAYING “ HAS WARNED THAT THE NATION IS IN THE GRIP OF A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS AND THAT POLICE OFFICERS CANNOT BEAR THE BRUNT OF INADEQUATE HOSPITAL SERVICES...”. “ I HAVE TO GO BEYOND JUST VERBAL SUPPORT AND GO FORWARD TO THE GOVERNMENT AND TRY AND FIND A WHOLE RANGE OF LASTING SOLUTIONS TO DEAL WITH MENTAL ILLNESS IN THE COMMUNITY.”**

IN NSW THERE IS A PRISON POPULATION OF 9000. 12% OF THESE HAVE ACTIVE PSYCHOTIC ILLNESS.

- **ACCORDING TO INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS (TO WHICH AUSTRALIA IS A SIGNATORY) THESE PEOPLE SHOULD BE IN HOSPITAL, NOT GAOL.**
- **OTHER STATES HAVE SIMILAR OR MORE ALARMING STATISTICS.**

DR JEAN LENNANE, THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PRACTICING PSYCHIATRISTS (NAPP), IN DECEMBER OF 2005, STATED :-

- **“ THE URGENT NEED FOR ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY AND HOSPITAL SERVICES IS ACCEPTED FACT. THAT MOST OR ALL PSYCHIATRIC BEDS BE PROVIDED IN A GENERAL HOSPITAL ENVIRONMENT IS QUESTIONABLE. PSYCHIATRIC PATIENTS NEED A TRANQUIL AND SPACIOUS ENVIRONMENT AWAY FROM THE RUSH AND CRUSH OF A GENERAL HOSPITAL. WHAT IS NEEDED IS SPECIALISED PROFESSIONAL CARE IN A COMMUNITY BASED SETTING SUCH AS IS FOUND AT CALLAN PARK.”**
- **“LONG TERM BEDS AND ACUTE CARE BEDS SHOULD BE PROVIDED IN A SEPARATE ENVIRONMENT OF THIS SORT. ACUTE CARE BEDS CAN AND SHOULD BE LOCATED IN SELECT GENERAL HOSPITALS. AND THERE MUST BE THE FULL RANGE OF COMMUNITY CARE.”**

**AUSTRALIA HAS AN AGEING POPULATION.
THIS FACT HAS AT LEAST THREE
IMPORTANT CONSEQUENCES :-**

- **AS PEOPLE AGE, THE LIKELYHOOD OF MENTAL ILLNESS INCREASES (ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE IS THE BEST KNOWN OF THE DEMENTIA PROBLEMS. RESPITE CARE FACILITIES BECOME ESSENTIAL)**
- **THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE IS NOW BECOMING AWARE OF MENTAL ILLNESS AND THE NEED FOR PROPER CARE FACILITIES AND SUPPORT**
- **CARERS NEED GREATER RESPITE SUPPORT**

TWO FACILITIES ARE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE WHICH COULD MEET A SIGNIFICANT PART OF THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL BEDS:

**CALLAN PARK IN SYDNEY
JAMES FLETCHER IN NEWCASTLE.**

THERE ARE SEVERAL ADVANTAGES IN THESE TWO SITES BEING EXPANDED :-

- THE FACILITIES AND LAND ARE IN PLACE**
- THEY CURRENTLY OPERATE AS PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS**
- THE COMMUNITY WANTS THE HOSPITAL CARE OF THE MENTALLY ILL TO BE LOCATED ON THE SITE, SO THERE IS NO SET-UP PROBLEM**
- THE COST OF EACH ADDITIONAL BED WILL BE MUCH LESS THAN SETTING UP A NEW FACILITY**
- STAFF MORALE WILL BE BETTER AND SO TURNOVER FIGURES WILL BE REDUCED**

END OF PRESENTATION

START OF ACTION ?

WILL THE OUTCOME BE THIS



Callan Park

THIS.....



Callan Park

THIS



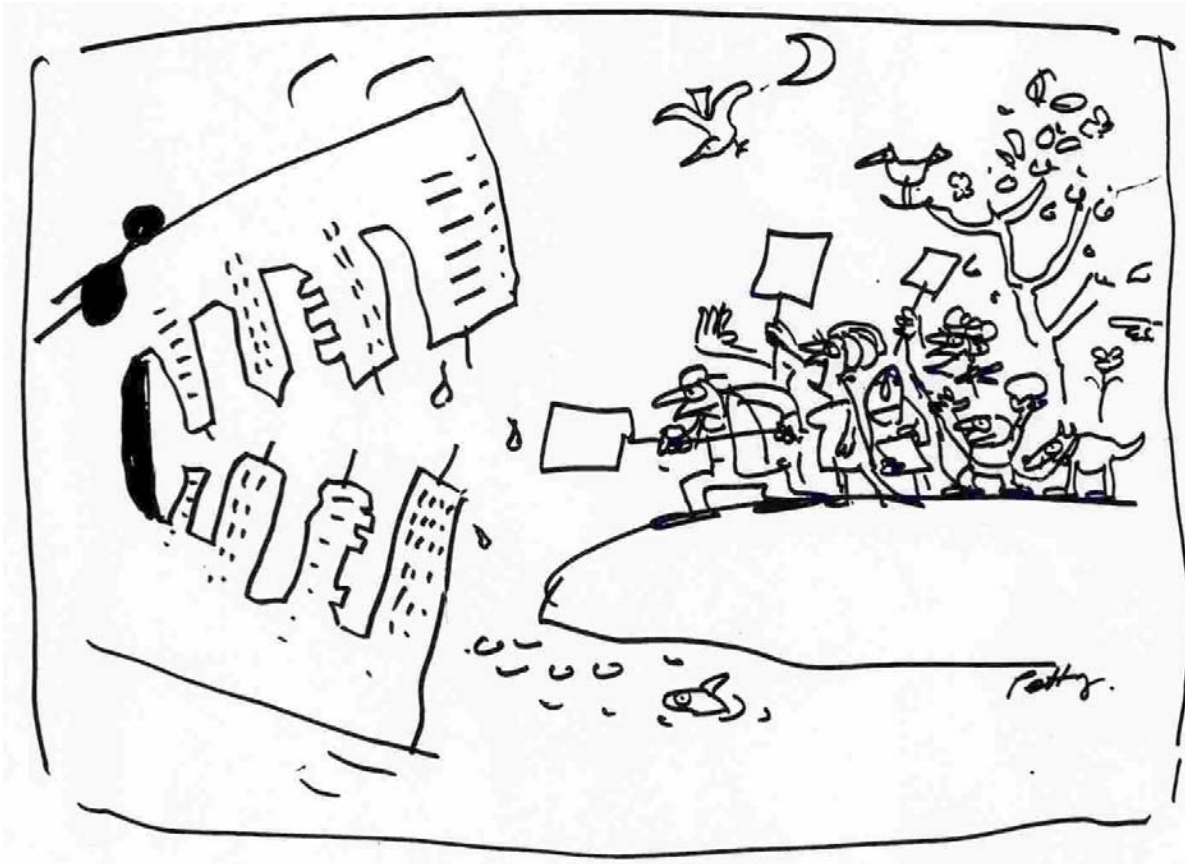
Callan Park

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Callan Park

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OR THIS?



Callan Park