



**Media statement**

**Wednesday, 14 December 2016**

**AMA Tasmania responds to *RHH bed capacity to increase by 250 beds* media release issued by Minister for Health, Michael Ferguson**

AMA Tasmania welcomes the news the current redevelopment of the Royal Hobart Hospital (RHH) will provide capacity for an additional 250 patient beds upon completion.

In announcing the increased bed capacity, Minister Ferguson has acknowledged there is a significant deficit of hospital beds in the state, a view AMA Tasmania has shared for a long period of time.

However it will be nearly three years until these proposed beds are operational, the severe shortage of staffed beds needs to be addressed immediately.

An increase of just 30 to 40 beds, and the appropriate number of staff to service those beds would substantially improve the current bed block, enabling the timely and safe flow of patients out of the Emergency Department whilst allowing elective patients into RHH for their procedures.

AMA Tasmania would also like to point out that while the Government may say it has maintained the same number of physical beds, there has been significant reshuffling of beds further reducing bed capacity in some areas, particularly for short-stay post-operative patients. In some cases, beds have been replaced with chairs and trolleys.

**ENDS**

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