

Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing
 Minister for Ageing
 Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

Level 5, 4 Salamanca Place, HOBART TAS 7000
 GPO Box 123 HOBART TAS 7001
 Phone: 03 6165 7794
 Email: Minister.Archer@dpac.tas.gov.au



Ref: MIN26/1613

12 June 2026

Helen Burnet MP
 Chair
 House of Assembly Estimates Committee A
 C/- ben.foxe@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Chair

Thank you for your letter in relation to my appearance before the House of Assembly Estimates Committee A on 1 June 2026. Please find below additional information as requested by the Committee.

Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing

- 1. How many P0 or P1 calls have been received in this Budget year so far, and how many of these times ambulances were not assigned to P0 and P1 emergency calls within 3 minutes?**

There have been 38,675 P0 and P1 activations, of which 25,893 were less than three minutes and 12,782 were more than three minutes.

- 2. On what dates in the past 12 months did any Tasmanian Emergency Departments meet the 4-hour target and for how many days in total? Is it true that all our markers for 2026 are worse than the prior year based on AIHW data?**

In the 12 months to 31 March 2026, there were no days on which a Tasmanian Emergency Department achieved the four-hour target of discharging at least 90 per cent of patients. The most recently available Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) data for 2024–25 indicates that no state or territory in the nation met the four-hour discharge target. Table 1 provides a comparison of Tasmania's four-hour target performance from July 2025 to March 2026 against the national AIHW results for 2024–25.

Table 1: ED presentations with a length of stay of less than 4 hours (%)

	2024-25	Jul 2025 to Mar 2026
LGH	34.8	33.6
MCH	71.8	65.6
NWRH	54.6	49.5
RHH	42.8	41.4
Total	47.5	44.7

Note:

Data Source (2024-25): Department of Health (national data submission to AIHW).
 Data source (April 2025 to March 2026): Department of Health (internal data).

3. In 2025-26 so far, what are the 75th and 90th percentile figures for emergency response times for ambulances?

The P0 and P1 state-wide combined 75th percentile is 24.1 minutes, and the 90th percentile is 39.7 minutes.

4. What is the total number of paramedic shifts that have been worked so far in 2025-26 and what was the total number that went unfilled (in raw terms not percentages)?

The total number of paramedic shifts worked is 52,299, with 46,500 of those shifts filled and 5,799 unfilled.

5. What was the total number of night shifts worked so far in 2025-26 and the total number of those that went unfilled (raw terms)?

Table 2: Night shifts

Region	Established night shifts	Unfilled night shifts
South	5190	753
North	4648	448
North West	5206	837
Total	13006	2038

Note:

Established night shifts are those that were covered, and include type 1 ambulance, branch stations, Critical Response Unit, single responders, and Operations Supervisors

Table 3: Night shifts

	Established night shifts	Unfilled night shifts
ComCen	2309	430

Note:

Established night shifts are those that were covered, and include Emergency Call Takers, Emergency Medical Dispatchers, Secondary Triage, Team Leader and Deployment Supervisor. ComCen is one unit, as such regional variation does not apply.

6. How many patients transferred by taxi were children?

Out of the 165 people transported by taxi to hospital between 1 January and 6 March, 13 were under the age of 18, noting that alternative transport for a minor would not occur without parental involvement or support, unless the young person can consent to their own medical care. This would involve being assessed as a mature minor (Gillick competent), requiring the young person to demonstrate sufficient understanding and maturity to comprehend the nature, risks, benefits, and likely outcomes of the proposed care pathway. In such circumstances, parental consent may not be required.

7. What is the total Health Department expenditure on taxis as emergency transport over the past five years?

There has been zero expenditure on taxis used as emergency transport over the past five years. Taxis are used as non-emergency transport only, based on a clinical assessment.

8. How many FTE ENT specialists have been employed in Tasmania since 2022?

The commencements for new ENT specialists since 2022 are 3.03 FTE. The commencements for new ENT registrars/residents (in training) since 2022 are 12 FTE.

