



# TASMANIA'S HEALTH PLAN

## Implementation Newsletter Issue 1, December 2007

### From the implementation team

With the federal election over, Tasmanian Health Minister Lara Giddings and the team implementing Tasmania's Health Plan are liaising with the new Federal Health Minister about how health-related pledges made during the campaign can work in with the Plan.

ALP commitments relevant to the Plan include:

- funding to reduce elective surgery waiting lists and times
- \$10 million towards patient transport services in Tasmania
- \$15 million towards an Integrated Care Centre in Launceston
- \$15 million for new GP 'super clinics' in Devonport, Burnie, Bellerive and Sorell
- \$7.7 million towards a radiation oncology unit in the North or North West
- a \$3.5 million PET scanner for the Royal Hobart Hospital

Updates will be included in future issues of this newsletter.

#### Siobhan Harpur

Director, Community Health Reform Unit

#### Michael Pervan

Director, Acute Care Strategies and Reform Unit

### Newsletter broadens

The two separate newsletters providing updates on implementation of the Primary Health Services Plan and the Clinical Services Plan have been combined in this single communiqué. We hope you enjoy the opportunity for a broader perspective on progress with putting Tasmania's Health Plan into action.

If there are particular topics you would like us to cover in future issues of this newsletter, please contact us.

**For more information about Tasmania's Health Plan, visit**

[www.health.tas.gov.au/futurehealth](http://www.health.tas.gov.au/futurehealth)

### Project updates

Tasmania's Health Plan is made up of around 100 projects which will be gradually implemented over the 15-year life of the Plan. Individual project plans as well as timelines and budgets are being developed for all projects as they come online.

Status updates on key projects follow.

#### Support for disease prevention focus

Health care workers involved in disease prevention and management have access to a major new resource.

Three area coordinators have been appointed within Population Health in the DHHS to help people working in both community and acute health develop, implement and evaluate self-management processes and initiatives based on local needs and state and national priorities.

Tasmania's Health Plan states the future focus of the health system should be on health and wellbeing, not just illness, and the prevention and early detection of chronic disease. It advocates fostering individuals' control over their health.

The area coordinators are:

- Shelley Moor (South): 6222 7708 or [shelley.moor@dhhs.tas.gov.au](mailto:shelley.moor@dhhs.tas.gov.au)
- Diane Webb (North): 6336 2405 or [diane.webb@dhhs.tas.gov.au](mailto:diane.webb@dhhs.tas.gov.au)
- Sharon Griffiths (North West): 6440 7134 or [sharon.griffiths@dhhs.tas.gov.au](mailto:sharon.griffiths@dhhs.tas.gov.au)

With State Coordinator Narelle Smith, they make up the Chronic Conditions Prevention and Management Team.

The positions are funded through the Australian Better Health Initiative, a joint Australian, state and territory government initiative.

#### Health promotion messages showcased

The benefits of a healthy lifestyle were promoted at the major agricultural shows in October, in line with the disease prevention emphasis of Tasmania's Health Plan.

DHHS displays at the Hobart, Launceston and Burnie shows focused on the importance of a healthy diet, regular physical activity and not smoking.

### Planning for integrated care centres

Groundwork has been laid for the development of integrated care centres (ICCs) in the North (Launceston) and South (Clarence/Sorell, Hobart and Kingborough), as recommended under Tasmania's Health Plan.

A service model for these ICCs is being developed in consultation with stakeholders. Integration with the Australian Government's GP 'super clinics' initiative is being considered as part of this process.

The General Practice Tasmania network is being consulted about the relationship between the ICCs and general practice. These discussions are focusing on how the ICCs model can best meet GPs' needs, and ensuring the centres will complement rather than duplicate existing services.

**For more information** contact Dr Elizabeth Shannon on 6233 3531 or [elizabeth.shannon@dhhs.tas.gov.au](mailto:elizabeth.shannon@dhhs.tas.gov.au).

### Revamped clinical advisory body

An interim Tasmanian Clinical Advisory Council has been established, replacing the previous Clinical Advisory Committee.

Unlike its predecessor, the interim Council – an initiative under Tasmania's Health Plan – has multidisciplinary membership covering the community sector as well as acute health.

It will aim to improve the way health professionals are involved in the planning and delivery of better health services by providing high level, strategic advice to the DHHS on a number of key clinical issues.

The interim Council's first priority is to consider how the new clinical networks should work, in which clinical areas they are needed, and which should be developed first.

It will also overhaul the terms of reference of the definitive Clinical Advisory Council, which is expected to be up and running by mid-2008.

A third priority is to provide advice about how health consumers can be better engaged in the development of high level clinical advice.

The interim Council has had two meetings to date, and will meet again early in 2008.

**For more information** contact Dr David Boadle on 6233 3297 or [david.boadle@dhhs.tas.gov.au](mailto:david.boadle@dhhs.tas.gov.au).

### Leader for Tasmanian Cancer Network

Professor Ray Lowenthal has been appointed Clinical Leader of the Tasmanian Cancer Network.

Professor Lowenthal is Director of Medical Oncology and Consultant Physician in Haematology and Oncology at the Royal Hobart Hospital, as well as Professor of Oncology at the University of Tasmania.

The Tasmanian Cancer Network – the first clinical network to kick off under Tasmania's Health Plan – aims to bring together all health professionals delivering cancer services in the community and hospital settings, as well as stakeholders such as consumers and The Cancer Council.

Professor Lowenthal will lead the Network in developing a cancer plan for Tasmania, building on work done to date.

Other consumer-focussed projects include developing a directory of cancer services and a glossary of cancer terms.

A Tasmanian Cancer Network website is being built.

Development of the Network is supported by CanNET – a Cancer Australia initiative funded by the Australian Government.

**For more information** contact Jane Wood on 6233 3297 or [jane.wood@dhhs.tas.gov.au](mailto:jane.wood@dhhs.tas.gov.au).

### In brief

- Dr Heather Wellington's review of **hospital services in the North West** to take account of the Commonwealth's takeover of the Mersey hospital will proceed early in the New Year. Dr Wellington is meeting with the CEOs of the Launceston General Hospital and North West Regional Hospital before Christmas, and will consult key stakeholders – including the Australian Government in relation to the Mersey – in the New Year about the provision of services such as dedicated centres for elective surgery and rehabilitation, which had been planned for the Mersey under Tasmania's Health Plan. She will then rework relevant sections of the Plan.
- A framework to help staff with **evaluation** of projects set up under the Primary Health Services Plan is now available on the Future Health section of the DHHS intranet. More information: 6233 3531 or [elizabeth.shannon@dhhs.tas.gov.au](mailto:elizabeth.shannon@dhhs.tas.gov.au).

### Information for your patients and clients

The implementation team is developing a series of fact sheets on key projects being implemented under Tasmania's Health Plan. We hope they will be a useful resource for health professionals and other DHHS staff in answering patient and client queries about changes affecting them.

If there are particular issues you would like these fact sheets to address, please email your suggestions to [jenny.denholm@dhhs.tas.gov.au](mailto:jenny.denholm@dhhs.tas.gov.au).

### Contact the implementation team

Implementation of Tasmania's Health Plan is being coordinated by members of the DHHS's Acute Care Strategies and Reform and Community Health Reform units. Please contact the small team for further information:

#### Primary Health Services Plan

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#### Clinical Services Plan

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