

What went on at Barrett St complex

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There is a lot of false data concerning the actions that took place at the Barrett St hospital complex.

I have worked at the complex since 1995 and resided there since 2000. The complex was in a disgraceful state, left untouched by the owners for many years until now. We saw on many occasions senseless destruction on the property. In 1998 an arsonist burnt down the old boiler house and many more attempts were made to set fire to other buildings onsite. I took up residence in part of the nurse's home and spent many hours cleaning the area up, bringing it back to life. My thinking was the land was landbanked to be handed back to iwi. If the senseless vandalism was allowed to continue then the iwi would have ended up with a bomb site.

In 2002 I took over the security from Tom, who was placed there by the Office of Treaty Settlements. I initiated a security plan to further reduce the vandalism, which included 24/7 security, foot and roving patrols,

static patrols, night patrols and much more.

A local church group approached me to see if they were able to use some land for the purpose of growing vegetables for the community. They brought life back into the area.

I applied for other areas onsite in good faith, then strategically placed people in them, which was also part of the security plan, and yes, they paid rent, which was passed on to the appropriate people. What I gave to the Barrett St hospital complex was an exchange of abundance and it saddens me that in return I am called a squatter.

Many thanks to all the wonderful people, families and friends who have provided their support during this time.
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