

Record Boost for Mental Health Care



A MAJORITY LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

- Invest \$95 million in Mental Health Care over the next six years
- Build new facilities and employ staff to provide 25 new Mental Health beds to support the Royal
- Open new Adolescent Units in Launceston and Hobart
- Employ over 125 additional frontline staff
- Provide a \$3.3 million boost to the community sector to support better health in our communities



25 New Mental Health Beds

10 New Beds at Mistral Place

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will build and open 10 new Mental Health beds at Mistral Place, adjacent to the Royal Hobart Hospital.

This will double the number of beds at the facility and help take pressure off the Royal Hobart Hospital.

Funding of \$2.6 million is provided for the construction of the ward, in an area that is currently office space. We will work closely with staff currently working from the space to move them to suitable accommodation nearby.

The right model of care and staffing will be determined by clinicians, but it is estimated that 20 additional full-time equivalent staff will be employed, including more than 10 nurses, 3 allied health staff, an additional doctor as well as operational and administrative staff.

Funding of \$14.2 million is provided over the next six years to operate the additional beds. We will start the relocation of staff and construction process immediately after the election, and the new beds will open as soon as construction is complete and staff are recruited, which we expect to be within twelve months of commencement.

15 New Mental Health Beds at the Peacock Centre

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will rebuild the Peacock Centre in Hobart, which was seriously damaged by fire last year, to provide 15 additional mental beds for safe, supportive 'step-down' care post-hospitalisation, or 'step up' care for those whose condition has escalated to avoid hospitalisation, and community mental health services.

The right model of care and staffing will be determined by clinicians, but it is estimated that 29 additional full-time equivalent staff will be employed, including more than 16 nurses, 4 allied health staff, an additional doctor as well as operational and administrative staff. Funding of \$15.8 million is provided over the next six years to operate the additional beds, and it is expected that construction will cost \$9.2 million and take two years to complete. The new beds will open in 2020.

These new beds will make a real difference and help Tasmanians to receive contemporary care in the right therapeutic environment.

Our Targets

#23 A 20% reduction in the suicide rate by 2022

#26: Reduce emergency ambulance response times to national average waiting time by 2025

Why Tasmania Needs This

The Royal Hobart Hospital is Tasmania's major tertiary centre, providing care not just to Southern Tasmania, but statewide.

We are seeing growing demand, including for mental health care.

We have delivered the new J-Block facility, which enabled acutely unwell mental health patients to remain on site while we finish the RHH Redevelopment, but we must do more to meet demand.

Our investment will see better access to mental health care, and put downward pressure on waiting times in the Emergency Department.



Better Mental Health Care

16 Bed Adolescent Health Unit with better mental health care

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will provide \$30.9 million over six years to fully staff and open a 16 bed Adolescent Unit in the redeveloped Royal Hobart Hospital, designed to provide space for specialist mental health care for young people for the first time in Tasmania's history.

These beds will provide integrated care for adolescents at the RHH, with capacity for medical and surgical patients, as well as the provision of safe rooms for young people who need mental health care.

Detailed service planning will occur with staff and stakeholders while the construction of the new inpatient building is completed, but it is expected approximately 50 additional full-time equivalent staff will be recruited, including 36 nurses, 4 doctors and 6 allied health staff.

It is expected the new beds will open in 2020.

Eight New Beds on Ward 4K

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will provide \$19.1 million over six years to fully staff and open eight additional beds on Ward 4K, on completion of the redevelopment, including specialist facilities for mental health care.

This will allow the Launceston General Hospital to deliver better psychiatric services to young patients and their families and carers, from across the North of Tasmania.

Detailed service planning will occur with staff and stakeholders while the construction of Ward 4K is completed, but it is expected approximately 26 additional full-time equivalent staff will be recruited, including 18 nurses, 2 doctors and 3 allied health staff.

It is expected the new beds will open when the Ward 4K Redevelopment is complete in 2019.

Our record in Government

In our first term, we have:

- ✓ Developed *Rethink Mental Health* – a 10 year plan with universal support.
- ✓ Abandoned Labor's plan to send acutely unwell mental health patients to the suburbs, and kept them at the Royal Hobart Hospital.
- ✓ Provided more than \$100 million each year for mental health services across a range of settings.
- ✓ Increased funding for mental health, including funding for rural outreach, packages of care, new beds and child and adolescent mental health.
- ✓ Purchased community-based mental health properties at New Norfolk, Glenorchy and near the RHH – which Labor previously had on long-term lease.

Better Mental Health Care

Mental Health Integration Taskforce

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will convene an expert taskforce to provide advice on improving integration of mental health services in Southern Tasmania.

Representation will be sought from health stakeholders, including the Mental Health Council of Tasmania, Butterfly Foundation, Flourish, Mental Health Carers Tasmania, the Australian Medical Association, the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation and Primary Health Tasmania.

This group will provide expert advice on the best use of these new mental health beds to the benefit of Tasmanian patients, including consideration of how we best deliver services across the spectrum of mental health care - from community facilities, inpatient units, the Emergency Department – to ensure Tasmanians get the right care, at the right place, in the right time.

Housing and Accommodation Support Initiative Trial

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will provide funding of \$500 000 per annum over two years to trial the Housing and Accommodation Support Initiative (HASI), which has been highly successful in New South Wales.

HASI will be a partnership between the Tasmanian Health Service, Housing Tasmania and Colony 47 to provide Tasmanians with mental illness better clinical and psychosocial rehabilitation supports, linked in with stable housing and supported accommodation.

Mental Health Peer-Workforce Strategy

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will provide \$120 000 over two years to the Mental Health Council of Tasmania, so they can work in a partnership with the Government to develop a Tasmanian Peer-Workforce Strategy.

The Tasmanian Peer-Workforce Strategy will provide the overarching framework to ensure Tasmania's mental health and suicide prevention peer workforce is supported into the future, ensuring optimal outcomes for consumers, the peer workers and services.



Better Mental Health Care

Eating Disorders Peer Workers Partnership

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will provide \$400 000 over two years for a trial partnership between the Government and the Butterfly Foundation (which merged recently with Tasmania Recovery from Eating Disorders), to recruit peer workers to support Tasmanians living with eating disorders.

These peer workers will provide support to both adolescents and adults, as well as their families and loved ones.

Rural Alive and Well

A re-elected majority Hodgman Government will provide Rural Alive and Well (RAW) additional funding of \$380,000 over the next two years.

This funding will assist RAW to provide better outreach support, particularly focusing on older Tasmanians who are experiencing mental health concerns in regional areas.

RAW has been a key support for Tasmanian rural communities for many years now, however it is clear that older Tasmanians are increasingly at risk of mental ill health, and we must work to support them.

This funding is in addition to the \$1.46 million detailed in the Tasmanian Liberals' *Taking Agriculture to the Next Level Policy*, with a total commitment to RAW of \$1.84 million.



Don't Go Back

Labor-Green Record

Under the former Labor and Labor-Green Governments, Tasmania's health system was badly damaged. They simply cannot be trusted on health or mental health when their record on is clear, with:

- A budget cuts committee, which slashed \$8 million from mental health and cut 40 jobs, as part of the devastating 2011 budget that saw protests all over the state.
- Plans to send acutely unwell mental health patients to the suburbs of Hobart, away from critical support services.
- In contrast, the Hodgman Liberal Government has delivered over \$26 million of additional funding for mental health and suicide prevention since 2014.