9. What is the 30-day unplanned hospital admission rate for medical and surgical conditions? What is the rate of patients with complex conditions?

The 28-day unplanned hospital admission rate is calculated in accordance with the national definition, measuring unplanned readmissions within 28 days for the same diagnosis as the initial admission.

Table 4: 28-day unplanned hospital admissions and rate for medical and surgical conditions

Date		Total Admissions	Unplanned Readmissions	Unplanned rate per 10,000 Admissions
YTD March 2026	Medical	120,382	701	58
	Surgical	16,800	198	118
	Total	137,182	899	66

Table 5: 28-day unplanned hospital admissions and rate for patients with complex conditions

Date		Total Complex Admissions	Unplanned Readmissions	Unplanned rate per 10,000 Admissions
YTD March 2026	Medical	14,783	167	113
	Surgical	1,987	42	211
	Total	16,770	209	125

Note: Complex conditions are identified as those Diagnostic Related Groups (DRGs) with the highest level of clinical complexity, reflecting patients with more severe illness, complications, and greater cost of care.

Ageing

1. Please provide current mid-term and long-term public dental wait times for concession holding older Tasmanians by region, and the additional funding allocated to decrease those waiting lists?

For clients removed from Oral Health Services Tasmania waitlists between July 2025 and 31 March 2026, the median time from waitlist entry to removal was:

Table 1: General Care Waitlists

General Care waitlists	Median Months Waited	
	Pensioner Concession Card holders ¹	Health Care Card holders ¹
Region		
Southern Tasmania	21.9	22.1
Northern Tasmania	50.5	50.8
North West Tasmania	54.1	49.2
State-wide	23.8 ²	22.9 ²

Table 2: Denture Care Waitlists

Denture Care waitlists	Median Months Waited	
	Pensioner Concession Card holders ¹	Health Care Card holders ¹
Region		
Southern Tasmania	10.9	8.3
Northern Tasmania	4.9	5.1
North West Tasmania	12.3	11.1
State-wide	5.5 ²	5.5 ²

Note:

- All adults must hold a valid concession card (e.g., Pensioner Concession Card or Health Care Card) to access public oral health services in Tasmania. While holders of a Pensioner Concession Card will include older Tasmanians, eligibility for this card is not exclusively age-based and also includes other groups, such as recipients of the Age Pension, Disability Support Pension, Carer Payment, Parenting Payment (Single), JobSeeker Payment (for those over 60), and Department of Veterans' Affairs pensions, including the Service Pension and War Widow(er)'s Pension.
- Oral Health Services Tasmania does not prioritise one concession card group over another. Differences in median wait times reflect random variation rather than policy or clinical prioritisation.

The Tasmanian Government committed \$4 million in additional funding to deliver 20,000 more dental appointments as part of its election commitment to improve access to public dental services.

The funding has supported increased service capacity through the expansion of the Graduate Program. Between July 2024 and 31 March 2026, the investment has funded additional Graduate Dental Officers and Oral Health Therapists, enabling the delivery of 26,630 dental appointments.

Oral Health Services Tasmania is on track to deliver approximately 28,000 appointments by the end of June 2026, exceeding the original target by around 8,000 appointments.

It has increased Oral Health Services Tasmania's ability to provide adult general dental care to waitlisted patients, with approximately 11,483 additional adult appointments provided.

2. Update on the timeframe for the delivery of the geriatric assessment and management of geriatric patients at the Mersey Community Hospital

Consistent with the North West Hospitals Masterplan, the new sub-acute services building at the Mersey Community Hospital will include an inpatient unit for the assessment and management of geriatric patients.

Work is now underway to deliver this, which includes the determination of specific planning, timeframes, and costings. This includes the concept design development, which is underway following the appointment of a Project Manager and Lead Designer earlier this year.

Aboriginal Affairs

1. Please provide a list of all those who the Minister has consulted with on the new Aboriginal Heritage Act legislation.

