

SUBMISSION TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL INQUIRY INTO RURAL HEALTH SERVICES

(please withhold identifying details)

My name is [REDACTED] and I am the parent of two teenage children who have both had medical emergencies in the past 12 months.

My, then, 14 year old son was at home alone at the beginning of February last year, a mate of his came to visit and they took the paddock basher out into the bush tracks on our property. My son was filming his mate driving the vehicle up a slippery track, the driver lost control of the vehicle and hit my son, snapping both his tibia and fibula, requiring surgery and metal rods.

He called me and I was able to be home within 10 minutes, when I called an ambulance.

The paramedics came from Glenorchy, they had to call in to Huonville to pick up a 4WD ambulance to get onto the bush tracks and, not knowing the roads, they relied on the GPS to get them to our property, which sent them up a wrong road. As a result, we waited for more than two hours for the ambulance.

My son went into severe shock after about an hour. His eyes were rolling back into his head and he was shaking uncontrollably.

His pain was bearable for about the first hour, then the pain became much, much worse, it was very traumatic.

The weather was freezing and it was raining, and there was even some hail.

My 18 year old daughter has made two suicide attempts – one in October last year and one in December last year. Both times we had to wait more than two hours for an ambulance.

The second time, due to her violent reaction, the paramedics required the assistance of Tas Police. We had three police vehicles (this was totally unnecessary) at our property (this is very difficult in a small community where it is almost impossible to maintain privacy).

My daughter requires ongoing psychological care through her mental health care plan.

We tried to make an appointment with a psychologist who specialises in transgender issues in October 2020 – we were not able to get an appointment until late February 2021. We feel that this may have contributed to her second suicide attempt.

[REDACTED]