

**To all political parties:**

Below are 11 questions being put to all parties in the upcoming 2018 Tasmanian State election. Members of the AMA have posed these questions in the knowledge that health services in Tasmania are not meeting demand.

We will publish the answers, or lack thereof, on our website in the lead up to the poll, in order to give members and those around them a guide to where each party sits on the health issue.

**1. How will your party address the profession's concerns about the governance of the Tasmanian Health Service (THS)?**

- a. What do you see as the future governance structure of the THS?
- b. What are your party's plans for the management structure of the THS and where will the management of the individual hospitals sit? For example, will the RHH, LGH, and NW have autonomy on a day to day basis?
- c. How do you plan to restore trust and confidence in the THS management?
- d. How do you plan to remove unnecessary bureaucracy?
- e. How do you plan to implement a focus on preventive care?
- f. How do you plan for THS/DHHS services to integrate with general practice and primary care?
- g. How do you plan to improve integration of services for the care of complex chronic disease in the community?

**2. How will your party address the issues in relation to the Royal Hobart Hospital in its role as the major tertiary referral hospital for the state of Tasmania?**

- a. How will you ensure sufficient availability of acute beds including ICU and HDU beds in the short term, which is now?
- b. How will you ensure sufficient availability of acute beds including ICU and HDU beds in the longer term, accepting that the population of Tasmania is older and sicker and less health literate than the majority of Australians?
- c. How will you address the disparity of beds across the state considering that the south of the state has 52% of the population but 45% of the beds? Noting that we are not in any way suggesting a reduction of beds in the North or Northwest.
- d. How will you improve access to non-urgent procedures and non-urgent outpatient appointments?

- 3. How will your party address the current and ongoing issues with access to Mental Health services?**
  - a. How will you address the issues with acute psychiatric inpatient care given that the current inpatient bed situation within the Royal Hobart Hospital has been highlighted by the coroner as contributing to deaths?
  - b. How will you improve outpatient access and support for non-psychotic patients?
  - c. What connections will be in place between community care and housing? What systems will be introduced the care for homeless patients?
  
- 4. How will your party address the issues with Alcohol and Drug Services (ADS) in this state?**
  - a. What is your vision for where ADS will sit from a governance view? Will it remain with Mental Health Services or sit alone as an autonomous government-funded organisation?
  - b. How will ADS be linked to other services such as Education, Police and Justice?
  
- 5. How will your party ensure the future of health care in this state?**
  - a. What are your plans and commitment towards creating a strong and vibrant Tasmanian Medical School via an effective partnership with the University of Tasmania?
  - b. How do you plan to develop Tasmania as a magnet for clinical and healthcare research?
  - c. How do you plan to address the staff concerns about adequate and equitable remuneration across the state including at the rural facilities?
  
- 6. How will your party support the Tobacco Free Generation Bill?**
  - a. Measures
  - b. Timelines
  
- 7. How will your party address accreditation and recruitment issues?**
  - a. Mental health at the RHH, Physician Training at the LGH?
  - b. Speciality training positions generally and the now inevitable generation gap that will occur.
  
- 8. What Palliative Care measures do you propose both in Hospital and in the community?**
  - a. Patient centred outcomes?
  - b. Increase in the Palliative care workforce
  
- 9. Will you present a transparent funding model for health?**
  - a. GST allocations to be included?
  - b. Will your party publish details of allocations made from the grants commission?
  
- 10. Will your party support a co-located Public Private Hospital development at the LGH?**
  - a. Will your party approach a private company to facilitate?
  - b. What time frames will you apply?
  
- 11. How will your party support mandatory reporting? The Tasmanian Government has a professional and ethical obligation to protect and promote public health and safe healthcare as well as care for its employees.**
  - a. Will your party support the WA model?