

Ombudsman Tasmania

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15 July 2019

The Hon Ivan Dean MLC
Chair
Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts
Parliament House
HOBART Tas 7000

Dear Mr Dean

Re: Inquiry to Examine the Office of the Ombudsman and Health Complaints Commissioner

Thank you for your letter of 18 June 2019, and the invitation to appear before the Committee at 9:00 am on Tuesday, 23rd July 2019 which I accept with pleasure. I also thank you for the opportunity to make further submissions.

As you are aware, this Office was allocated additional funding in the 2019 State Budget to resource the Right to Information jurisdiction. This will allow us to recruit a permanent Band 8 Principal Officer and a Band 4 Investigation and Review Officer to supplement the existing Band 6 Senior Investigation and Review Officer. I am satisfied that once these new positions have been filled, the current backlog of Right to Information reviews will be cleared, new processes and procedures will be developed and implemented to ensure that future reviews are dealt with appropriately and expeditiously, and that we will be able to meet all our obligations under the Act.

The recruitment process for the Principal Officer is well under way and once that is complete, recruitment for the Band 4 position will commence.

There do remain, however, other funding pressures. I refer to and reiterate the submissions contained in my letter to you of 7 March 2019 and in particular draw to your attention those concerning the Custodial Inspectorate, Health Complaints and the proposed introduction of a National Code of Conduct for Unregistered Health Practitioners.

I thank you again for the opportunity.

Yours sincerely


Richard Connock
OMBUDSMAN