



TASMANIA'S HEALTH PLAN

Primary Health Chronic Disease Demonstration Service

The Primary Health Chronic Disease Demonstration Service is a 'proof of concept' project that seeks to establish a community based, multidisciplinary allied health, primary care (assessment, treatment, education and support) service for patients in the 63 telephone district with a chronic disease, (initially for stable type 2 diabetes) but potentially for other chronic conditions into the future.

It is a joint project between the Department of Health & Human Services and General Practice North, who auspice the Service under the banner of *GP North Allied Health*. The project utilises a partnership approach to the delivery of chronic disease management in the community and is predicated on the principles of; integration and coordination; multidisciplinary team care; communication and care planning and broad based funding sources.

Access to the Primary Health Chronic Disease Demonstration Service is via GP referral only. The Service is based in Launceston with outreach to Beaconsfield/Exeter, George Town, St Helens, Deloraine/Westbury, Campbell Town, Scottsdale, Campbell Town and St Marys.

How does this help Tasmanians?

The Primary Health Chronic Disease Demonstration Service provides primary chronic disease care in community settings, both urban and rural, thereby increasing access to multidisciplinary, integrated services for people living within the 63 telephone district. The Service works closely with the patients' General Practitioner to provide a one stop shop for the management of their chronic condition, thereby preventing complications and the need for acute medical intervention and even hospitalisation.

What has happened so far?

The project to establish the Primary Health Chronic Disease Demonstration Service is complete. The Service was officially opened on 8th April 2009 by Lara Giddings MHA, Minister for Health and Human Services.

The Service accepted its first client on 23rd March 2009 and since that time has averaged 15 new referrals per week.

As at June 2009, there were 110 registered clients, 60 of whom reside in Launceston and 50 whom reside in rural areas.

What will happen next?

A joint General Practice North and DHHS Committee is monitoring the progress of the Primary Health Chronic Disease Demonstration Service and will conduct a evaluation of the Service late in 2010. This evaluation will inform a decision about whether the model can be replicated in other areas of the Tasmania.

For further information:

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