



MEDIA ADVISORY

Tuesday, 20 November 2018

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE 'A'
SUB-COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO
ACUTE HEALTH SERVICES IN TASMANIA**

The Government Administration Committee A Sub-Committee inquiring into Acute Health Services has released a second Interim Report to ensure Parliament and members of the public are updated in a timely manner on further evidence received to date.

The Report is available to access online via the inquiry webpage at: <http://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/ctee/Council/GovAdminA HealthServices.htm>

Inquiry Chair, The Hon Rob Valentine MLC, said further information and updated submissions from individuals and organisations had been received since the re-establishment of the Inquiry, following formation of the new Parliament earlier in the year.

Mr Valentine said the Tasmanian Health Service was facing increasing demand for acute health services and is currently unable to efficiently or effectively meet this demand.

“Hospital overcrowding has become the norm, as we see constant pressure to access services that are increasingly difficult to provide, due to patient flow issues, high bed occupancy levels, ambulance ramping and delays to patient discharge. These all contribute to longer stays in emergency departments and hospital wards, higher rates of adverse outcomes and, unfortunately, avoidable mortality.

Mr Valentine stated “Patient safety is paramount, however individual doctors and nurses can only do so much in overcrowded hospitals and this Inquiry has provided insight to certain areas needing significant attention if patient outcomes and the patient experience overall are to be improved.”

“Historic underfunding of acute health services over many years also needs to be addressed to avoid the regular need to ‘top-up’ health budgets to meet funding shortfalls” Mr Valentine stated.

Mr Valentine said the Sub-Committee strongly recommends the Government consider the findings and respond to the recommendations in the Report as people are experiencing adverse outcomes in our hospitals and that this was simply unacceptable.

A final report will be produced once further information requested of the Minister has been received and considered by the Sub-Committee on the resumption of Parliament in the New Year.

The Members of the Sub-Committee will be available for comment at 1pm on Tuesday 20 November on Parliament House lawns.

For further information: Hon Rob Valentine MLC – 0418 127 323

Ends