

Health - Mother-Baby Telehealth Support

Ms ROSOL question to MINISTER for HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH and WELLBEING

In June 2023, St Helen's Private Hospital closed with the loss of eight beds in the mother and baby unit. Three mother and baby beds were created at Royal Hobart Hospital and a four-bed, co-located unit is due in the north by Mother's Day next year. The federal government funded Tasmanian navigator nurse positions to guide new and expecting parents to mental health support, with 295 referrals received to date this year.

Modelling indicates that eight beds are needed to meet need around the state, and current services are woefully insufficient. Your 2030 Strong Plan states that in your first 100 days of government you will establish a new Telehealth support and statewide phone service for parents. To date no funding agreement or SLAs have been signed for this service. A concerned constituent has asked when they can expect the Telehealth support and phone service to begin operation so Tasmanian parents can receive the help they need when they need it.