

Youth in Action – Engaging Young People in Designing the Queensland Children’s Hospital

The Youth Advisory Forum

Samuel Brookfield, QCH Patient and Family
Engagement Officer

The Beginning

- 2006 – Qld Health decided to combine the services of MCH, RCH and TPCH paediatric cardiac services into the Queensland Children Hospital (QCH)
- Planned to open in 2014, in South Brisbane
- Based upon McKinsey report of 2006 – the clinical value of critical mass
- Founded upon Family Centred Care
- 2007 – Youth Advisory Forum (YAF) created
- Meeting every 1-2 months
- 12 members ages 14-20

“Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) cancer patients are a significant population and have distinctive medical, psychosocial, social and information needs which necessitate age-appropriate therapy, care and support... Currently AYA patients are achieving less than optimal outcomes such as lack of improved survival rates, delayed diagnoses, and poor access to clinical trials.”

(COSA, 2007)

“Adolescents are exposed to risks and pressures on a scale that their parents did not face. Globalisation has accelerated change while the structures that protected previous generations of young people are being eroded.”

(WHO, 2002)

Tell me and I will remember,
Show me and I may remember,
Involve me, and I will understand



YAF Mission Statement

To empower all young people with the opportunity to contribute to the standard of their own healthcare, by putting them in control of their hospital experience.



Emerging Themes

- Psycho-social needs
- Choice
- Independence

- Peer support
- Partnership model of care
- Collaboration



Impacts

- Division between adolescent and child waiting spaces and entertainment
 - Increase in patient age range
 - Greater food choice
 - Arrival experience
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- Use of art
- Access to outdoors
- Bedside entertainment systems
- _____ ● _____
- Pet visit room
- Ward areas, multi-faith space, consult rooms, in-patient rooms

"Beyond Beanbags" – The Youth Advisory Forum's vision of the QCH

"Beyond Beanbags"

The Youth Advisory Forum's vision of the QCH



"We shape our buildings and, afterwards, our buildings shape us."
Winston Churchill

Latest update – 01/10/2008

The Six Senses of the QCH

- It must SMELL natural
- It must LOOK unique
- It must SOUND like normality
- It must TASTE diverse
- It must FEEL like a cubby house in a hotel
- It must ACT like an eco-system

- Engage with all stakeholder groups
 - Engaged patients and families are a resource, not an obligation
 - Collaboration, consultation and communication
 - Collaboration – How should we do this?
 - Consultation – Can you provide these answers?
 - Communication – What is going on?
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- Formalised processes
- Talk lots
- Adolescence is not a secret club
- Create visible product

- Do not underestimate the possibilities for change



References

- Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer Forum (2007)
[http://www.cosa.org.au/File/Projects/AYA%20Cancer%20Forum%20Report%20\(Final\).pdf](http://www.cosa.org.au/File/Projects/AYA%20Cancer%20Forum%20Report%20(Final).pdf)
- The Institute for Family and Patient Centred Care <http://www.ipfcc.org/>
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- Shields, L., Pratt, J., & Hunter, J. (2008). Family-centred care for children in hospital. *Intervention Review*, 3. doi: 10.1002/14651858.CD004811.pub2.

Food for Thought