Both myself and my office have consulted with the following Tasmanian Aboriginal organisations and people, and other stakeholders, since the motion in the House of Assembly on the Draft Bill:

- the Aboriginal Heritage Council;
- the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC);
- the Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania (ALCT);
- the Tasmanian Regional Aboriginal Communities Alliance (TRACA);
- individual Tasmanian Aboriginal people; and
- House of Assembly member briefing as per House of Assembly motion.

I have also offered regular meetings on the Draft Bill to the TAC, ALCT and TRACA.

In addition, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania has undertaken communication and consultation associated with the public release of the Draft Bill. This includes meetings and briefings on request. A stakeholder, engagement and communication list is as follows:

Aboriginal Organisations, Groups and People
Aboriginal Heritage Council
Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania
Tasmania Aboriginal Centre
Tasmanian Regional Aboriginal Communities Alliance, and TRACA member organisations
Other
Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
Department of Premier and Cabinet
Department of Justice

Department of State Growth
Department of Health
Department for Education, Children and Young People
Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management
Department of Treasury and Finance
Environment Protection Authority (EPA Tasmania)
Inland Fisheries Service
Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens
Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Tasmanian Small Business Council
Private Forests Tasmania
Housing Industry Association
Northern Midlands Business Council
Tourism Industry Council Tasmania
Hydro Tasmania
Sustainable Timber Tasmania
TasNetworks
Tasmanian Irrigation
TasWater
Tasmanian Minerals, Manufacturing and Energy Council
Telstra
NBN - Nationally
Master Builders Association of Tasmania
Property Council of Australia (Tasmania)
TasFarmers
Cultural Heritage Practitioners Tasmania
Local Government Association Tasmania
Break O'Day Council
Brighton Council
Burnie Council
Central Coast Council
Central Highlands Council
Circular Head Council
Clarence City Council

Derwent Valley Council
Devonport City Council
Dorset Council
Flinders Island Council
George Town Council
Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
Glenorchy City Council
Huon Valley Council
Kentish Council
King Island Council
Kingsborough Council
Latrobe Council
Launceston City Council
Meander Valley Council
Northern Midlands Council
Sorell Council
Southern Midlands Council
Tasman Council
Waratah- Wynyard Council and Circular Head Council
West Coast Council
West Tamar Council
Forest Practices Authority (FPA)
Tasmanian Planning Commission
Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery
Tasmanian Heritage Council
Forico
Tasmanian Forest Products Association
Australian Archaeological Association
Australian Association of Consulting Archaeologists
Australia ICOMOS
Planning Institute of Tasmania (PIA)
Cradle Coast Authority
Cradle Coast NRM
NRM North and NRM South

2. A copy of the letter to Senator Malarndirri Mccarthy regarding land handbacks.

Please see attached letter.

3. How much money was spent on the Pathway to Truth Telling and Treaty report?

The total cost of developing the Pathway to Truth Telling and Treaty report was \$358,117, incurred in the 2021-22 financial year.

4. Please detail the 13 recommendations implemented in the "Pathway" report and details of those partially implemented and those rejected/contested/not implemented and reasons.

Recommendations	Comments
Truth telling 1 – 4	Partially implemented as the Government has committed to Truth Telling Commissioner/s, and the approach to the Commission and these recommendations will be determined by Commissioner/s once appointed.
Treaty 5 – 7	Recommendations 5 and 7 are partially implemented as an Aboriginal Advisory Group was established, and the next steps will be determined by the Truth Telling Commissioner/s following engagement with Aboriginal people. Recommendation 6 has not been implemented due to the Government's decision to prioritise a Truth-Telling process.
Eligibility 8 – 9	Not implemented as the Tasmanian Implementation Plan for Closing the Gap 2025-2028 contains an action to review the Tasmanian Government Eligibility Policy, and the recommendations to be considered by Truth Telling Commissioner/s.
Land 10 – 13	Not implemented. Proposed legislation to amend the Aboriginal Lands Act was discontinued due to a lack of consensus from Tasmanian Aboriginal people around the changes. Revised Aboriginal heritage legislation is the key priority for the Government and a draft is currently out for public consultation. Avenues for protecting and returning land continue to be proactively explored.
Land Management 14-15	Implemented and partially implemented. ALCT has received additional resources and NRE Tas has ongoing engagement with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) to increase joint land management, cultural burning and ranger programs.
Sea and Water 16 – 18	16 and 18 - not implemented. 17 has been implemented with abalone Units provided to Land and Sea Aboriginal Corporation Tasmania. There is also ongoing engagement with ACCOs around these issues.
Heritage 19 – 20	19 - Partially implemented. The Tasmanian Government is progressing Aboriginal heritage legislation reform as an urgent priority. 20 - not implemented, however, the precinct plan has an Aboriginal culturally informed zone.
Language 21 - 22	Contested and partially implemented. Conversations with ACCOs have commenced for the Tasmanian Implementation Plan for Closing the Gap 2025-2028 action to review the Aboriginal and Dual Naming Policy. Aboriginal organisations have received Australian Government funding for language revival.

