

(No. 7.)



1859.

---

T A S M A N I A.

---

**P E T I T I O N**

FROM MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS AGAINST THE CREATION OF  
A MEDICAL DEPARTMENT FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF HOSPITALS  
AND CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

---

Presented by Mr. Whyte, and ordered by the Council to be printed, August 12, 1859.



*To the Honourable the President and Members of the Legislative Council  
of Tasmania in Parliament assembled.*

The humble Petition of the undersigned Medical Practitioners residing in Hobarton.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioners have learned that it is the intention of the Executive Government of Tasmania to create a new Department for the management of the Hospitals and other Charitable Institutions of the Island, and to place at the head of that Department an Officer with the title of Principal Medical Officer.

Your Petitioners are firmly impressed with the belief that to commit the Hospitals and other Charitable Institutions of Tasmania to the rule of any single individual will be subversive of the best interests of the aforesaid Institutions.

Your Petitioners moreover concur in the opinion publicly expressed by the highest British Medical authority—Sir Benjamin Brodie, President of the Medical Council of Great Britain and Ireland—"That the best government of a Hospital is by a Committee—a great deal better than a public functionary; that a Committee of Gentlemen will be much more liberal than a Government Officer."

Your Petitioners therefore pray that your Honourable House will not sanction the arrangement contemplated by the Executive Government, but abide by the "Report of the Joint Committee on Charitable Institutions of both Houses," in the last Session of Parliament, which recommended the appointment of Boards or Committees for the government of Hospitals and Charitable Institutions.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c. &c.

Richd. S. Bright, jun., Macquarie-street.  
Henry H. Harvey, M.R.C.S., S.S.A., &c., Liverpool-street.  
J. W. Agnew, M.D., Macquarie-street.  
Thos. C. Smart, Macquarie-street.  
John Doughty, Elizabeth-street.  
William L. Crowther, Macquarie-street.  
Edwd. Swarbreck Hall, Elizabeth-street.  
Richd. Bright, 53, Collins-street.