



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

## **Legislative Council Committee Inquiry**

# **MEDIA ADVISORY**

30 June 2017

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### **Inquiry into Acute Health Services**

On 28 June 2017, Legislative Council Government Administration Committee A resolved to form a Sub-Committee to inquire into the capacity of Tasmania's main hospitals to improve patient outcomes. Terms of Reference for the Inquiry are:

To inquire into and report upon the resourcing of Tasmania's major hospitals to deliver acute health services, including mental health services, to the people of Tasmania, with particular reference to:

- (1) Current and projected state demand for acute health services;
- (2) Factors impacting on the capacity of each hospital to meet the current and projected demand in the provision of acute health services;
- (3) The adequacy and efficacy of current state and commonwealth funding arrangements;
- (4) The level of engagement with the private sector in the delivery of acute health services;
- (5) The impact, extent of and factors contributing to adverse patient outcomes in the delivery of acute health services; and
- (6) Any other matters incidental thereto.

The Sub-Committee intends to advertise the Inquiry in Tasmania's three main daily newspapers on Saturday 8 July 2017 and call for submissions by Friday 18 August 2017. The Inquiry will accept confidential submissions upon request.

Members of the Sub-Committee are:

Hon Kerry Finch MLC  
Hon Ruth Forrest MLC (Deputy Chair)  
Hon Rob Valentine MLC (Chair)

Chair of the inquiry, Rob Valentine, said the inquiry results from increasing levels of concern being voiced by those working in, and engaged with, public acute health services.

“The public will be well aware of the increasing attention being paid by the media to concerns being expressed by staff medical associations, nursing bodies and members of the public about access to acute health services across the State.

“This has been going on now for many months and it is time the claims and counter-claims are tested to gain a fuller understanding of the challenges we face as a state in the delivery of these services.

“It will provide an opportunity for those people at the coal face or as patients negotiating the system, to share their stories and experiences to a non-partisan inquiry, in confidence if necessary, so the reality of acute care access is better understood.

“During recent Estimates hearings and scrutiny of the State budget, the Government stated they were providing increased funding to cope with the demand. This inquiry will enable a more thorough examination of current and future funding arrangements.

“It is important funding is allocated to ensure the best opportunity to improve patient outcomes” Mr Valentine said.

Mr Valentine added, “Any findings and recommendations that are made as a result of this inquiry will provide Government with comprehensive data and it is expected will shine a light on the areas that need the greatest attention.”

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## **FURTHER INFORMATION:**

**Chairperson: Rob Valentine MLC    Mob: 0418 127 323**

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