



TASMANIA'S HEALTH PLAN

Implementation Newsletter Issue 6, September 2008

Mersey rejoins Tasmania's Health Plan

When management of the Mersey Community Hospital transferred to the Tasmanian Government, the Mersey also rejoined Tasmania's Health Plan.

The Minister for Health and Human Services, Lara Giddings, said the Federal Government will continue to own the hospital but "the Mersey will be managed in line with Tasmania's Health Plan."

The service profile agreed between the Commonwealth and State for the Mersey Community Hospital is:

- a high dependency unit;
- 24/7 day emergency department;
- general and specialist medical services (including paediatrics);
- oncology services;
- low-risk obstetrics and gynaecological services;
- surgery and surgical specialties (other than planned complex surgery) that can be safely performed at the Mersey, including overnight planned and unplanned surgery and related post surgical care;
- clinical support services such as pathology, radiology and pharmacy;
- outpatient services;
- palliative care;
- geriatric support;
- community and outreach services; and
- such other services as the Commonwealth and Tasmania agree.

The Minister has emphasised that "All current services will continue and we will be working on a range of new services in areas such as cancer treatment, renal and rehabilitation services.

"We will also be looking to enhance surgical services, particularly in specialist day elective surgery.

"A clinical services advisory group will be established across the North West to ensure a collaborative regional approach. While both the NWRH at Burnie and the Mersey will have their own managers, their services will be integrated to ensure the best possible outcomes for patients in the North West."



The Federal Government has committed \$180 million - \$60 million per year to fund the Mersey over the next three years.

The Minister made the point that "All of that money will be spent on the operation of services provided either at the Mersey or from the Mersey – such as outreach services to the community.

"The people of the North West now have the security of knowing that the Mersey has a fully funded and assured future as an important part of the State health system."

A New Community Health Centre for Bruny Island

One exciting project that is progressing quietly is the new \$3 million Bruny Island Community Health Centre at Alannah.

DHHS Facilities Management, who are managing the project, see opportunities to develop a centre which incorporates environmentally sustainable design elements as well as reflecting the local indigenous, maritime and rural history of Bruny Island.

Progress to date includes negotiations with Kingborough Council, community consultations, site selection and appointment of consultant architects.

It is anticipated that the new centre will:

- Accommodate a range of visiting services and be adaptable to changes in service mix and hours of operation.
- Be secure, energy efficient and affordable to operate.
- Provide support for treatment made necessary by the isolation of the Island from alternative services.

For more information please email the Director, Facilities Management, on peter.alexander@dhhs.tas.gov.au

North West GP Super Clinic Consultations

Local consultation is an important component in the implementation of the GP Super Clinics program, to:

- gather the views of local health professionals and the wider community on the health needs and service priorities for the GP Super Clinic;
- identify specific local issues that may impact on the implementation of the program; and
- provide general information on application and funding processes for that particular GP Super Clinic locality.

The Burnie GP Super Clinic consultation meeting will be held on Wednesday 1 October 2008 from 6.30pm to 8.30pm at the Town Hall, Burnie Civic Centre, Wilmot Street, Burnie, (access via Jones or King Streets). Light refreshments will be served from 6.00pm.

The Devonport GP Super Clinic consultation meeting will be held on Thursday 2 October 2008 from 7.30am to 9.30am at the Gateway Room, Gateway Inn Hotel, 16 Fenton Street, Devonport. Light refreshments will be served from 7.00am.

Further information about the GP Super Clinic Program is available at www.health.gov.au/gpsuperclinics

Clarence Integrated Care Centre Consultations Planned

The Clarence ICC/GP Super Clinic Project is also progressing well.

Project and Clarence Community Health Centre staff recently visited sites in Queensland and/or Victoria to investigate models of service delivery, the types of services that have been included, workforce implications, operational policies and the differences between services that had either hospital or community settings.

These site visits will help inform the development of the service model for the Clarence ICC and GP Super Clinic.

An Urban Planning workshop was recently held with Clarence City Council Staff, on 1 September, to consider site and engineering issues for the proposed development.

The service model consultants from Burns Bridge will be in Tasmania the week of 8 September and 15 September and will be talking to local health professionals and other stakeholders about the proposed model.

The consultation with the wider community on the health needs and service priorities for the Clarence ICC/GP Super

Clinic is currently being scheduled and will commence the week of 22 September. Janine Combes from Community Focus has been engaged to assist with this work.

For more information please email Project Manager, Sally Williams, on sally.williams@dhhs.tas.gov.au

Progress on the New Royal Project

As a key component of Tasmania's Health Plan, the New Royal Hobart Hospital Project is moving ahead.

In the wake of the release of the preliminary plans on July 20, public comment was invited on the site plan and sketches of the proposal to develop the new hospital at the Macquarie Point Railyards.

The early vision of the development is for low-rise buildings taking advantage of the natural attributes of the site, while building a new hospital close to the Hobart CBD and supporting health services.

Some 150 submissions and comments from individuals and organisations were received in the formal period of consultation on the preliminary plans.

However the end of the formal comment stage does not mean that the opportunity for comment is now closed.

The project team is keen to ensure no stone is left unturned in engaging the public, the medical fraternity, planning groups, port users and the full gamut of people interested in how these plans proceed to realisation.

They'll all go into the mix in preparing the business case for the proposal which is expected to be ready for Government consideration around the end of this year.

For more information contact newroyalproject@dhhs.tas.gov.au

Supporting Project Implementation Staff

Did you know that there are 95 projects going on right now, all around the state, working to implement Tasmania's Health Plan? The success of the Plan depends on the success of each of these projects.

Project managers and project officers are being offered regional workshops in November, to:

- workshop projects in groups
- discuss common issues and opportunities
- discuss project status reporting and obtaining consistency.

These will be structured around the Tasmanian Government Project Management Guidelines and run by the Department of Premier and Cabinet, through the Tasmanian Training Consortium.

More information is available from tcc@dpac.tas.gov.au

More information

You can find out more about Tasmania's Health Plan.

- visit http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/future_health
- email future.health@dhhs.tas.gov.au
- call 6233 3964