

Your Ref: A682412, Petition No:057.

To,
Hon Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC,
Chairman,
Legislative Council Committee Office,
18-32 Parliament place, West Perth, WA6005.

Dear Hon Hon Matthew Swinbourn,
I thank you for your letter dated 11th April 2018, ref: Christian Prayer Room at Perth Children's Hospital. I wish to inform you that I have not taken my complaint to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigation.

Submission regarding the issues raised in my petition: The usual provisions in Government Hospitals such as Royal Perth Hospital, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Princess Margaret Hospital for Children consist of a Chapel for use by people of all Christian Denominations. A separate Prayer Room, (Salat Room) for people of Muslim faith.

The existing Chapel at Princess Margaret Hospital—PMH, was established in May 1988, and was dedicated in June 1988.(Please see enclosed evidence.) This Chapel has for many years welcomed patients and families, Careers and visitors of Christian faith and all other religious faiths. It provides a place of Prayer and quiet Meditation. I have also witnessed that this Chapel being used as a place for bereavement. When I visited the Chapel, I noticed Christian symbols such as alter table with a Bible, Crucifix and a Tabernacle. In the past, people of Muslim faith also used this Chapel for their prayers. It was much later that a Salat Room was assigned next to the Chapel. The Centre was named Multi-faith. (Photo enclosed).

Thus in the Multi-faith centre at the new Perth Children's Hospital—PCH, a Chapel should have been replicated for use by people of all Christian Denominations. It is vital to have a Chapel in the premises of Perth Children's Hospital to meet the emotional and spiritual needs of sick Children and their families, hospital employees and visitors.

In November 2014, arranged by the Health Department of W.A., I attended a meeting with the Project Director for PCH, her assistant, and the Anglican Chaplain who is the Head of the Pastoral Care Services at PMH. At this meeting the Chaplain told me that if the Children are well enough, they can go to Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital Chapel. A copy of the plan of the Multi-faith centre at PCH was provided to me at this meeting. A week later I was informed, that this Anglican Chaplain was the main person involved in the planning of the Multi-faith centre at PCH.

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In December 2014, I wrote letters to the Minister for Health DR: Kim Hames and to the Premier Hon: Colin Barnett, requesting for a separate room from the Multi-faith Centre with a alter table and Christian symbols to serve as a Chapel. The Government failed to consider this request. In February 2015, I attended separate meetings with “ Heads of Churches of different Denominations”. I provided each of them with a plan of the Multi-faith centre at PCH. I was informed that this plan was not shown to them, and they were not consulted. Heads of Churches wrote letters to the Minister for Health, and to the Premier. This resulted in a article in Sunday Times dated 5/4/15. (Copy enclosed)

This article made it very clear that what is provided in the Multi-faith Centre at PCH is a Muslim Prayer area with ablution facilities. A “Central Worship Area” for people of different faiths who prayer to different gods. Christian Chapel is at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital—S.C.G.H. (Note: At S.C.G.H. E-block ground level is the Chapel, a floor above the Chapel is a Muslim Prayer Room). It is very evident that majority of people who embrace the Christian faith has been Discriminated !. In July 2015, I received a Email from the Catholic Bishop. This Anglican Chaplain has advised Dr: Kim Hames, The Multi-faith Centre at PCH will replicate the centre in use at PMH. He failed to inform DR: Kim Hames about the existing Chapel at PMH. (Copy of email is enclosed.) There is no record in the archives of PMH, when the Muslim Prayer Room was assigned next to the Chapel, thus when the Multi-faith centre was established. Please investigate this matter, as the Chaplain has deliberately failed the Chapel.

In August 2015, I received a letter from Dr: Kim Hames, stating “The multi-faith centre at PMH is not a Christian Chapel.” (Copy of letter Enclosed). The Health Minister followed the advise of the Anglican Chaplain. At PCH Christian Symbols such as alter table, tabernacle, Crucifix and Bible are put into the “Central Worship Area”. In “The Ten Commandments”,--- Our God has stated in the first Commandment, “I am the Lord thy God; thou shall not have strange gods before Me.” Thus at PCH Multi-faith centre, placing Christian symbols in the “Central Worship Area”, providing this area for Christian place of Prayer and Worship-- does not bring Honour to our God, and it is also Persecution of our Christian faith. Making Christians disobey our God’s Commandment. It is for this reason, that I have continued to campaign with other Christians, and have asked the Legislative Council to recommend at the new Perth Children’s Hospital, “ a separate room for Christian people, with alter table and Christian symbols for Christian sacramental use and for prayers.”

I therefore request to You--Hon Hon Chairman, and to all the members of the “Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs”, to request to the Government to provide as requested above. I sincerely thank all of you.

Your’s Sincerely,

Sunnetta Fernandez
21/5/18