



# Fortnightly eNews AMATasmania June 16



Seen here AMA Tasmania President A/Prof Tim Greenaway working continuously in advocating the rights and issues on behalf of all AMA Tasmania members.

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## Martyn Goddard, Independent Health Policy Analyst Reports

### Budget Cuts to Hit Hospitals Hard

Funding for patient care in Tasmania's public hospitals will fall short of projected costs by \$92 million (7%) in the next financial year and by \$367 million (30%) over the four years of the forward estimates, according to a new report.

"This is likely to result in a substantial decrease in staff and in the numbers of patients being treated," said independent health policy analyst Martyn Goddard, author of the report.

"For the coming financial year, nominal funding for patient care will increase by 0.9% in nominal dollar terms. However, when costs are taken into account – price inflation, new drugs and ever-increasing patient numbers – this translates into a 7% cut. The problem compounds over the four years.

"There are only two ways for hospitals to meet this situation: by increasing productivity or by cutting staff and patient numbers," he said. "There is some room for further increasing efficiency through clinical redesign, but that is a slow, incremental process. The other way is for staff to be more productive, mainly by working harder and taking responsibility for more and more patients.

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## Funding cuts in Tasmanian public hospitals

The Tasmanian budget papers show major funding pressures on the state's public hospitals over the forward estimates. Payments for actual patient care<sup>1</sup> will rise in nominal (dollar) terms by only 0.9% in 2016-17 and will rise by only 3.7% over the four years of the forward estimates (Table 1). Of particular note is the decrease in budget-estimate funding for emergency departments (-5.7%) and community and aged care (-3.2%). All of these nominal funding changes, both up and down, translate into serious falls in real funding when price inflation and other costs are taken into account. (Table 2). These cuts are occurring after many years in which revenue has failed to keep up with costs and demand. That squeeze on our hospitals and on hospital staff has intensified over the last two years. As will be seen in more detail in Table 2, these figures show the full effect of that situation over the forward estimates period.

**Table 1: Budget estimate payments to the Tasmanian Health Service, recurrent expenditure, all sources, 2015-16 to 2019-20 (\$000)**

	2015-16	2016-17	Change	2017-18	Change	2018-19	Change	2019-20	Change
Admitted services	760 331	772 698	+12 367 (1.6%)	765 352	-7 346 (-1.0%)	762 657	-2 695 (-0.4%)	793 870	+31 213 (4.1%)
Non-admitted services	154 239	167 534	+13 295 (8.6%)	172 481	+4 947 (3.0%)	173 109	+628 (0.4%)	177 324	+4 215 (2.4%)
Emergency departments	122 114	115 194	-6 920 (-5.7%)	115 073	-121 (-0.1%)	116 715	+1 642 (1.4%)	119 447	+2 732 (2.3%)
Community & aged care	200 907	194 407	-6 500 (-3.2%)	189 461	-4 946 (-2.5%)	188 987	-474 (-0.3%)	191 327	+2 340 (1.2%)
Statewide & mental health	116 803	116 813	+10 (0.0%)	118 472	+1 659 (1.4%)	121 378	+2 906 (2.5%)	123 410	+2 032 (1.7%)
Forensic medicine	1 242	1 435	+193 (15.5%)	1 477	+42 (2.9%)	1 654	+177 (12.0%)	1 698	+44 (2.7%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 355 636</b>	<b>1 368 081</b>	<b>+12 445 (+0.9%)</b>	<b>1 362 316</b>	<b>-5 765 (-0.4%)</b>	<b>1 364 500</b>	<b>+2 184 (+0.2%)</b>	<b>1 407 076</b>	<b>+42 576 (+3.1%)</b>

Source: 2016-17 Budget and Forward Estimates, Department of the Treasury, Tasmania.

The nominal increase of 0.9% in recurrent public hospital funding in the coming fiscal year is, in real terms, a substantial cut. To calculate the size of that cut, we must take into account those factors determining the cost of hospital care – price inflation, long-term rates of funding increase to cover the costs of new drugs, technologies and increasing caseload.

<sup>1</sup> This does not include major capital expenditure (such as hospital redevelopments) or funding for the 'One Health System' reorganisation.

cont..

## IMPORTANT REMINDER

### 2016 AMA Tasmania Subscription Payments are NOW OVERDUE

To renew your membership, please go to website [amatas.com.au](http://amatas.com.au). Alternatively, contact the AMA Tasmania membership officer – [ama@amatas.com.au](mailto:ama@amatas.com.au)

## C2016 Salaried Medical Practitioners Agreement Negotiations: Member Vote on Government Offer

### C2016: AMA - TSMPS Assessment

Your AMA Tasmania / TSMPS SMP EBA team has had several meetings with the Government since January 2016. A key basis for SMP EBA after statewide consultation being the substantial loss in salary packaging benefits, increasing

reliance of locum specialist in Tasmania, and the requirement to attract and retain both DiTs and Specialists Medical Practitioners in the Tasmanian Health System.

A summary of the AMA log of claims can be [DOWNLOADED HERE](#)

## **DHHS SMP EBA**

Offer received 01 June 2016: The Government offer made by the Secretary of Health Mr Michael Pervan on 01 June 2016 consists of

"A Proposal for a Agreement that provides for salary increases that do not exceed 2 percent, per annum, for a 3-year term. This allows for a salary increase in line with Wages Policy subject to progression through our respective approval process. It is then proposed that the parties agree to work together to review the key matters that are outstanding such as those from previous Agreements and/or non-award industrial matters and work through them in a considered and evidence-based way."

Clarification of start date for increments from THS has indicated a position of no retrospectively.

AMA Tasmania is requesting your feedback. Could you please complete the survey linked here. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C2016SMPEBA-1>

The feedback from this survey is essential to ensure the SMP can negotiate on behalf of AMA Tasmanian and TSMPS members.

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**[AMA Tasmania A/Prof Tim Greenaway addresses media on the state's disastrous health budget cuts crisis.](#)**

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