

CONSTITUENT QUESTION IN PARLIAMENT

House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Simon Behrakis MP

ANSWERED BY: Hon Guy Barnett MP

QUESTION:

1. One of my constituents, 83-year-old Bert from Moonah, has raised with me his concerns that lifts in the Royal Hobart Hospital do not have any handrails, which causes some difficulty for the elderly and those with disability who attend the hospital. Would the Royal Hobart Hospital consider ensuring handrails are installed in the lifts?

ANSWER:

The main Royal Hobart Hospital (RHH) campus features 32 lifts used regularly for public, staff and patient transport. This excludes lifts that are not regularly accessed by the public (e.g. goods lifts). Lifts in the Hobart Private Hospital are also not included.

The most contemporary building on site, K block, includes 13 lifts installed in 2018, fitted with handrails in alignment with legislative requirements. There are 19 lifts servicing the remainder of the site.

It is understood the majority of these lifts feature at least 1 handrail, though a small number have none. In some cases, due to the size of the lift cars, the inclusion of additional handrails could potentially inhibit their suitability to transport patient beds.

The Department will undertake an audit of its existing lifts to confirm if additional handrails are able to be installed, and without limiting their suitability to transport patients in beds.

The Department is currently progressing the upgrade of four lifts within A block at the RHH. When installed, these lifts will be fully compliant with DDA requirements.

Procurement for a lead contractor is currently underway.

Long lead times associated with the procurement of the lift components means the project will likely commence in the new year, with the replacements to be staged over one and a half years to limit the impact to clinical services.

APPROVED/NOT APPROVED

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Guy Barnett', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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

Date: 7 June 2024