



**Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group
CBD BUG**

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Dr David Alcorn
Executive Director
Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital
HERSTON QLD 4022

Dear Dr Alcorn

This letter seeks your action on the absence of short-term bicycle parking at the main entrance to the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH).

The background to this issue is that at the Brisbane Ride to Work Day event on 16 March 2011 the Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group (CBD BUG) was approached by an elderly gentleman who is a patient of the RBWH and rides his bike to attend outpatient clinic appointments. However, the man has experienced difficulties in parking his bike at the hospital because apart from the abovementioned lack of short-term bike parking at the main entrance, there is also "No bikes" signage in place there.

He also mentioned he had been "chased off" by security staff when attempting to lock his bike to a near-by railing even though according to him it would not possibly have been an obstacle or hazard to anyone.

For your information the CBD BUG is a grass roots volunteer organisation of almost 600 members, representing the interests of the very large number of Brisbane residents who ride bicycles to, from and within the Brisbane city centre. It is active in vigorously seeking policy decisions at all levels of government supporting cycling, and in particular relating to improved infrastructure, end-of-trip facilities, integration of cycling with other transport modes and a cyclist-friendly regulatory environment.

While patients who cycle to the hospital are probably not common, there are almost certainly other people making cycling trips to the hospital, such as for visiting patients, who would use short-term bicycle parking if it were be placed in an appropriate location at the hospital's main entrance.

The CBD BUG is well aware of the excellent end-of trip facilities provided for cyclists at the RBWH Cycle Centre. However, this facility is targeted at all-day/long stay bike parking and charges a fee for same, meaning that in the case of a person making a visit of a short duration who simply wants a bike park these facilities will not be suitable. Furthermore, for people of lower socio-economic status the \$5.00 "casual membership" for these facilities would likely be cost prohibitive.

I would also point to the opportunities presented by the rapidly growing interest in cycling and the inherent recognition of these in the Queensland Government's cycling and infrastructure and promotion program that has been developed to support the growth of cycling.

Accordingly, the CBD BUG would strongly encourage the installation of short-term bicycle parking at the RBWH's main entrance.

I look forward to your response on this issue.

Yours faithfully



Paul French
Co-convenor
Brisbane CBD BUG

3 June 2011