

CONSTITUENT QUESTION

House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Janie Finlay MP

ANSWERED BY: Hon Bridget Archer MP
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing

QUESTION:

I've been contacted by a Launceston constituent who's recovering from a serious leg break and is struggling to access parking at the Launceston General Hospital while upgrades are underway. They're attending essential follow-up appointments, but due to limited mobility, simply cannot walk the long distances. On too many occasions there has been no accessible parking available close enough to safely reach the hospital. The temporary parking arrangements are clearly not meeting the needs of patients. The shuttle service is unreliable, with no clear timetable, which makes it completely impractical for people managing pain, injury or time-critical appointments. This is also having a broader impact. Constituents report that the drop-off area at Accident and Emergency is regularly being used as overflow parking for other parts of the hospital, creating real risks to Emergency access. Can you provide my constituents with an update on the LGH parking upgrades? Are they on track? When will that additional parking come online? What immediate steps will you take to ensure patients with limited mobility can safely access care in the meantime?

ANSWER:

Construction of a new multistorey car park at the Launceston General Hospital is well underway, with the contractor nearing completion of the foundation works.

The works will be delivered in two stages to provide early access to the lower levels, which include 10 accessible parking spaces, by mid-2027. Final works are expected to be completed by the end of 2027.

In the meantime, accessible parking is available in the temporary Howick Street car park. A free shuttle bus service continues to support the public from the temporary car park to the hospital's Charles Street entrance. Upon request, this service also stops at the John L Grove site. The shuttle runs constantly, making a return trip every 20 minutes.

Dedicated accessible parking spaces are also located within the LGH campus closer to the hospital's main entrances.

Information about the locations of accessible parking spaces at the LGH is available on the Department of Health's website. A precinct-wide map that shows the locations of parking, including accessible parking spaces, is being finalised and will be published on the website shortly. This will help patients and visitors to become familiar with parking locations before attending the hospital.

The drop-off area for the Emergency Department is available for patients who are self-presenting and arrive at the hospital by their own means. I am advised that this area is closely monitored, and the Public Announcement system is utilised to notify anyone parked in this area to move their vehicle.



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