



TASMANIA'S HEALTH PLAN

Support for Rural General Practice

Rural Doctors Partnerships

Rural Doctor Partnerships is the Tasmanian Governments 'New Deal' for rural general practitioners.

It is an acknowledgement of the valuable role GPs play in delivering primary health care to rural Tasmanians. The package of measures in the Plan represents an increased investment by the state government of \$2.5 million into rural general practice.

How does this help Tasmanians?

Rural Doctors Partnerships keeps Tasmania competitive with mainland states and territories as it seeks to attract new doctors to rural areas and retain those doctors we already have.

What has happened so far?

A new Rural Medical Practitioners Enterprise Bargaining Agreement has been implemented which provides for increases to the hourly rate paid to rural medical practitioners, increases to availability allowances for after hours call backs and incentives to participate in quality and safety initiatives and health promotion activities.

Work to establish a Rural Doctors Consultative Committee is underway.

A new allowance has been introduced to assist rural doctors with the expense of employing locum doctors while they enjoy a well earned break.

What will happen next?

The DHHS will monitor the operation of Rural Doctors Partnerships to ensure that its different elements are implemented effectively.

www.health.tas.gov.au/futurehealth

Developing a consistent DHHS policy

The development of a consistent DHHS policy approach to support arrangements for rural GPs is an operational level initiative aimed towards removing ambiguities within the current system by providing guidance on the scope, availability and process for the future provision of 'in kind assistance' to rural doctors.

How does this help Tasmanians?

A clear policy will provide clarity to rural doctors and to the DHHS regarding their respective obligations so that Tasmanians living outside metropolitan areas can receive the best possible care available, whenever they need it.

What has happened so far?

A discussion paper has been developed and distributed to DHHS and rural doctor stakeholders for comment.

Meetings with rural doctors, DHHS primary health managers and co-coordinators and senior staff have been held to discuss what the new policy should look like.

What will happen next?

A draft policy will be prepared and distributed for further discussion. Concurrent with this will be the development of tools and resources which will help in the implementation and future operation of the policy.

For further information:

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