

Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation Treatment in Tasmania

Ms JOHNSTON question to PREMIER

My constituent's son William has treatment resistant depression and relies on regular transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS), an evidence-based treatment that allows him to live and work with some normality. Until this week, he received that care as an inpatient of the Hobart Clinic. With its closure and the earlier loss of St Helens, there are now no affordable inpatient TMS options in Tasmania. Outpatient treatment costs at least \$600 every six weeks with no Medicare or private health rebate. Without regular TMS, patients risk relapse, hospitalisation and increased suicidal ideation. Two years after assurances from you and the then Health Minister, TMS is still not available at the Royal Hobart Hospital. When will this service be available in the public system? What support will be offered to Tasmanians like William who otherwise face going interstate or paying unaffordable costs?