



Kingston & Barton Residents Group Inc.

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Aims to ensure the Kingston and Barton area is a great place to live, by:

- o High quality planning, urban design and construction
- o Preservation and recognition of the area's unique heritage character
- o Provision of adequate green open spaces
- o Effective transport planning – for traffic, parking, pedestrians & cyclists
- o Strong community spirit and quality of life

To: Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Health

Andrew Barr MLA, Chief Minister

Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Planning

Elizabeth Lee MLA, Member for Kurrajong

Shane Rattenbury MLA, Member for Kurrajong

Thomas Emerson MLA, Member for Kurrajong

PROPOSED INNER SOUTH HEALTH CENTRE

The Kingston & Barton Residents Group Inc. (KBRG) is concerned to ensure that our area is adequately provided with community facilities in what is already one of the most densely populated parts of Canberra - over 4,000 dwellings, more than 90% of which are flats or apartments (2021 Census).

We are aware of the ACT Government's proposed Inner South Health Centre in Throsby Park Griffith and of considerable opposition to it in that location. Construction of the Centre at that site would require rezoning and use of what is currently open space parkland and car parking space behind Griffith Shops and would require removal of established trees, reduce car parking available for local businesses and suffer from minimal public transport. A petition to the Legislative Assembly prepared by the Griffith Narrabundah Community Association (GNCA) asks the ACT Government to reconsider the location of the proposed Health Centre and instead utilise currently zoned community facility land at either Manuka or Kingston Group Centres.

Recently, one of the few community facilities in Kingston (the early child care centre at 19 Giles Street) was closed and the site is now to be redeveloped with a four-storey office-type building. KBRG was successful in achieving a lease variation, through mediation at ACAT, requiring the new building to be predominantly for community uses. We then encouraged the developer for the new building in Kingston to approach ACT Health to see whether all or part of the proposed Inner South Health Centre could be located in their building, rather than at Throsby Park Griffith.

KBRG has now been advised that Purdons, representing the developer, held a number of meetings and discussions with executive and senior executive staff from ACT Health, including the Deputy CEO, but that ultimately they decided to decline the opportunity and proceed with Griffith, as announced.

We are writing to you as the relevant ACT Government Ministers and local MLAs to ask that this position be reconsidered. It seems clear to both KBRG and the GNCA that the Kingston site would be the better location for the Inner South Health Centre.

The site is just across Giles Street from the Kingston Group Centre, is already Community Facility zoned and previously developed land and is on the 56 and R6 rapid bus routes from Civic to Woden via Manuka. Development approval has been granted for a four-storey, 3,860 square metre (m²) gross floor area building with a landscaped roof deck and three levels of basement parking, subject to at least 1,931m² of gross floor area to be community use, with revised plans to be submitted showing the community use areas clearly identified and labelled.

While the Government has not announced the floor area of the Health Centre proposed for Griffith we understand it to be around 1,250m² and could therefore easily be accommodated in the proposed Giles Street development. The developer has indicated their desire for the building to be primarily a 'health facility', but at this stage have not identified any particular tenants. They say they would be very happy for their building to house all or part of the proposed Inner South Health Centre.

We understand that work on the Griffith site cannot commence until the children's playground in Throsby Park has been moved to somewhere in Blaxland Park, and the former children's playground site redeveloped as a storm water detention basin. None of this work has commenced to date suggesting that work on the Health Centre will not start for a considerable time. The Giles Street development is appropriately zoned and already approved so should lead to a much earlier opening of the Health Centre.

We earnestly seek your assistance in further investigating this, on the face of it, attractive opportunity to save the cost of developing a government-owned facility. It would be potentially beneficial to both communities involved as well as the wider Inner South Canberra district and the ACT populace generally in terms of reduced demand on government resources.

Richard Johnston
President KBRG

31 March 2026