

**From:** [Jack Birrell](#)  
**To:** [transferofcare](#)  
**Subject:** Parliamentary Inquiry into Ambulance Ramping in Tasmania - A Personal Experience and Submission - A Frightening Delayed Care Period at LGH  
**Date:** Thursday, 28 September 2023 4:07:51 PM

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Dear Inquiry,

I'd like to take this opportunity to share with you the experience of being ambulance ramped, and then my transfer of care as delayed for three days from ramp to waiting area, at the Launceston General Hospital - 5th Sept to 8th Sept 2020

Evening of 5th Sept arrived by ambulance to LGH from Bicheno, East Coast Tasmania with >40°C temperature - hallucinations, dropping in and out of consciousness, severe abdominal pain, fever, total lethargy...

Ambulance staff could not get me into the Emergency Dept on the evening of 5th - many hours passed by while on the ramp, into the morning of the 6th Sept, I felt guilty keeping the Ambulance people and vehicle tied up - I agreed to be wheeled into the LGH waiting area so that they could be relieved and go home, I was alone with no support from family or friends as they were on the east coast... and I was only attended to by staff in the waiting room briefly (not by doctor)

5th to 8th Sept... I saw three sunrises from within the LGH waiting room and only then was seen to by Emergency staff... my clothes were soiled and I was still high range of 40°C temp nothing to eat / drink and passing out in the waiting area, I did wonder if I could die in the waiting chair.

8th Sept finally attended to by a Doctor and placed from chair in waiting area of LGH onto a trolley bed and given a drip and monitored... most of that day on the trolley in Emergency.

8th, 9th and 10th Sept - taken up levels to an internal small room like a cupboard for cleaning / small utility space not a medical area - tests conducted, still laying on temporary narrow trolley bed  
Remained on the trolley bed for three days.

10th Sept - finally on third day on trolley bed, clear diagnosed of Campylobacter. Treatment given and allowed to leave LGH.  
Walked out, no family or friends, just had my soiled clothing from delayed admission as arrived in ambulance.  
Alone and weak. A six day ordeal. I don't wish this lack of care on another sole.  
Please help the LGH to improve its level of care and decrease the time to be seen on presenting when unwell and in an emergency.

I'm happy to discuss any details.

Best regards,

Jack Birrell  
