

The Gladstone Health

with Gaston Boulanger

- Gladstone is a large city which needs a Level 4 Hospital
- A Level 4 Hospital needs an Intensive Care Unit
- When Destination 30 came out, it was made clear that Gladstone wouldn't become a comprehensive hospital
- This resulted in a huge loss of specialists
- A current lack of antenatal services is a symptom of a much larger problem

Since 2017, Dr. Gaston Boulanger has been advocating for adequate health services for the Gladstone Hospital.

The below contact to the Honourable Yvette D'Ath calls for the resignation of the still-current Chair of the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Board, Mr. Paul Bell. The email extract below follows the initial discussions of Rio Tinto's 'Here for Health' Community Fund Board initiative, a prospective plan that was set to improve available healthcare for people in the Gladstone Region.

Dear Hon Yvette D'Ath, We met 5 October 2021 via Zoom together with our Mayor, Deputy Mayor and community member Maxine Brushe to discuss the CSCF level of the Gladstone Hospital. Unfortunately you had not the opportunity to follow up with a meeting in Gladstone as you promised.

The situation in Gladstone has again become more dire and unsafe.

In this email I will argue why The Chair of the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Board should resign from his job.

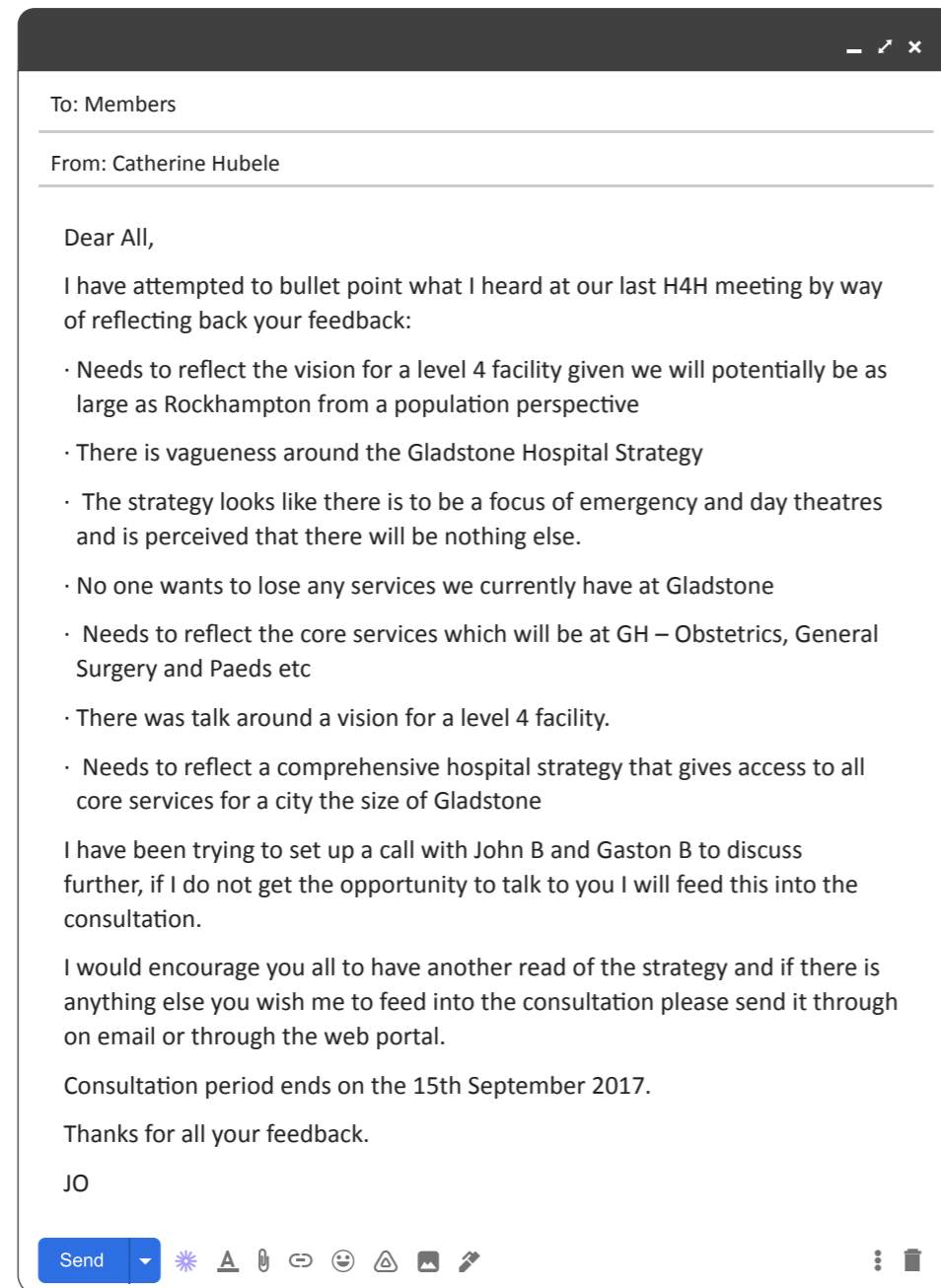
Mr Paul Bell AM was appointed as Chair of the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Board in May 2016. And the development of the Destination 2030 was started.

