

FACT SHEET

TASMANIAN HEALTH ORGANISATIONS BILL 2011

The *Tasmanian Health Organisations Bill 2011* (the Bill) establishes three Tasmanian Health Organisations in Tasmania. Tasmanian Health Organisation (THO) is the name given to local hospital networks in Tasmania for the purposes of national health reform. They have been called Tasmanian Health Organisations because they will focus on the health needs of the entire THO population. This name also reflects the intention to have integrated health systems across hospitals, primary care and aged care.

THOs will be responsible for providing and coordinating health care services in their local areas and their boundaries will mirror those of the existing Area Health Services. As required by the National Health Reform Agreement, this legislation will allow the THOs to be operational by 1 July 2012.

This Bill provides a comprehensive legislative basis for establishing and supporting the new THOs, their governing councils and chief executives. THOs will be independent statutory authorities and will have governance arrangements similar to that of Tasmanian Government Business Enterprises. THOs will be directly accountable (to the State Government and Parliament) for hospital and health service performance.

The main features of the Bill are:

- The establishment of THOs, including their purpose, functions and powers (part 2 of Bill);
- The establishment and membership of THO Governing Councils, including their functions and powers (part 3 of Bill);
- The operation of THOs, including the role of the Chief Executive Officer, appointment of staff and financial matters (part 4 of Bill);
- Ministerial guidance and direction, including the setting of Ministerial Charters, Ministerial policy and directions and Service Agreements for THOs (part 5 of Bill);
- Governing Council plans and reports, including corporate plans, annual business plans and annual reports (part 6 of Bill);
- Performance management of THOs (part 7 of Bill).

The Bill also contains transitional and savings provisions to transfer staff and property across to the THOs once they are operational.

The establishment of THOs will devolve the management and delivery of public health services to the local level, resulting in greater local control, greater efficiency and improved responsiveness for Tasmania's health system. These reforms will increase public confidence in how taxpayer dollars are spent on public health services through increased accountability and funding transparency.