

DELIVERING SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE CLINICAL SERVICES

GREEN PAPER CONSULTATION FORUMS



The Minister for Health, Mr Michael Ferguson MP, the Chair of the Tasmanian Health Organisations Governing Council, Mr John Ramsay, the Chair of the Health Council of Tasmania, Professor Denise Fassett, and the Minister's Specialist Medical Advisor, Dr Kelly Shaw, presented the *One State, One Health System, Better Outcomes* reform program at nine forums held around the state between 21 and 23 January 2015.

The issues raised throughout this, and future, forums will help inform the development of the *Delivering Safe and Sustainable Clinical Services* White Paper.

Key messages from the presentations included:

- Change is essential. The current configuration of the health system is failing, with Tasmanians waiting too long and too often receiving inadequate care.
- No hospital will close. This reform is not about saving money, its about getting better health outcomes for all Tasmanians.
- The reform program is designed to provide accessible, equitable, safe and sustainable health services to all Tasmanians.
- The benefits of reform need to be shared around the state.
- We will use the best available evidence to support decisions about where services will be located.
- This reform program is a long term plan for the Tasmanian health system – it won't happen overnight.

Key messages from the forums included:

- The profile of services around the State should be based on achieving the best possible outcomes for all Tasmanians.
- We need to support the patient journey, particularly if services are provided outside of the region in which they live, including ensuring that:
 - IT systems (ehealth) support access to patient information and coordination of services so that patients get quality care.
 - Transport and accommodation policies are focused on support for patients and their families.
 - Strategies are developed to support access and use of Telehealth across all sectors of the health system to improve efficiency and ease of access for patients.
- Consumer engagement and buy in is critical at all levels of the reform program.
- Care coordination and communication needs attention if demand for services is going to shift from the hospitals to the community services.
- Processes for delivering care in hospitals need to be redesigned to reduce duplication, waiting times and readmission rates.
- Better linkages are required between State and Federal funding bodies to improve patient outcomes and ensure access to seamless health care – e.g. aged care, disability and health.
- The Government's reform agenda needs a greater focus on health promotion and prevention.

Other issues raised included:

- The need to ensure that this reform program builds on the previous work.
- The need to review procurement practices to ensure we are getting the best value for money.
- The need to take politics out of health in order for this reform to succeed.
- The need to promote community understanding that it is not always safe or sustainable to provide all services locally.



What's Next?

- *Exposure Draft of White Paper and Draft Tasmanian Role Delineation Framework released 30 March 2015*
- *Consultations throughout April/May 2015*
- *Public forums in May 2015*
- *Comments on draft proposals close 15 May 2015*
- *Release of the White Paper*

For more Information

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