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To: [transferofcare](#)
Subject: Ramping
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Hello,

I'm an RN often in charge on an emergency department. How I see it is every aspect of public health contributes, to some degree to the ramping issue. The bottom line though is bed blocking in the ED. No amount of additional ambos will help relieve the crisis, it will just ramp more patients.

Relieving the problem starts with the use of emergency departments. GPs, community health, and other allied health professionals etc. send patients to the emergency department for a variety of not necessarily valid reasons but these patients need to be fully assessed again by another health professional to determine whether they require further consultation. The culture needs to change and I guess litigation plays a big role here. In the ED it's possible to shuffle patients that don't need beds to accommodate ambulance patients but at some point, the options are exhausted. It sometimes feels like a never-ending game of Tetris.

Patients come to the ED because they have nowhere else to go to have their health complaints addressed. They seem to not know what an emergency is and what's not. Further education and campaigning is needed in this area. People also need not feel guilty for attending if they think that it is necessary.

The government (Labour and liberal) have failed in planning for future and are too reactive and not proactive enough. The current staffing models are too lean to provide consistent quality nursing care and the recruitment incentives are not competitive enough in regard to mainland incentives. We need to recruit and maintain staff, be receptive and flexible to their need to have them committed to our communities. Decrease agency staff slowly as we build our permanent staff.

Discharged patients need not occupy beds while waiting for discharge scripts, waiting for a ride home etc. alternative arrangements need to be looked at to free these beds to allow flow.

I feel we have the structural space in our hospitals to alleviate some or most of the ramping, but the above-mentioned issues are not being addressed as best as they could be. Thanks for the opportunity for me to have a say.

Regards

Tim

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