

Attorney-General
Minister for Justice
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing
Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Level 9, 15 Murray Street, HOBART TAS 7000
GPO Box 123 HOBART TAS 7001
Phone: 03 6165 7678
Email: Barnett.correspondence@dpac.tas.gov.au



Ref: MIN24/2354

The Hon Tania Rattray
Chair
Legislative Council Estimates Committee B
Julie.thompson@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Rattray

Thank you for your letter of 23 September 2024 in relation to my appearance before Estimates Committee B. Please find below additional information as requested by the Committee:

**Division 5 – DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Overview**

- 1. How many patients are currently waiting to start haemodialysis in the north and north west and whether there is forecast numbers for dialysis in patients in the next 5 or 10 years. Also, a breakdown of the \$600,000 which included engineering works, could further detail be provided? (RA)**

Response:

I can advise that Haemodialysis is not managed via a waiting list. Patients are scheduled to receive this service when it is medically necessary. At the time of preparing this response, there were 10 patients requiring dialysis who were yet to commence their treatment, but these will be scheduled shortly.

It is projected that the number of public hospital renal dialysis admissions across the North and NW of Tasmania will increase by an average annual growth rate of 0.8 per cent until 2031/32.

As at 25 September 2024, \$541 921 has been spent on professional fees, planning and scoping phases which includes architects, site assessments / investigations (engineering), building condition reports, functional design briefs and concept design development.

2. Current LGH SMO positions advertised and provide number of applications received for positions? (RA)

Response:

At LGH there are eight specialist medical officer roles currently either advertised or with an active selection process underway. The positions are:

- Anatomical Pathology – 8 applications
- Colorectal Surgery – 7 applications
- Gastroenterology – 8 applications
- General Medicine/Acute Care – 13 applications
- Immunology - none as at 30 September 2024
- Obstetrics and Gynaecology – 7 applications
- Respiratory Medicine - 12 applications
- Urology – 9 applications

Output Group 1 – System Management

1.1 System Management – Health

1. Provide the number of doctors employed in the following specialties in both the LGH and RHH and also vacant positions in these hospitals if not filled

- Ear Nose and Throat (ENT)
- Gastroenterologist
- Psychiatry
- Urologist
- Diabetic Paediatrician
- Neurologist (RA)

Response:

- a) There are three headcount ENT practitioners engaged as specialists at the Royal Hobart Hospital (RHH), working a total of 2.14 FTE with .48 FTE currently vacant.

The LGH has a total of three headcount staff contracted to work 2.22 FTE. One of those staff members has not yet commenced but is due to start next month.

- b) At the RHH there are a total of 5.48 FTE of working Gastroenterologist specialists with 2.1 FTE of vacancy.

At the LGH, there are a total of five Gastroenterologists working a total of 2.26 FTE. There is a total of 1.68 vacant, with recruitment currently underway.

- c) There are 38.1 FTE of Psychiatrists engaged across the range of services run by the Statewide and Mental Health Services. Current advertising is underway to fill 4.4 FTE ongoing vacancies.
- d) In Urology there are three staff currently working at the RHH contracted to work 1.05 FTE. A further three new specialists have been engaged but not yet commenced, which will bring the total complement to 2.65 FTE.

At LGH there are no vacancies, and a total of 6 specialists working 2.92 FTE. The current advertising is based on pending retirements for 2025.

- e) There is one Paediatric Endocrinologist engaged at the RHH (1 FTE), engaged as a General Paediatrician, this Paediatrician provides specific Endocrine clinics.
- f) There are 11 Neurologists working at the RHH, a total of 6.21 FTE.

There are five Neurologists currently working 2 FTE at the LGH.

Please note this information excludes consideration of locums.

2. Provide total number of Hospital Acquired COVID Infections (HAIs) across the THS from 30 June 2020 to date by year. (CO)

Response:

Total Admissions	2020 (30/6)	2021	2022	2023	2024 - current	Total
North West	1*	0	138	92	122	353
North	0	0	231	120	251	602
South	0	0	267	214	200	681

- a. *North West single COVID case in 2020 in the NWRH was acquired in a Victorian Hospital and discovered post medical transfer back to Tasmania. The patient was then isolated on arrival back in to Tasmania.

