

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## LONG DISTANCE CEO

Murchison MLC, Ruth Forrest, in responding to the suggestion that Dr Stephen Ayre may be appointed as the long term or permanent CEO of all three hospitals in the North and North West, has concerns that such a move would be inappropriate for the long term benefit of North West Health services.

"The appointment of a CEO for health services in the North West and West Coast region is very important and must attract the right person for the job" Ms Forrest stated.

"It is reasonable to extend Dr Ayre's appointment in the short term to consider options for the management of health services on the North West and West Coasts, to ensure the health services are effectively managed by a person with an awareness of and experience in Northern Tasmanian health needs, however this should not be seen in any way as an appropriate permanent solution" Ms Forrest stated.

"To provide a truly integrated health service on the North West and West Coasts, where costly duplication of services, fragmentation of services and gaps in service provision are avoided, consideration of one CEO for clinical and primary health services should be considered" Ms Forrest said.

"The North West and West Coasts have suffered in the past through the 'management from afar' approach and this is not the way forward if we are to have a safe, efficient and cost effective health service that meets the needs of this region" Ms Forrest stated.

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For further information phone 0419 879 524