



TASMANIA'S HEALTH PLAN

Transport and Accommodation Initiatives

In November 2008, in response to the Banscott and Sharley Reviews the State Government Response and Action Plan were released which outlined a range of initiatives to develop Transport and Accommodation in Tasmania.

Funding for the implementation has been provided under Tasmania's Health Plan. In addition, the Australian Government has committed up to \$10m over 4 years to the Tasmanian Patient Transport Initiative.

How does this help Tasmanians?

Developing linked transport and accommodation services is one of the most important commitments of Tasmania's Health Plan because it greatly contributes to the key principles of the Plan, which are:

- accessibility
- appropriate to community needs
- client and family focused
- integrated through effective service coordination and partnerships between providers and
- designed for sustainability.

What has happened so far?

- From December 2008, the level of financial assistance available to patients and their carers through the Patient Travel Assistance Scheme greatly increased. More information on this can be found at www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/ptas
- A contribution of \$70,000 towards a facility in Hobart operated by the Bone Marrow Donor Institute to provide low-cost quality accommodation for up to 21 patients, family and carers, predominantly from the North and North West.
- Spurr Wing in Launceston was given \$90,000 to install bathrooms in the three large ground-floor bedrooms.
- The Queenstown Airport has been upgraded to support fixed-wing planes landing taking off and landing safely.
- Wheel chairs for transporting patients to and from aircraft are being supplied to the airline companies operating out of Wynyard and King Island airports.
- Telemetry equipment has been ordered which will be used to provide health care and advice as close as practicable to patients' homes to reduce the need for any unnecessary travel.
- Planning is well advanced for the construction of a new Communications and Operations Centre for ambulance, patient transport and community transport services. This centre will be constructed on the site of the Hobart Ambulance Station. This facility will form the central coordination point for patient transport and accommodation services across Tasmania.
- The new Chief Executive Officer of the Tasmanian Ambulance and Health Transport Service, Dominic Morgan, has been appointed and development of this service is well underway.

What will happen next?

- Implementation of the remaining Transport and Accommodation initiatives is ongoing for the next two to three years.
- The main work in the coming months will be on the development of the new communications centre and investigating options for additional non-emergency patient transport vehicles across Tasmania.