

CONSTITUENT QUESTION

House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Cecily Rosol MP

ANSWERED BY: Hon Guy Barnett MP
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing

QUESTION:

In June 2023, St Helen's Private Hospital closed with the loss of eight beds in the mother and baby unit. Three mother and baby beds were created at Royal Hobart Hospital and a four-bed, co-located unit is due in the north by Mother's Day next year. The federal government funded Tasmanian navigator nurse positions to guide new and expecting parents to mental health support, with 295 referrals received to date this year.

Modelling indicates that eight beds are needed to meet need around the state, and current services are woefully insufficient. Your 2030 Strong Plan states that in your first 100 days of government you will establish a new Telehealth support and statewide phone service for parents. To date no funding agreement or SLAs have been signed for this service.

A concerned constituent has asked when they can expect the Telehealth support and phone service to begin operation so Tasmanian parents can receive the help they need when they need it.

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ANSWER:

I am pleased to advise the statewide Tasmanian Parenting Support Line commenced operation from July 1 2024, as part of our important

partnership with Tresillian Family Care Centres – meeting the commitment under our 100 day plan.

This means Tasmanian parents can now freecall 1300 TAS BUB (1300 827 282) between 7.00am and 11.00pm, seven days a week, where they can receive telephone support and guidance from a specialist Tresillian child and family health nurse.

APPROVED

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Guy Barnett', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon Guy Barnett MP
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing

Date: 15 July 2024