



# TASMANIA'S HEALTH PLAN CLINICAL SERVICES PLAN

## FACT SHEET

### What is Tasmania's Health Plan?

- A comprehensive Health Plan that focuses on services and clients
- Includes both the Primary Health and Clinical Services Plans
- It is a road map for the development of all health services for the next 5 – 10 years
- Planning for the changes will commence immediately in some areas while other strategies will take time to implement
- It is likely that the reform process will affect all health services over a longer period of time

### Why do we need a Clinical Services Plan?

Implementation of the Clinical Services Plan will ensure Tasmanians have access to sustainable, safe and efficient hospital services in the face of huge increases in demand e.g. the number of patients needing admission to public hospitals is projected to increase by more than 55% over the next 15 years.

### Key Elements of the Clinical Services Plan

#### *Introduction of a Service Capability Framework*

- The introduction of a Service Capability Framework will clearly define the role of the major acute hospitals
- The Service Capability Framework will ensure that services are sustainable and that patients who attend can expect to receive the safest and most effective services our hospitals can provide.
- Under the framework:
  - The Royal Hobart Hospital is confirmed as the State's tertiary referral hospital, providing a comprehensive range of statewide services;
  - The Launceston General Hospital is recognised as the regional referral hospital for the North and North West, providing a full range of general medical and surgical services as well as a number of tertiary and single-site services;
  - Acute inpatient medical and surgical services provided by the North West Regional Hospital will be consolidated at the Burnie campus;
  - The Mersey campus, which will have a new specialist role as the primary elective day surgery and rehabilitation hospital for the North and North West, together with a 24 hour emergency care centre, post-surgery recovery, low risk maternity services and specialist outpatient clinics;
  - Ambulance and patient transport services will be boosted including an additional ambulance crew for the Mersey region.

[www.health.tas.gov.au](http://www.health.tas.gov.au)





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- The Plan also introduces formal guidelines for statewide and single site services and for the introduction of new services to hospitals. New services will only be approved if:
  - They have undergone a transparent, evidence-based assessment of sustainability;
  - There is sufficient patient demand to support three and preferably four practitioners;
  - there is a reasonable prospect of recruiting practitioners for specialist services requiring frequent out-of-hours recall;
  - No practitioner will be required or permitted to work in isolation; and
  - Where an established service is volume dependent, no similar service will be established unless it can be demonstrated unequivocally that the existing service will not be compromised.

*A network of new integrated care centres will:*

- improve the linkage between inpatient and primary health services and their linkages to GPs;
- provide a space for better management of chronic conditions such as obesity, diabetes, asthma, arthritis, heart disease, stroke and cancer; and
- provide the capacity for the Tasmanian community to build resilience, raising community awareness about healthy lifestyles and treating ill health as early as possible to reduce long term chronic illness

*Development of Clinical Networks*

- Clinical networks will improve patient outcomes; increase clinician engagement and collaboration in health service decision making (planning and delivery); support clinicians working across the state and increase the level of clinician involvement in advice to the Department of Health and Human Services. Clinical networks will be established for:
  - Aged care and rehabilitation
  - Cancer services
  - Cardiology / cardiac surgery
  - Diabetes and chronic disease
  - Emergency, critical care services and trauma services
  - Medical services
  - Surgical services
  - Renal medicine
  - Women's and children's services incorporating maternal and perinatal services and paediatric medicine and surgery

### How can I find out more about the changes?

- Read Tasmania's Health Plan
- Visit the DHHS Internet site Future Health - [www.health.tas.gov.au](http://www.health.tas.gov.au)
- Talk to your manager or supervisor
- Ring the Future Health Hotline - 1300 795 311
- Read one of the Fact Sheets or Pamphlets

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