Recommendations	Comments
Education 23 – 24	Partially implemented. There is an Aboriginal-led approach to these recommendations underway. Aboriginal Education services has been reviewed and has strengthened its workforce and an Indigenous Education Consultative Body for Tasmania is being considered by the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Committee and Tasmanian ACCO/s.

Yours sincerely



Hon Bridget Archer MP
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing

Attachment Letter from Hon Bridget Archer MP to Minister Malarndirri McCarthy on land return

Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing
Minister for Ageing
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

Level 5, 4 Salamanca Place, HOBART TAS 7000
GPO Box 123 HOBART TAS 7001
Phone: 03 6165 7794
Email: Minister.archer@dpac.tas.gov.au



16 February 2026

Senator the Hon Malarndirri McCarthy
Minister for Indigenous Australians
Email: MinisterMcCarthy@ia.pm.gov.au

Dear Minister McCarthy

I am writing to seek the Australian Government's partnership in advancing Tasmania's efforts to progress meaningful land return outcomes for Aboriginal people.

Renewed action on land return is essential to meeting the commitments under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap—particularly Target 15a, which seeks a 15 per cent increase in Australia's landmass subject to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's legal rights or interests by 2030.

Across formal consultations and public commentary, the Tasmanian Aboriginal community has consistently emphasised that land return remains a core and enduring priority.

To progress land return in a credible, transparent, timely and culturally grounded manner, Tasmania requires additional resourcing. Rigorous due diligence is necessary for each parcel of land under consideration, including assessments of natural and cultural values, existing interests, and long-term management implications.

As Native Title cannot be established in Tasmania, engagement must rely on complex relationship-based processes and sensitive engagement that ensures all voices are heard, respected, and able to contribute meaningfully.

In addition, the significant reserve estate area comprising approximately half of the Tasmanian land mass—including the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area—brings further governance and land management considerations that require coordinated engagement with multiple stakeholders, including the Australian Government.

To progress this work effectively, a dedicated project team is required, including Aboriginal engagement officers to facilitate consultation, coordinate assessments, build relationships, and support the statutory process for returning land.

OFFICIAL

While Tasmania is committed to progressing this work, the scale and complexity of it requires additional capacity beyond what is possible within our existing resources. Further support would enable Tasmania to undertake the necessary due diligence, and support Aboriginal organisations and all stakeholders to participate fully in the consultation that will be required.

For land return to be meaningful and durable, the Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania (ALCT) and other Aboriginal organisations must also be appropriately resourced to participate equitably. Key activities include community consultation, legal advice on land tenure and transfer, financial advice on long-term land management responsibilities, governance support, and participation in negotiations and co-design processes.

To enable the progression of priority sites commencing in 2026, an additional estimated \$650,000 per year over three years would provide the level of resources and support required for ALCT and other Aboriginal organisations to engage collaboratively with government.

Commonwealth partnership in this investment would allow Tasmania to accelerate land return in a way that aligns with national Closing the Gap commitments and with the aspirations of Aboriginal communities.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this proposal further and explore how our governments can work together to progress this important matter.

Yours sincerely



Hon Bridget Archer MP
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs