



HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
SESSION OF 2025 - 2026
(FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SECOND PARLIAMENT)

NOTICES OF QUESTION

No. 13

TUESDAY, 11 AUGUST 2026

Notices of Question

- 16** Mr *Garland* to ask the Treasurer— With respect to the cost-of-living pressures on King Island:
- (1) What is the total amount of financial assistance currently provided by the Government to King Island residents and/or businesses for the purpose of offsetting the higher costs associated with shipping and freight services, including but not limited to:
 - (a) freight equalisation or subsidy schemes;
 - (b) residential relief arrangements;
 - (c) business support programs;
 - (d) medical travel and treatment access schemes; and
 - (e) any other relevant assistance measures?
 - (2) What is the total annual value of this state-based assistance for King Island residents, expressed:
 - (a) as a total figure, per financial year, between 2019-2020 and 2025-2026;
 - (b) on a per capita basis per year?
 - (3) Over the past ten years:
 - (a) has the per capita value of this assistance increased in real terms when adjusted for inflation?
 - (b) if so, by how much in percentage and dollar terms?
 - (c) if not, what has been the real change over that period?
 - (4) What specific measures does the Government have in place, or under active consideration, to further address the disproportionate cost of living and operating on King Island arising from geographic isolation and existing inadequate shipping arrangements? (4 March 2026)
- 24** Ms *Butler* to ask the Minister for Education—
- (1) How many students in Tasmania are diagnosed (assessed) as having dyslexia and learning difficulties within the Tasmanian public school system?
 - (2) How many students in Tasmania are diagnosed (assessed) as having dyslexia and learning difficulties within the private school system (including religious, private, independent schools)?
 - (3) What is the breakdown of age groups diagnosed with dyslexia and learning difficulties?
 - (4) What is the increase in students diagnosed with dyslexia and learning difficulties within the public school system over ten years to April 2026?
 - (5) How many students are currently waiting for assessment for a diagnosis?
 - (6) How many dyslexia educators and specialists currently work within the Department of Education, Children and Young People (DECYP) in Tasmania?
 - (7) What is the ratio of these specialists to students with learning difficulties?
 - (8) What is the ratio of specialists to students with learning difficulties in each region?
 - (9) How many Teachers Aids have undertaken dedicated educator training for students experiencing learning difficulties?
 - (10) How many modules do students undertake through the UTAS Bachelor of Education and Masters of Education specialising in dyslexia and learning difficulties?
 - (11) Is DECYP funded to provide support to students with dyslexia and learning difficulties within the public school system, and if so, where is this funding?
 - (12) What continuous learning is offered for qualified teachers in the area of learning difficulties?
 - (13) What continuous learning is offered for teacher assistants in the area of learning difficulties? (14 April 2026)

- 25** Ms *Butler* to ask the Minister for Infrastructure– With respect to the Illawarra Road Upgrade:
- (1) Has a risk analysis been conducted on the current design of road being constructed in Section 2B of Illawarra Road? If so:
 - (a) does this risk analysis include a safety audit that takes into account the movement of farm machinery from a standing P Turn across the middle of the planned high speed overtaking lanes and bi-directional traffic?
 - (b) does this risk analysis take into account the limited sight lines from this point, and from vehicles approaching this point?
 - (c) does this risk analysis take into account the high frequency of fog along Illawarra Road?
 - (d) when will this risk analysis and safety audit be provided to the adjoining landholders, who have been requesting it for over 12 months now?
 - (2) What is the current cost of this project to date, and is the proposal going to remain within the budgeted guidelines of \$80M, or will this end up costing the State more?
 - (3) Has a cost-benefit analysis been conducted for this project, since the Perth bypass was completed, that factors in the projected final speed limit of 80km/h for much of the Illawarra Roadway upgrade?
 - (4) What reason is given for ignoring landowners' concerns regarding safety, and dismissal of their proposed alternative of a safer Bagdad-Mangalore style road with a centre turning lane and a lower speed limit of 80km/h, although this is being adopted along the adjoining Stage 2A?
 - (5) Landowners have requested a Statement of Reasons from the Deputy Secretary Transport. When will this be provided?
 - (6) Is road safety the highest priority for this road project, or is it perceived freight efficiency over farm? (14 April 2026)
- 27** Ms *Dow* to ask the Minister for Infrastructure–
- (1) What is the data on traffic incidents in the Burnie CBD and Bunnings Bass Highway intersection, including the running of red lights?
 - (2) Has the installation of red-light cameras been considered in response to these incidents? (7 May 2026)
- 28** Ms *Badger* to ask the Minister for Parks–
- (1) What is, for the last four financial years, the annual expenditure figures relating to track and hut infrastructure for the following locations:
 - (a) the Walls of Jerusalem;
 - (b) the South Coast Track;
 - (c) the Lake Rhona Track;
 - (d) the Overland Track;
 - (e) the Three Capes Track;
 - (f) Frenchman's Cap; and
 - (g) Mount Anne?
 - (2) What is the breakdown of expenditure for each site by year including:
 - (a) expenditure on new track infrastructure and upgrades;
 - (b) expenditure on track repairs and maintenance; and
 - (c) expenditure on hut construction, upgrades and maintenance? (20 May 2026)
- 29** Ms *Dow* to ask the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport – With respect to bus services which pass through Sulphur Creek, is there the opportunity for Kinetic to stop in Sulphur Creek in addition to the current Metro Service to increase public transport options for residents? (21 May 2026)
- 30** Ms *Dow* to ask the Minister for Environment – What is the State Government's contribution to the rehabilitation of the Port Sorell land fill, including all actions taken to date? (21 May 2026)
- 31** Ms *Dow* to ask the Minister for Housing and Planning – Why was a Homes Tasmania invoice for short-term accommodation for a tenant, provided whilst their Homes Tasmania property was undergoing maintenance, made payable to the Department of Health? (21 May 2026)
- 32** Ms *Burnet* to ask the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing – With respect to tobacco enforcement activities for the 2025-26 financial year:

- (1) How many complaints were made to the Department in respect of offence specified in Part 4 of the Public Health Act?
- (2) How many actions were taken by authorised and nominated officers during this financial year to enforce Part 4 of the Public Health Act?
- (3) How many people were charged with each offence specified in Part 4 of the Public Health Act?
- (4) How many people were issued with infringement notices for offences specified in Part 4 of the Public Health Act?
- (5) How many breaches of smoking product licences were reported?
- (6) How many breaches of smoking product licences were proved?
- (7) How many smoking product licences were cancelled?
- (8) How many inspections, without notice, were conducted of premises in respect of which a smoking product licence was issued? (16 June 2026)

33 Ms Burnet to ask the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing – With respect to BreastScreen Tasmania:

- (1) What are the current wait times for breast screening by region, the number of appointments delayed or unavailable due to mobile bus outages, and the expected date for restoration of full mobile screening coverage?
- (2) What is the Government’s plan to clear any regional screening backlog created while buses have been off the road?
- (3) What are the current optimal clinical pathway standards for breast cancer in Tasmania? (16 June 2026)

34 Ms Burnet to ask the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing – With respect to dental care:

- (1) What are the current median and longest public dental wait times for concession-holding older Tasmanians by region?
- (2) What additional funding has been allocated to reduce those waits? (16 June 2026)

35 Ms Burnet to ask the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing – With respect to National Health Reform Agreement (NHRA) funds:

- (1) Of the additional \$700 million secured by Tasmania over the forward estimates from the Commonwealth Government through the National Health Reform Agreement (NHRA), what specific amount will be explicitly allocated to programs or infrastructure designed to address delayed discharges for long-stay, non-acute patients (such as elderly patients awaiting aged care or disability support placements)?
- (2) Given the State Government's commitment to utilise these funds effectively following the rejection of the Commonwealth’s proposal to isolate specific NHRA funding for long-stay patients, what structural or administrative strategies is the Department of Health implementing to reduce bed days lost to delayed discharges?
- (3) What specific targets, performance indicators, or tracking mechanisms has the Department established to measure the effectiveness of this funding in improving patient flow for elderly and long-stay patients across Tasmania’s public hospitals? (16 June 2026)

36 Ms Burnet to ask the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing – With respect to global supply chain risks:

- (1) In light of the global supply chain risks outlined in the state budget, including the ongoing impacts of international conflicts, is the supply of pharmaceuticals currently meeting Tasmania’s public health system needs, and what specific shortages are being actively managed by the Department of Health?
- (2) Are there any current or anticipated supply disruptions or shortages within Tasmania's public hospitals and pharmacies impacting the following categories:
 - (a) vaccines (including those under the National Immunisation Program);
 - (b) chemotherapy and oncology medications; or
 - (c) highly specialised PBS-listed medications?
- (3) What specific mitigation strategies is the Department implementing locally to ensure Tasmanian patients experience no delays or disruptions to their clinical treatments? (16 June 2026)

37 Ms Burnet to ask the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing – With respect to medical practitioner shortages:

- (1) How many Rural Generalists are currently employed within the Tasmanian Health Service (by region, hospital or service, and employment status) and what is the total expenditure?
- (2) How many Rural Generalists, if any have left employment with the Tasmanian Health Service in the last two years?
- (3) How many Rural Generalist trainees are currently undertaking training in Tasmania?
- (4) Of the Rural Generalists currently working in Tasmania, how many completed training in Tasmania and how many were recruited interstate or internationally?
- (5) How many locum doctors have been employed by the Tasmanian Health Service since January 2023 (by specialty, hospital, average contract duration) and what is the total expenditure including a breakdown by region?
- (6) Has the Department undertaken any cost comparison analyses between employing locum specialists, permanent specialists, and Rural Generalists?
- (7) What steps is the Government taking to improve recruitment and retention of permanent rural GPs and Rural Generalists rather than relying on short-term locum arrangements?
- (8) How many General Practitioners with a Special Interest (GPwSI) are currently employed or contracted by the Tasmanian Health Service?
- (9) In which specialty areas (e.g. dermatology, mental health, ENT) are GPwSIs currently engaged)?
- (10) What funding has been allocated to support GPwSI roles in Tasmania in each of the past five years?
- (11) Has the Government undertaken any modelling, or data collection, on how GPwSIs are alleviating specialist outpatient waiting lists? (16 June 2026)

38 Mr *Garland* to ask the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing – With respect to data provided in response to constituent questions surrounding Heart Health issues presentations to Emergency Departments across Tasmania:-

- (1) Is it the case that for people aged zero to 30 years, there was a 142 per cent increase from 154 presentations in October 2020 to 374 presentations recorded in October 2021?
 - (a) If these figures are not correct, please outline why not, with alternate figures.
- (2) Is it the case that there was a 120 per cent increase for those aged zero to 40 years, from 268 presentations to the Emergency Department in October 2020 to 592 presentations to the Emergency Department in October 2021?
 - (b) If these figures are not correct, please outline why not, with alternate figures.
- (3) Regarding the increases detailed in (1) and (2):
 - (a) What were the top twenty leading causes of heart health presentations to the Emergency department over that time, for both those aged zero to 30 years and those aged zero to 40 years?
 - (b) Were there any known triggers at the time?
 - (c) Were there any known triggers in the period after October 2021?
 - (d) If yes to (3)(c), when were these triggers first identified?
 - (e) In emergency department presentations seen from July 2021 onwards, can you outline what environmental factors there were, if any, for young people that may have contributed to this increase?
 - (f) Has your office, the Tasmanian Health Department, and/or the Tasmanian Health Service investigated or inquired as to the cause of these increases in heart health presentations at any time between 1 July 2020 and the 30 June 2026? If so:
 - (i) who coordinated the investigation or inquiry?
 - (ii) on what date did these investigations commence?
 - (iii) on what date did these investigations conclude (if so)?
 - (iv) if investigations are still active, when are they expected to conclude?
 - (v) what has been identified, if anything, as the cause or causes of these increases?
 - (vi) has this information been provided to the public at any point since being reported internally, and if so, where and when was this information published?
 - (vii) what changes or interventions, if any, were made when the issues became known?
 - (viii) what changes or interventions, if any, were made when investigations were complete?
 - (ix) who was responsible for these changes or interventions?
 - (x) did these changes or interventions achieve outcomes, and if so, what? (16 June 2026)

- (4) Tasmanian population statistics sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), do not show increases at the same rate as emergency department presentations for heart health issues:
- (a) Can you confirm that estimates from the ABS across that period saw an increase of 8,402 people from 559,427 in September 2020 to 567,829 in September 2021?
 - (b) Can you confirm that the numerical increase in (4)(a) shows an approximate increase of 1.5 per cent?
 - (c) Can you confirm that the ABS population estimates for those aged zero to 30 years in June 2020 was 204,866?
 - (d) Can you confirm that the ABS population estimates for Tasmania showed an increase of 2,067 from 204,866 in June 2020 to 206,933 by June 2021 for those aged zero to 30 years?
 - (e) Can you confirm that this increase in shown in (4)(d) represented a combined population trend upwards of approximately 1.01 per cent for males and females in that cohort?
 - (f) Please explain the significant increase in heart health presentations of 142 per cent for young Tasmanians, when Tasmania's population only increased by 1 per cent over a similar time frame?
- (5) In relation to males and females aged 41 years and older, please provide data that shows Statewide Emergency Department presentations for Heart Health related issues for Tasmanians between October 2020 and October 2021.
- (6) Between 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2023, please provide the statewide emergency department presentation data for heart health issues, comparing both male and female presentations, for each month, with a breakdown by age cohort as follows:
- (a) 0-10 years,
 - (b) 11-20 years,
 - (c) 21-30 years,
 - (d) 31-40 years,
 - (e) 41-50 years,
 - (f) 51-60 years,
 - (g) 61-70 years,
 - (h) 71-80 years,
 - (i) 81-90 years,
 - (j) 91-100 years,
 - (k) 101 years and above.

39 Ms Burnet to ask the Minister for Sport –

- (1) With reference to the disparities in state sports funding where Australian Rules Football reportedly receives approximately \$540 per participant, basketball receives \$138, and soccer receives just \$19, and noting that AFL projects receive over half of the state's sports infrastructure funding, please provide a comprehensive, itemised breakdown of all sports infrastructure funding and grant allocations across the forward estimates (2026-27 to 2029-30), specifically detailing:
- (a) the exact dollar amount and percentage of total funding allocated specifically to:
 - (i) dedicated men's sports infrastructure and programs;
 - (ii) dedicated women's sports infrastructure and programs; and
 - (iii) co-educational or gender-neutral community facilities.
 - (b) the specific funding proportions allocated to elite, high-performance, and stadium-focused streams versus distributed, direct-upgrade grants for grassroots community clubs and junior associations,
 - (c) a transparent breakdown of the funding pipeline by sporting code and by local government region over the forward estimates, and
 - (d) what specific structural mechanisms or equity frameworks the Department using to ensure that sports highly accessible to diverse demographics including women, girls, youth, and migrant communities are not financially marginalised in favour of historically dominant codes. (17 June 2026)