

## **INQUIRY INTO ISSUES RELATING TO REDFERN/WATERLOO**

**Organisation:**

**Name:** Mr Andrew Byrne

**Position:** Medical Practitioner

**Telephone:**

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**Theme:**

**Summary**

**From:** Andrew Byrne <ajbyrne@ozemail.com.au>  
**To:** <JulieLangsworth@parliament.nsw.gov.au>  
**Date:** 16/10/2004 6:01:25 pm  
**Subject:** Re: Inquiry into Redfern Waterloo

Dear Julie,

I certainly would like to have an input into the Waterloo/Redfern situation where I have been working for almost 30 years (if you include my student days at Rachel Forster Hospital).

The services we have lost need to be replaced and existing services need support and expansion.

There used to be in-patient detoxification services both at RPAH and Langton Centre. There used to be medical, casualty and counselling services at the Rachel Forster Hospital. There used to be an experienced dependency specialist pharmacist at Redfern Railway Station as well as two other local pharmacies (Abercrombie St and Redfern St near Regent St). All three have now closed down, partly as a result of the federal government's plan to actively concentrate community pharmacy services.

While the Aboriginal Medical Service performs excellent services with limited resources it can never satisfy demand, partly because some aboriginal dependent patients are reluctant to attend a community centre where friends and family may recognise them. Such problems also occur in the non-aboriginal community and just indicate the need for a range of choices for treatment. A major problem with the community medical services is that they generally do not dispense medications such as methadone, buprenorphine, naltrexone and acamprosate, each of which need very close specialist supervision, especially in new and unstable patients. Sending such patients to a second facility for dispensing means that some drug or alcohol dependent patients drop out even before getting their medication which would not be acceptable in a mental health facility, casualty or other acute specialist services.

Andrew Byrne ..

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My grandfather Harry Gracie's letters from 1924 trip to Mayo Clinic:  
<http://bpresent.com/harry/code/mayo.htm>  
For 'opera reviews' or 'dependency briefings' send email request.  
Author of: "Addict in the Family" and  
"Methadone in the Treatment of Narcotic Addiction"  
<http://www.csdp.org/addict/>  
[http://www.drugpolicy.org/library/byrne\\_contents\\_methadone2.cfm](http://www.drugpolicy.org/library/byrne_contents_methadone2.cfm)  
Photo (ugly):  
<http://www.opiateaddictionrx.info/aboutus/aboutus06.html#>