Here for health started in 2012 as a RIO TINTO Community Fund Board

initiative. All the health leaders and decisions makers joined to improve medical services through cooperation and effective communication.

Here for Health: 2 GP's 2 Specialists. Mayor, Member for Gladstone, Member for Flynn, CEO CQHHS, CEO Mater Hospital, Other CQHHS executives, Councillors, CEO PHN, RIO TINTO rep, GILG REP, Journalist executive etc)

The Destination 2030 was discussed in the meetings. Jo Glover ED summarised the input in the email below (9-2017).



Crisis WASN'T JUST PREDICTED, IT WAS CREATED

These reflections are not represented in the Destination 2030:

Gladstone Hospital – comprehensive general hospital for the Gladstone region

We will develop Gladstone Hospital as a centre for emergency care, medical inpatient and day surgery excellence optimizing outreach services for rural communities of Banana. This will include the development and expansion of clinical specialties such as surgical, orthopaedic, elderly care, medical cancer and ambulatory health care in collaboration with Rockhampton Hospital as our regional specialist referral hospital. Our partnership arrangements with the co-located Mater Hospital will allow us to deliver a strengthened integrate health service increasing the acute bed base and supporting the aged care service needs of the community.

Hence in May 2018 the Gladstone doctors wrote another futile report 'Response to the Destination 2030,' in which Gladstone Medical Community argues again for a CSCF level 4 Hospital.

The execution of the Destination 2030 continued and in 2019 the CSCF level 4 anaesthetic services performed in the Gladstone Hospital were culled. An exodus of medical specialists was the result.

Excerpt from Dr. Dauway's letter:

I argue that the Chair and the Board ignored the input from the Gladstone Health Professionals, the industry and the community. They failed to implement the suggestions made.

I believe this is not in line with the guiding principles of the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011.

Gladstone is a large city who needs the minimal services of a CSCF4 facility. Not having the proper anaesthetic services since 2019 has made Gladstone

a dangerous place were no doctor/ specialist wants to work.

In the past years I have been meeting with yourself, Minister Miles, multiple times with the DDG office and co-workers from your office, etcetera, to agendise a concrete short/ medium term path way to a CSCF level 4

The Chair and the Board ignored the input from the Gladstone Health Professionals, the industry and the community. They failed to implement the suggestions made.

Gladstone Hospital. All meetings until now, have been futile. I believe political decision makers trust the word of the Chair more than the knowledge of the medical profession.

I wish you all the strength to have the courage to make the right decision.

Kind regards,
Gaston Boulanger
MD MSc FRACGP

