



One State, One Health System, Better Outcomes

One State, One Health System, Better Outcomes is our plan to deliver a better health system for everyone.

Despite the best efforts of doctors, nurses and other health professionals, our health system is letting people down, it needs to change.

We have spent a lot of time listening to Tasmanians about what they need from our health system. Now we have released the final White Paper, which talks about the changes we will make so Tasmania's health system is better for everyone.

Instead of regional health systems competing against each other for specialists and equipment, we have now moved to one single state-wide system where we all work together.

This is not about saving money – it is about getting people off waiting lists and into better care.

Every hospital will remain open and have an important role to play.

Hospitals will specialise in the procedures they are best equipped to provide and patients will go to where the best service and experts are provided.

That may be on your doorstep, or it could mean going to a hospital a little further away. To make travel easier on patients and their families, we are investing \$24 million to strengthen transport and accommodation support.

What's important is that you will get the best medical attention.

This new, better coordinated approach will result in less duplication and waste, so a greater share of health funding can go towards more people getting treated and waiting lists being reduced.

The benefits of one health system will be shared around Tasmania with higher quality services and better results for patients.

Patient transport

As a result of the One Health System reforms we expect to see 8500 fewer patient trips from the North West to Hobart or Launceston, thanks to the addition of a North West Cancer Centre and a range of new services at the Mersey and NWRH.

The reforms also mean everyone has access to better health services throughout Tasmania.

To make sure you can access all the health care services available in Tasmania, the State Government is investing \$24 million over the next four years in patient and family transport and accommodation services. This means:

- **12 additional paramedics based in Devonport**
- **Addition of helipads** at the North West Regional Hospital and the Mersey Community Hospital to enhance our aero-medical retrieval capabilities.
- The Government will work with existing transport service providers to **establish a low-cost bus service** for patients and families between the LGH, the Mersey, and the NWRH.
- **Funding for new affordable accommodation** for patients and their families who need to travel for treatment.
- **Increased use of tele-health** so consultations with specialists elsewhere in the state can take place without you needing to travel.



\$24 million to strengthen patient transport and coordination

As part of providing patients with access to better care across the Tasmanian Health Service, the Tasmanian Government has looked at the ways patients are supported to access the most appropriate care in the most appropriate location.

The *One Health System* reforms mean that our health system will now operate as one single statewide system, with each hospital having an important but different role to play. Patients will go to the hospital that is expert at what they need.

What is changing in Transport and Accommodation Services?

The Government recognises the need to invest in transport and accommodation services to support the One Health reforms, and that is why \$24 million has been invested in this area. The following items are the key service changes to support Tasmanians access and use transport and accommodation services in Tasmania:

- **Emergency Ambulance Service** – from 1 July 2016, \$5.4 million will be invested for 12 additional paramedics to support the emergency system. An additional day and afternoon shift will be employed in Devonport to support patient transport requirements across the North of the state.
- **New helipads in the North West to transport emergency patients faster** – \$1.5 million will be invested in new helipads at both the Mersey Community Hospital and the North West Regional Hospital in Burnie. These will allow faster transport of critically ill and major trauma patients.
- **Extended Non-Emergency Patient Transport** – from 1 July 2016, \$0.875 million will be invested to support longer hours for NEPT support services. This investment will support those areas most impacted by the clinical service changes outlined in the White Paper.
- **Retrieval and Referral Service** – \$4.375 million will be invested to build on and improve the current aeromedical and retrieval service, the newborn and paediatric emergency transport service and the perinatal emergency referral service. This will enhance coordination between transport and medical services, improve standards of care and deliver better value.
- **Extended Care Paramedics and First Vehicle Intervention Vehicle (Launceston)** – from 1 January 2016, the Government will invest \$1.4 million to support three additional paramedics as Extended Care Paramedics. This program, which won a national innovation award in 2014, was highly successful in supporting Tasmanians in their homes, avoiding the need to go to hospital.
- **Patient and Family Hospital Transport Service** – the Government will invest \$2.2 million to support patients and their families through a low-cost bus service between the Launceston General Hospital, Mersey Community Hospital, and the North West Regional Hospital. Patients travelling on the bus will be given priority access to clinics to ensure they are able to comfortably make it to their return bus service. Transfer lounges will also be upgraded at each hospital.
- **Reducing Travel Demand and Providing Accommodation Support** – the Government will invest \$8.25 million to reduce the need for patients to travel out of their region as well as supporting capital investment in affordable accommodation for those patients and their families who do need to travel for health care. Telehealth services and patient Digital Medical Records will be upgraded to reduce travel demand, and an education program will be developed to assist people in making decisions about how best to access their health care.

For more information go to: www.onehealthsystem.tas.gov.au