

Tony Bradley  
Chair Tasmanian Branch  
College Of Emergency Nursing Australasia  
[tas@cena.org.au](mailto:tas@cena.org.au)

## **Response to One Health System White Paper Exposure Draft**

Tasmania's Health system is facing new challenges and we support the one health system reforms that outline the areas for change to the way we deliver health services. It gives Tasmania a chance to re-invent and modernise our practice and the roles of all health care professionals.

This submission is provided by the Tasmanian Branch of the College of Emergency Nursing Australasia (CENA). CENA is the peak professional association representing emergency nurses. There are large numbers of nurses working in emergency and many more in circumstances which see them providing emergency care to patients outside of emergency departments. This includes nurses working in small regional and rural hospitals, health care centres and flight nurses. The College is pleased that the Government is committed to change which will lead to better outcomes for patients.

We have consulted with our members and the following points have been raised

- Ensuring adequate ambulance coverage in the North West area with the increase in ambulance transfers that is likely to occur with the change to role delineation
- The capacity management in all hospitals needs to be improved urgently through clinical redesign to allow for timely and efficient transfer of patients between hospitals.
- The current levels of access block within hospitals results in significant delays in patients requiring transfer. Therefore the creation of more effective transfer and retrieval process is required
- There is an opportunity to create new nurse led models of care like advanced practice nurses and Nurse Practitioners which will assist workforce development and retention, with the potential for the Mersey to become the centre of excellence in minor injuries. These nurse led models of care will enable shorter waiting times and decreased lengths of stay.
- We would like to see the strengthening and further development of community nursing models of care focused on the prevention of hospital admissions e.g. HOT team to nursing homes, HAP program etc.
- Potential additional transport costs for patients to return to their home if transported to a higher level hospital service
- Limited public transport infrastructure particularly in the North West
- There needs to be a community awareness program around the change in services at the Mersey Hospital Emergency Department.
- Low health literacy may mean that people will avoid seeking health care if they have to travel further
- Potential of movement of staff across the THO should help cover shortfalls and provide educational opportunities

- We acknowledge that family support is important in patient care and the health system should have mechanisms in place to support families.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. As the One Health System reforms are implemented the College welcomes the opportunity to engage with the Tasmanian Health System to contribute through, being included in working parties or advisory roles during this exciting time in Tasmania's new health system.

Yours sincerely

Tony Bradley