



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Legislative Council Government Administration Committee 'A'

MEDIA RELEASE

SUBMISSIONS NOW OPEN FOR NEW INQUIRY INTO HEALTH OUTCOMES AND SERVICES IN RURAL AND REMOTE TASMANIA

EMBARGOED UNTIL SATURDAY 30 JANUARY 2021

An Upper House inquiry has been established to inquire into the health outcomes and access to health and hospital services for Tasmanians living in rural and remote Tasmania.

Chair of the Legislative Council Government Administration Committee 'A', the Hon. Ruth Forrest MLC said: "The Committee has established this important inquiry because we believe it is imperative that people who live in rural and remote areas have comparable health outcomes and access to health and hospital services to those who live in metropolitan areas."

Through this inquiry, the Committee will examine health outcomes, patient experiences, wait-times and quality of care for people who live in rural and remote Tasmania, and how these measures compare to those of metropolitan centres. The committee will also consider levels of access to health and hospital services in these areas, including examining service availability, barriers to access and the quality of available services.

Ms Forrest added, "In addition, the Committee will examine and analyse Tasmania's health planning systems and projections in determining the level of need and provision of health services and capital and recurrent health expenditure in these areas. Further to this, we will look into staffing challenges, the provision of ambulances services, and the access and availability of specialist treatments and palliative care in rural and remote Tasmania."

The Committee Chair continued, "This is an opportunity for people living outside of Hobart or Launceston to have their views heard by a parliamentary committee and for the committee to gather valuable information on access to health care and health and patient outcomes in those areas."

The Committee welcomes submissions from interested stakeholders and members of the community. Ms Forrest noted "Individual health care complaints are unable to be considered by the Committee. These should be referred to the Health Complaints Commissioner if unable to be resolved through direct engagement with care providers."

The closing date for submissions is 12th March 2021 with public hearings to take place shortly after. For further information about the inquiry, including the terms of reference, please visit the inquiry website: https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/ctee/Council/GovAdminA_RuralHealth.htm

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For further information, please contact the Inquiry Chair, Hon Ruth Forrest MLC, email: ruth.forrest@parliament.tas.gov.au, mobile: 0419 879 524