Output Group 2 – Health Services

2.2 Non-admitted Services

1. How many people are on the waiting list - North and South category 1, 2 and 3 for the following categories:

- Diabetes paediatric clinic
- Cardiology
- ENT
- ENT paediatric clinic (south)
- Colorectal clinic
- Gastroenterology (RA)

Response:

With regard to the diabetes paediatric clinic at LGH, there are fewer than five patients on the waiting list. Further information cannot be provided, given the small numbers, as individuals may be inadvertently identifiable. For the ENT paediatric clinic at the RHH, there were 772 patients on the waiting list, comprising 74 category 1 patients, 620 category 2 patients and 78 category 3 patients.

Information for the other categories is provided below by hospital and the speciality of the treating clinician. Data is provided as at July 2024.

Table 1: LGH – by speciality

Speciality	1 - Urgent	2 - Semi Urgent	3 - Non Urgent	Other	Total
Cardiology	361	2110	955	3	3429
Colorectal Surgery	58	286	89	1	434
Ear Nose & Throat	44	695	1693	-	2432
Endocrinology	22	100	96	-	218
Gastroenterology	480	493	35	-	1008

Table 2: RHH– by speciality

Speciality	1 - Urgent	2 - Semi Urgent	3 - Non Urgent	Other	Total
Cardiology	321	782	260	10	1373
Colorectal Surgery	7	280	75	-	362
Ear Nose & Throat	392	2122	474	1	2989
Endocrinology	39	366	269	-	674
Gastroenterology	117	381	36	1	535

Table 3: NWRH and MCH – by speciality

Speciality	1 - Urgent	2 - Semi Urgent	3 - Non Urgent	Other	Total
Cardiology	54	661	105	-	820
Ear Nose & Throat	1	-	-	-	1
Endocrinology	37	111	37	-	185
Gastroenterology	246	662	90	1	999

2.3 Emergency Department Services

1. Provide number of nurses at RHH and LGH last financial year. (RA)

Response:

- RHH ED Nurses at June 2024: 190.66 FTE.
- LGH ED Nurses at June 2024: 109.16 FTE.

Please note this information excludes consideration of locums.

2.6 Ambulance Services

1. Provide ambulance response times for outlying areas (TR)

Response:

- Please see table below for 2023-24 financial year Ambulance Tasmania Median Emergency Response Time (minutes)

Station	Time	Station	Time
Beaconsfield	19.3	Miena Central Highlands	29.4
Bicheno	15.9	Mornington Clarence	15.3
Bothwell	23.5	Mowbray	14.3
Bridgewater	16.3	New Norfolk	19.1
Bridport	20.7	Nubeena	21.0
Bruny Island	19.7	Oatlands	25.7
Burnie	11.7	Ouse	28.6
Campbell Town	14.8	Poatina	22.0
Claremont	15.2	Port Sorell	12.5
Coles Bay	20.7	Queenstown	13.9
Deloraine	17.7	Scamander	20.8
Devonport	10.8	Scottsdale	18.4
Dodges Ferry	18.7	Sheffield	14.0
Dover	34.1	Smithton	15.6
Ellendale	37.7	Sorell	17.6
Flinders Island	41.5	South Arm	21.1
George Town	13.3	St Helens	12.2
Glenorchy	15.0	St Marys	21.8
Hobart	16.5	Strahan	17.2
Huonville	20.5	Swansea	26.0
King Island	26.4	Triabunna	15.0
Kingston	17.6	Tullah	24.1
Latrobe	13.1	Ulverstone	11.2
Launceston	13.7	Wattle Hill	14.3
Longford	14.6	Wynyard	11.0
Maydena	36.4	Zeehan	23.7

Yours sincerely



Hon Guy Barnett MP
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing