

Health – Four-Week Wait for Cancer Biopsy

Ms JOHNSTON question to MINISTER for HEALTH

My question is on behalf of a constituent in Glenorchy. His mother has just been diagnosed with lung cancer, but she has been told she has a wait of approximately four weeks for a biopsy to determine the appropriate treatment course. Worse still, she faced a lengthy wait for results after that due to chronic understaffing in pathology services. The Australian Medical Association (AMA) also recently raised concerns about this publicly.

Minister, you would understand that with aggressive cancers, every day matters and she is facing an unacceptable delay in receiving treatment. How is this acceptable? What are you doing to urgently address the pathology backlog? Or is my constituent's mother a casualty of your government's vacancy freeze and failure to manage the state's finance responsibly?