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Question on Notice – Inquiry into the assessment and treatment of ADHD and support services – 8 November 2024

Ms JOHNSTON – *I'm keen to understand a bit more about the experience of wait times, particularly in regional Tasmania, in accessing services. In your submission you talk about significant delays, in the vicinity of two years. I'm particularly interested to know a bit more about the wait times in regional Tasmania.*

Associate Professor WEBER – *I'll take on notice the exact waiting times, but that is correct that waiting times are excessive and we obviously know the morbidity associated with late diagnosis of ADHD. It's advisable that diagnosis is made early. That is a significant challenge, accessing service, and, more so, accessing supportive services. Because the diagnosis is one part but, in terms of management, you need the support of services such as allied health, and that is significantly lacking and almost absent along the more rural areas such as west coast.*

RACP response (January 2025) -

The average waiting times are as follows for children with development assessment/ADHD/Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) (category 3) assessments:

Mersey Community Hospital (MCH) – 201.5 days
North West Regional Hospital (NWRH) – 268.2 days

Waiting times for patients with ADHD in the northwest of Tasmania are likely to increase due to recent staffing changes at NWRH and MCH.