

## Public Rheumatologists

### **Mr GARLAND question to MINISTER for HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH and WELLBEING**

My question is from Lester in Wynyard. There are several public rheumatologists in the south of the state, one private rheumatologist in Launceston, but no public rheumatologists north of Hobart. Last year, the department had funding for a public position in Launceston as promised in your 2023-24 State Budget, but the position was not filled. Lester wants to know: is there still funding for a public rheumatologist for the north? What steps are the government currently taking to ensure that patients in the north and north-west of Tasmania can access a local public rheumatologist? Will the Minister commit to re-establishing and filling a public rheumatology position in the north or north-west so that patients are not left without timely specialist care?