

MEDIA RELEASE

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GERMAN DENTIST UNABLE TO WORK IN TASMANIA

Fully qualified Dentist from Germany, Miss Freia Mehlhorn, is next week leaving Tasmania, which is in the midst of a dental crisis, because the bureaucratic system will not allow her to work here.

Miss Mehlhorn arrived in Tasmania in January understanding that satisfactory completion of an Occupational English Test (OET) is required before her qualifications can be recognised. However what she was not prepared for was the waiting times to undertake the OET. Murchison MLC, Ruth Forrest said "With a public dental waiting list of up to four years, it is inconceivable that a dentist must also wait for months to be able to undertake an OET to progress registration requirements to work in Tasmania".

"Either we need to run the OET more than the once or twice a year as is currently the case, or employ more staff to undertake these tests. This will allow applicants to undertake the necessary measures to commence employment in the health and dental fields", said Ms Forrest.

"It is frustrating that as a result of a bureaucratic backlog, North West Tasmania will lose a very talented young dentist, who was willing and happy to live and work on the North West Coast. Ironically, Freia speaks fluent English, as do many European nationals and this situation will only increase the unacceptably long waiting list to access dental services" said Ms Forrest.

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For further information, please phone 0419 879 524.

Freia Mehlhorn is staying at Rocky Cape with David and Heather Hill and can be contacted on 64434198.