

CONSTITUENT QUESTION

House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Josh Willie MP

ANSWERED BY: Hon Jacquie Petrusma MP
Minister for Health

QUESTION:

1. I have made a few representations to you regarding my constituent, Sandra Burnett, from Glenorchy, regarding her time waiting for an MRI and scans on her ankles and feet and wrists and hands. Sandra's condition is worsening. She would appreciate advice as to whether her case, given her physical pain and exacerbated condition, can be upgraded from a category two to a category one or at least as to whether a timeframe for an appointment can be provided.

I request that you or your office contact Sandra in relation to this matter along with answering this question, as this is obviously adversely affecting Sandra's quality of life.

ANSWER:

I am sorry to hear about Ms Burnett's health condition, and I am advised she has been contacted to discuss her condition in further detail. Pleasingly, I am also advised Ms Burnett has been allocated an orthopaedic clinic appointment for later this month, where she will be assessed and if needed, referred for medical imaging.

All patients for the Southern Outpatient Clinics are waitlisted for an appointment as per the Tasmanian Health Service, Southern Outpatient Appointment Management Protocol. To ensure equity in access, the allocation of appointments for patients accessing outpatient services is based on prioritisation according to clinical urgency and waiting time, as indicated by their category.

If a patient's symptoms have worsened, it is recommended that they attend their General Practitioner (GP) for clinical review. If clinically necessary, the GP can provide an updated referral with additional clinical information to the Outpatient Clinic. This will enable a clinical reassessment of their condition and appointment timing.

It is also strongly encouraged that all patients continue to consult their General Practitioner for ongoing advice and care.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JP', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Hon Jacquie Petrusma MP
Minister for Health

Date: 20/5/25