

8.8.17

Dear Committee Members,

I write in response to the invitation given out for submissions regarding the health services in Tasmania. Firstly I thank you for giving the public a chance to comment.

Since returning to Tasmania 7 years ago both my husband and I have had hospital experience in both the private and public system in Hobart.

Both systems provide excellent care and compassion.

I had day surgery in the private sector due to unreasonable waiting lists in the public system, we do not have private health cover.

My husband has had three emergency visits to the public system. The paramedics were excellent, professional and compassionate.

Hospital staff at the RAH were brilliant but overworked, understaffed and often having to source equipment that worked the latest visit was July 2017.

Attending the Emergency dept we were treated within a reasonable time but observed/overheard several members of the public that in our opinion were not emergency, sprained ankles, runny nose, script renewals, there are services available that are bulk billed elsewhere specifically for non-emergency. Surely this can be used as part of triage.

We were given literature regarding patients rights, surely we have responsibilities as well, treating staff with respect and also patients, to take responsibility for our own health.

I would also like to know who is responsible for the food served to patients, both in the private and public systems? Cornflakes, white bread, fruit juice, coke, lemonade to mention but a few, these foods and many more are loaded with sugar and salt, have very little if any fibre in them, how can these help with patient recovery? Why in a beautiful state like Tasmania with fresh fruit and vegetables in abundance that none of these appear on the patient menu? Why is so much food dumped because supermarkets can't sell it? Why are visitors allowed to bring in unsuitable food and drink? There needs to be some regulation.

On Mental Health why do these patients have so little to help them? Why can't there be a separate unit for them with skilled and qualified staff to support them and their families? Why can't an old school building be converted?

Preventative care - there needs to be far more focus on preventative care, GPs need to be allowed to promote and advise far more than they are presently permitted to do it would save thousands of dollars and make Tasmania a healthier state.

Parking - there needs to be easier parking for visitors, a car park close to the hospitals could be specifically designated with reasonable changes.

Tasmania is not the poor state that it used to be we are a thriving community of which we need to be proud of with tourism, agriculture doing well and also being fortunate of a great GST windfall.

Will look forward to your final report, good luck and every wish to you all,

Yours Sincerely

Dave & Sally Wimbidge.