



## One State, One Health System, Better Outcomes

One health system for everyone means that patients in the north-west will get higher quality services and better care.

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.



## What does this mean for the North West?

One health system for everyone means that patients in the North West will get higher quality services and better care when they need to use our health system.

**Both the Mersey Community Hospital and the North West Regional Hospital have important roles to play in a more coordinated health system that benefits everyone.**

Patient safety is the most important factor when it comes to providing health care, and under One State, One Health System, Better Outcomes, complex care will be provided in the hospital best able to provide the necessary care as safely as possible.

Services such as neurology and rehabilitation, which are in high demand but have not previously been available in the North West, will now be available with an increase to neurology at the NWRH and the establishment of rehabilitation services at the Mersey.

Maternity services will be consolidated in Burnie, while the Mersey will be able to provide community ante-natal and post-natal care as well as emergency care for critically ill mothers and babies.

For more information go to:  
[www.onehealthsystem.tas.gov.au](http://www.onehealthsystem.tas.gov.au)

**Under One State, One Health System, Better Outcomes, the North West will see:**

- **Better cancer services** at the NWRH.
- **A dedicated elective surgery centre at the Mersey** supported by surgical teams from around the State.
- **Increased high quality post-operative care at the Mersey.**
- **More mental health services**, including specific support for elderly patients at the Mersey.
- **New services including urology, rheumatology and pain management.**
- **Additional drug and alcohol and neurology services at the NWRH.**

### Delivering Better Health Care

The NWRH will strengthen its role in providing general hospital services to its local community, while moving the management of more complex services to other hospitals to improve both the efficiency and quality of those services.

The Mersey has the potential to benefit patients both locally and around the State by providing a dedicated elective surgery centre, increasing the capacity to provide timely access to elective surgery and reduce waiting lists.