



One State, One Health System, Better Outcomes

One health system for everyone means that patients in the Mersey region will get higher quality services and better care.

Despite the best efforts of doctors, nurses and other health professionals, our health system is letting people down, it needs to change.

We have spent a lot of time listening to Tasmanians about what they need from our health system. Now we have released the final White Paper, which talks about the changes we will make so Tasmania's health system is better for everyone.

Instead of regional health systems competing against each other for specialists and equipment, we have now moved to one single state-wide system where we all work together.

This is not about saving money – it is about getting people off waiting lists and into better care.

Every hospital will remain open and have an important role to play.

Hospitals will specialise in the procedures they are best equipped to provide and patients will go to where the best service and experts are provided.

That may be on your doorstep, or it could mean going to a hospital a little further away. To make travel easier on patients and their families, we are investing \$24 million to strengthen transport and accommodation support.

What's important is that you will get the best medical attention.

This new, better coordinated approach will result in less duplication and waste, so a greater share of health funding can go towards more people getting treated and waiting lists being reduced.

The benefits of one health system will be shared around Tasmania with higher quality services and better results for patients.

Patient transport

As a result of the One Health System reforms we expect to see 8500 fewer patient trips from the North West to Hobart or Launceston, thanks to the addition of a North West Cancer Centre and a range of new services at the Mersey and NWRH.

The reforms also mean everyone has access to better health services throughout Tasmania.

To make sure you can access all the health care services available in Tasmania, the State Government is investing \$24 million over the next four years in patient and family transport and accommodation services. This means:

- **12 additional paramedics based in Devonport**
- **Addition of helipads** at the North West Regional Hospital and the Mersey Community Hospital to enhance our aero-medical retrieval capabilities.
- The Government will work with existing transport service providers to **establish a low-cost bus service** for patients and families between the LGH, the Mersey, and the NWRH.
- **Funding for new affordable accommodation** for patients and their families who need to travel for treatment.
- **Increased use of tele-health** so consultations with specialists elsewhere in the state can take place without you needing to travel.



What does this mean for the Mersey Community Hospital?

One statewide health system for everyone means that patients in the North West and all around the state will get higher quality services and better care when you need to use our health system.

Replacing three separate regional health organisations with one statewide health system means each of our major hospitals, including the North West Regional Hospital and Mersey Community Hospital, will specialise in delivering the services they are best equipped to safely deliver.

In the North West this means **a new cancer centre at Burnie**, a **range of new services** which haven't previously been available in the region, and a **dedicated elective surgery centre at the Mersey** for all Tasmanians to access surgery quicker and on a guaranteed date.

As part of One State, One Health System, Better Outcomes, the Mersey Community Hospital will:

- **Continue to have a 24-hour Emergency Department**
- **Be home to a dedicated elective surgery centre**, reducing the number of patients having to travel from the North West to Launceston or Hobart for elective surgery.
- **Deliver new services in rehabilitation, geriatrics, pain management and rheumatology.**
- **Increase palliative care services available at the Hospital.**
- **Provide a multi-disciplinary alcohol and drug team and detoxification facilities.**

A safe and sustainable birthing facility will be located in Burnie, while maternity services including ante-natal and post-natal care will be delivered right across the region from both hospitals.

For more information go to: www.onehealthsystem.tas.gov.au