



TASMANIA'S HEALTH PLAN ACTION Issue 14 June 2009

FARmers health team in place



Primary Health rolls out the Farming Resilience (FAR) program at Oatlands, July 9.

Taking a primary care approach, FAR is focused on helping Tasmanian farmers stay strong, healthy and resilient in times of drought and economic hardship.

It provides free health checks, interactive information sessions with health professionals from a range of DHHS services, including extended sessions on strategies for coping in tough times, presented by Social Work North.

The Farming Resilience program brings together a range of services to the rural community in their own area.

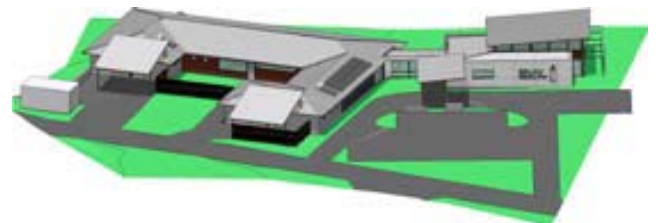
Also in attendance are representatives from the Department of Primary Industries and Water, Centrelink, Rural Financial Counselling Services, Relationships Australia, and the Salvation Army.

The program has the support of the Drought Network Tasmania.

The program will commence in Ouse in October, with other areas to follow.

For more information contact Dr Kim Atkins by telephone on 6336 5144 or email kim.atkins@dhhs.tas.gov.au THP

Building community health



Infrastructure to support Tasmania's rural and community health services continues to improve.

Funding has been allocated in 2009-2010 to support current projects such as:

- Tasmanian Ambulance Stations (\$750,000);
- Longford/Westbury Health Centre (\$1.2 million);
- Bruny Island Community Health Centre (\$1.9 million);
- Glenorchy – Tier Three Community Health Service facility (\$2.0 million); and
- Clarence GP Super Clinic and Integrated Care Centre (\$4.0 million).

New projects include:

- Kingston Community Health Service facility upgrade (\$500,000) – a total of \$6.5 million over 3 years;
- King Island Hospital and Health Centre facility upgrade (\$1.0 million) – a total of \$5.0 million over 3 years; and
- Flinders Island Multi Purpose Centre redevelopment (\$1.0 million) – a total of \$6.0 million over 3 years. THP

Kids at the Royal

The construction of new children's facilities at the Royal Hobart Hospital are right on track.

Stage 1 of the RHH Paediatric Enhancement Project is on schedule for completion for 25 June 2009.

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This project has seen the lower ground floor of H block (previously occupied by the Dept Emergency Medicine) redeveloped to provide new space for Paediatric Clinics, Ambulatory Care, Audiology and Cystic Fibrosis clinics.

Stage 2 which will involve a new four bed short stay unit and an upgrade of the Women's and Children's Consulting Rooms is expected to go to tender by the end of July.

The total budget for this project is \$3.0 million. [THP](#)

Growing our own – North West Rural Clinical School gets results



Professor Judi Walker spoke to the recent North West Area Health Service Network Advisory Group meeting.

Professor Walker's talk outlined the importance of local medical education opportunities.

In 2007, 43% of medical graduates who trained at the Rural Clinical School were undertaking their intern (junior Doctor) year in rural/regional hospitals around Australia.

In 2008, 50% of intern positions at North West Regional Hospital were filled by UTAS graduates.

In 2009, this had risen to 75% of intern positions.

Tasmania will increase the number of intern positions next year but Professor Walker predicted that all intern positions could be so filled in 2010.

The University of Tasmania is working with the Department of Health and Human Services to develop a sustainable health workforce through training and development.

Many graduates from Tasmania who leave to travel, or travel to study specialities, go back to their home state.

The Rural Clinical School's 2007 and 2008 exit surveys indicated that a high proportion of their students intended to practice in North West Tasmania in the future, in preference to other states.

Two former North West residents and UTAS graduates, now medical specialists, took up positions at the North West Regional Hospital this year. [THP](#)

Cystic Fibrosis service develops

A project officer has been appointed to support the integration of adult and paediatric cystic fibrosis services and the establishment of a statewide service. Maria Hands will start in her new role on 6th July. [THP](#)

Fast facts and funding

The State Government has committed \$24.6 million over four years for Tasmania's Health Plan implementation.

This includes \$5.2 million in 2009-2010 for:

- Implementation of the Banskott Review into Transport and Accommodation
- Implementation of the chronic disease strategy
- Implementation of clinical networks
- Project and planning funds for integrated care centres in Clarence, Launceston and Glenorchy
- Development of consumer and community engagement strategies.

Over one third of all Tasmania's Health Plan projects have been brought to completion.

Our latest Tasmania's Health Plan implementation progress figures are:

- 43 projects completed (34% of total)
- 72 projects currently in progress (57% of total) and
- 12 new projects due to commence (9% of total).

The two year anniversary report and June 2009 progress report are now available on the Future Health website. [THP](#)

Tasmania's Health Plan

To find out more:

visit www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/thp

email future.health@dhhs.tas.gov.au

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