



Media release

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Investments in pre-hospital ambulance and retrieval medicine care

The AMA strongly supports investment in a well-integrated, coordinated prehospital ambulance and retrieval medicine system. This must include paramedics and doctors working together as a team to provide the highest possible standards of care to critically ill and injured Tasmanians.

Adequate numbers of staff to coordinate responses in the Ambulance Tasmania State Operations Centre, improved ambulance infrastructure and more frontline staff will improve outcomes for our patients around the state by getting them to the right place at the right time.

Critical treatments including neurosurgery, cardiac surgery, paediatric and neonatal intensive care are only available at the Royal Hobart Hospital. We need to improve our system for accessing this care when needed, to save lives and to prevent serious disabilities.

Adding a specially trained and equipped team of paramedics and doctors to Tasmania's helicopter service is essential to achieve the best outcomes for seriously ill and injured Tasmanians.

Based with the rescue helicopters at Hobart airport, a team can be airborne within minutes to deploy anywhere in the state, delivering the highest level of resuscitation care directly to the scene of an incident. With advanced skills to stabilise and start essential treatments, a helicopter team can deliver patients either to the nearest major hospital or directly to the Royal Hobart Hospital if required. This will shave hours off the time it takes to reach life- and limb-saving 'definitive care'.

A Hobart location for this service will provide the critical mass of highly experienced medical specialists and other staff needed to support a Pre-Hospital and Retrieval Medicine (PH&RM) service.

This location also means that specialised services available only in Hobart (Neonatal and Paediatric Intensive Care) can be mobilised rapidly to support hospitals around the state.

Such an investment will be for all Tasmanians, and will bring our prehospital and retrieval care up to the standard provided for many years across the rest of Australia and New Zealand.

ENDS

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