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Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing
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09 SEP 2024

Mr Craig Garland MP
Member for Braddon
Email: craig.garland@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Mr. ~~Garland~~ Craig

I refer to your constituent question on Thursday 8 August 2024, asked as follows:

My question comes from a constituent in my electorate and relates to the mental health precinct promised by your government in April 2021 as a \$60 million redevelopment of the North West Regional Hospital, which includes \$40 million for the first stage of a new mental health precinct adjacent to the North West Regional Hospital. Is the mental health precinct going ahead? If so, where are the community and mental health units going? Will this be completed by 2025, as promised by your government?

I am pleased to provide the following response:

In the 2021-22 Budget the Tasmanian Government committed \$40 million to the development of a new Mental Health Precinct adjacent to the North West Regional Hospital to replace the ageing Spencer Clinic.

The project is going ahead, and is currently in the Planning & Scoping phase, with Concept Design about to be completed.

The new precinct is proposed to be located on a greenfield site alongside the southern boundary at the rear of the hospital.

The precinct will feature a 22-bed acute inpatient unit and five short stay beds.

The new facilities will be co-designed with consumers, carers, and staff with a focus on enabling the provision of safe and therapeutic, recovery-oriented care and enhancing privacy and dignity, with a range of spaces for patient, family, carer, and staff use.

Due to a late change in the design brief, construction of the precinct will commence in 2025.

We are also investing \$7.6 million to construct a new Mental Health Hub in Devonport, which will offer a Safe Haven, Recovery College, and Integration Hub – all new services for the North West.

Recovery College provides Tasmanians with a chance to improve their mental health and wellbeing and personal recovery through free education. Safe Havens are open extended hours and provide support for people in suicidal or situational distress, and Integration

Hubs bring together community organisations to provide mental health and wellbeing support, help to navigate services, and provide brief interventions.

I was pleased to be in the North West recently where I joined Statewide Mental Health Services staff, Tasmania Police and Ambulance Tasmania representatives, and people with lived experience of mental illness, to launch two new community-based mental health care options for the region.

The highly successful Mental Health Emergency Response service, which provides a rapid response to mental health crises in the community, has now expanded its coverage to Devonport and surrounds.

The service began in Burnie late last year, which has had around 340 call outs so far, with 77 per cent supported to remain in the community. These results clearly demonstrate the benefits of providing respectful, dignified, and compassionate care to people experiencing mental health distress in the community.

Young Tasmanians and their families and carers in the North West are also going to benefit from the launch of a new, \$8.5 million Youth Mental Health Hospital in the Home pilot program in Devonport.

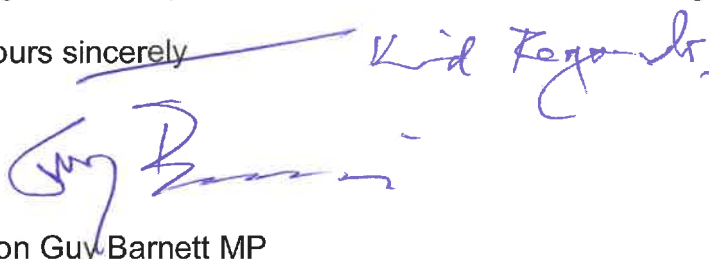
Youth Mental Health Hospital in the Home North West began operations in July, providing specialist clinical care and support to eligible young people aged 15-24 years experiencing acute or complex mental health concerns.

This program will increase access to mental health services for young people in the North West by providing specialist care and support within the young person's place of residence, staffed by a multidisciplinary team of mental health professionals, including psychiatrists, pharmacists, allied health professionals, nurses, youth workers, and lived experience workers.

The service currently provides four Hospital in the Home 'beds' seven days a week, with plans to scale up to 12 beds as recruitment continues. Mental health clinicians aim to visit each young person admitted to the service at least twice a day for up to 21 days, as part of a comprehensive and intensive home-based model of care.

I look forward to seeing more positive outcomes out of our reform actions as we work together to improve the mental health and wellbeing of all Tasmanians.

Yours sincerely



Hon Guy Barnett MP
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing