



# AMA

## TASMANIA

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Friday, 14 February 2014**

### **Tasmania's public hospitals fail 2012-13 report card**

The Australian Medical Association (AMA) today released the *AMA Public Hospital Report Card 2014* revealing Tasmania's public hospitals did not meet benchmark performance levels.

AMA Vice President A/Prof Tim Greenaway said despite structural reforms to health funding, the AMA was disappointed to see only slight improvements in public hospital performances measured against the benchmarks for emergency care and elective surgery set by all governments.

"In Tasmania in 2012-13, only 41 per cent of elective surgery category 2 patients were admitted within the recommended timeframe, falling well short of the target of 100 per cent to be achieved by 2016, and the national average of 68 per cent," A/Prof Greenaway said.

"This figure is a minimal improvement on the previous year, with only 38 per cent of Tasmanian elective surgery patients admitted within the recommended time, and compared to 36 per cent in 2010-11.

"The report also revealed only 65 per cent of Tasmanian emergency department patients that were classified as urgent were seen within the recommended 30 minutes, compared with the nationally agreed target of 80 per cent.

"Again we are only seeing a slight improvement on the previous year, when only 64 per cent of Tasmanian patients were seen within the recommended timeframe.

"When measured against key capacity and performance indicators, Tasmania's public hospitals are simply not meeting the clinical demands of our community."

A/Prof Greenaway said the AMA had previously called for sufficient resources to be made available to allow public hospitals to run more efficiently, resulting in better health outcomes for all Tasmanians.

"Without this, overcrowded emergency departments, bed access blocking and long wait times for surgery will continue to blight the effective provision of healthcare in Tasmania," he said.

"When funding is limited, it must be better targeted, patient-focused and clinician led.

"With Tasmania recording the nation's oldest population and with people over 65 requiring more episodes of hospital-care than younger individuals, adequate public hospital capacity and performance is particularly critical.



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“We must ensure that Tasmanians have timely access to health care and that the state’s future doctors are able to work within a system that is fair, transparent and provides incentives to attracting the best medical talent to Tasmania.”

A/Prof Greenaway said a key issue for the AMA in the lead up to the state election, and one which the AMA will be lobbying vigorously for, is a commitment to addressing inefficiencies in Tasmania’s public hospitals.

“On a national level, only 67 per cent of all emergency department visits were achieved in four hours or less,” he said.

“This figure falls well short of the 90 per cent target to be achieved by the end of 2015.

“The members of the Tasmanian community most in need are the ones that suffer from public hospital inefficiencies and a lack of beds, doctors and nurses.

“During the state election period the AMA will be calling upon the Tasmanian Government and opposition parties to make a commitment to addressing the performance of Tasmania’s public hospitals to ensure they can meet the needs of our population.”

The AMA *Public Hospital Report Card 2014* provides data from the first year of activity-based funding for public hospitals across Australia under the National Health Reform Agreement (NHRA).

ENDS

***Please note that A/Prof Tim Greenaway will be available for interviews at 12pm TODAY (Friday, 14 February 2014) outside the main entrance to the Royal Hobart Hospital (48 Liverpool Street, Hobart)***

**For interviews or further information:**

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