

Tuesday, 13 January 2026

## ***Youth Oncology- Princess Alexandra Hospital***

To the Queensland Minister for Health,

I am writing to you in regard to the increasing demand for better healthcare and treatment spaces for youth oncology at the Princess Alexandra Hospital. It is quite evident that due to the hospital constantly being at capacity, the young and tagged 'healthy' are being overlooked with acceleration.

As a 21 year-old that was thrown into this world of cancer three times now, living the gruelling, unfair and painful reality of this diagnosis for the last six years, I believe I am educated enough to strongly advocate for myself and my fellow patients who may not have a strong enough voice. I know that it is fair to demand better for all Young Australians healthcare, from seeing the astounding difference of standard in treatment, ward space and care, starting at the Queensland Children's Hospital, to being aged out and transferred to the 'Adult' hospital at Princess Alexandra.

As a youth oncology patient in the bracket of 15 years to 25 years old, over 1,200 of us are diagnosed annually in Australia, all faced with one option; fight to survive. So hundreds of us travel from far and wide, some living regionally and others having to relocate into the metropolitan areas, hundreds of kilometres from home, to receive our life saving treatments. We sacrifice so much as young adults to fight for our lives, all to be told that there is no space for us. We cannot access this healthcare from home as most hospitals are not equipped to diagnose, treat or keep young oncology patients safe. So, we flock, to the biggest hospital with the best doctors who know how to keep us safe, which then creates the issue of space. As a young adult, we have none. We are the forgotten generation in these major hospitals.

I have seen firsthand how the Princess Alexandra tries to operate when the hospital and wards are overrun. We are critically ill patients being moved to separate wards that have a spare bed, away from the nurses and doctors who understand our diagnosis and how to treat us. We are tagged as the 'healthy' ones because we are younger than the others, yet, we are undergoing much more dangerous treatments like high dose chemotherapy or stem cell transplants, making us utterly susceptible to any and all infections. It is repugnant, extremely disheartening and down right scary to continue to be overlooked time and time again, unable to compete with the unfair system these hospitals have set up for us.

It is clear, the Princess Alexandra Hospital is grasping at straws to no avail. Mr Minister, how is it okay to 'store' us young patients in a decommissioned treatment room with no windows, no toilet and no shower, for days on end to keep up the appearance that we are still admitted to the correct ward? How is it okay to say Youth oncology patients have a suitable waiting area, while they wait hours on end to see their treating doctors, all while our designated room is smaller than your living room? How many of these issues are we going to keep duct-tape fixing before we get a real solution and just how is this level of treatment okay for the people that will be leading the future of Queensland, Mr Health Minister?

It is simple really, we are the future of the State, because us young adult oncology patients know what it means to fight for our futures, so let us use our energy for

something good for Queensland, instead of having to advocate for our basic needs to receive life saving treatment. We deserve our own treatment rooms, to avoid waiting hours in the hospital 'wherever you can find a seat'. We deserve our own bed on the ward we are being treated on, to ensure we are receiving the best treatment for survival. We deserve creative spaces and rooms to heal so we can plan a better future. We deserve more.

Thank you for your understanding and consideration toward this prominent issue. We all hope you make the Queensland forward decision for the next generation. I understand that you are a very busy man with the multiple responsibilities that you juggle in your position of Health Minister for Queensland, therefore I am eager to elaborate on these issues affecting young adults in oncology wards and provide solutions to you or your representative in person or over the phone.

I wanted to give you the opportunity to read, examine, contemplate and come to a conclusion on the designation of space at the Princess Alexandra Hospital for Youth Oncology to receive lifesaving treatment, before I have to explore other avenues of finding my voice in the media. I am eager to share our continuously developing stories with other Queensland forward thinking journalists that will allow Queenslanders to know the truth about the conduct toward young adults in major hospitals.

I look forward to your reply,

Kind Regards,  
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