



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
SESSION OF 2018
(FIRST SESSION OF THE FORTY-NINTH PARLIAMENT)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 17

TUESDAY, 21 AUGUST 2018

1 COUNCIL MEETS.— The Council met at 11.00 o'clock in the forenoon and the President read Prayers.

2 TAZREACH SERVICES NORTH WEST TASMANIA.— Ms *Forrest* asked the Honourable the Leader of the Government —

According to the DHHS website (Table headed – TAZREACH Services – North West as at July 2017), there are a number of health professionals across Tasmania who are funded through Commonwealth Government programs to provide outreach services to people living in rural, remote and certain urban locations through TAZREACH Services – North West. With regard the Table and the services detailed in it

1. Does the table accurately reflect the number of services that have been committed to under the various funding streams?
2. For each of the services listed in the table:
 - (a) what services have been provided?
 - (b) how many visits to each location have been provided per annum?
 - (c) what dates were these services provided? and
 - (d) at what locations were the services delivered for example, in clients homes, Council offices, local hospital or other health facility, or at other locations?
3. Are any other service providers providing allied health services to rural areas in the North West? And If so, which services and to which locations?
4. How do these numbers per capita compare with the North and South of the state?

Mrs *Hiscutt* answered

1. All services listed on the table accurately reflect what was delivered during 2017–2018, with the following exceptions:
 - A new visiting psychiatrist was recruited for King Island in order to increase the annual number of clinics available, which did result in a temporary reduction in service levels for a time while recruitment was completed.
 - The provider of the Neuro-psychology – Early Onset Dementia service decided to cease delivery. Funding from the Neuro-psychology – Early Onset Dementia service was reallocated to increase services for people with Huntington's Disease in Devonport and Launceston.
 - Recruitment of a service provider for community-based health promotion activities on King Island resulted in a temporary reduction in service levels while the recruitment process was completed.

From time to time, service providers decide to move away from Tasmania, retire, or for other reasons, cease providing outreach services. TAZREACH has no control over these decisions but will always work to ensure the best possible outcomes for the affected communities.

2. (a) Refer to the tabled document Attachment 1 for a full list of services and frequency.
All services in the table were operational throughout 2017–18, and, with the exceptions noted in the answer to Question 1, have been delivering their planned level of service. In addition, seven services received one or two additional visits in order to meet ongoing high demand.
- (b) Refer to the tabled document Attachment 1.
The final number of visits provided during 2017–18 will not be known until all service claim forms are submitted to TAZREACH by service providers. Available service data indicates that over 90% of services will complete their full allocation of visits in 2018–19. It is not unusual for at least some services to not complete one or two of their allocated visits, due usually to holiday breaks, family leave or personal illness.
- (c) Refer to the tabled document Attachment 1.
- (d) Services are mainly delivered at Tasmanian Health Service (THS) rural hospitals and community health centres. Aboriginal health services are delivered at Circular Head Aboriginal Corporation (CHAC) and the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC) in Burnie. A small number of services are delivered at Rural Health Tasmania in Ulverstone, Devonport GP Superclinic, and Ochre Health medical practice in Strahan.

No TAZREACH services were delivered in the home, however professional guidelines and governance process to ensure the safety and quality of home visits has recently been developed for TAZREACH services in the event that this occurs in the future.

3. The Tasmanian Health Service (THS) provides a range of allied health services across the north-west of Tasmania and the West Coast, including occupational therapy and physiotherapy clinics to the West Coast, Circular Head and King Island. These are a mixture of regular clinics which vary from weekly to quarterly depending upon the nature of the clinic and the numbers of people waiting for consultations. Some of these services may be provided in the client's home if that is necessary, otherwise they provided at THS facilities.

Primary Health Tasmania (PHT) funds a range of organisations, including the Royal Flying Doctors Service Tasmania (RFDS Tas), to provide allied health services for people with diabetes, mental illness, chronic conditions, and geriatric conditions.

PHT also funds Rural Health Tasmania, a non-government organisation located in North-West Tasmania, to deliver services for people with mental illnesses, cancer and other chronic conditions.

Other known service providers that are located in the North-West or visit the North-West for the provision of allied health-type services additional to TAZREACH funding include:

- St Giles
- Rural Alive and Well (RAW)
- Youth and Community Connections (youth drug and alcohol service in Burnie)
- Australian Hearing.

The Government, through TAZREACH and other agencies, does attempt to collect information about existing services from known service provider organisations such as RFDS Tas and PHT, however these organisations are under no obligation to provide or proactively update this information when a service profile changes. As such, the Government does not currently possess completely comprehensive information about the level and frequency of allied health services provided by all organisations in the North-West.

HealthWest Queenstown and the King Island Hospital and Community Health Centre employ some allied health staff, the nature of which changes from time to time depending on workforce availability. For example, this may be a mental health worker or social worker. These positions are typically part-time only. There has also been a Nurse Practitioner position on the West Coast.

There are also privately practising optometrists, physiotherapists, podiatrists, dieticians, and social workers at Devonport and Burnie, some of whom may provide visiting services to other parts of the North West and West Coast from time to time.

The location and frequency of all of these services can vary at any time according to provider availability and the organisation's decision-making around service priorities. For example, Diabetes Tasmania may provide a service to locations in the North-West if that is requested directly, but will typically only schedule an outreach visit when there is sufficient number of referrals waiting.

4. All rural and remote parts of the State (and Australia generally), are subject to the same variables and indeterminacies in levels of service provision and service profiles, largely as a result of workforce shortages in areas of low population density and consequent relatively low demand compared to urban centres. For reasons of these variables it is not possible to determine the overall level of service per capita in the North-West, or to compare service levels in the North-West with other parts of the State.

An analysis of 2017–2018 TAZREACH service data shows the following:

- North West Tasmania and the West Coast have so far been provided with 684 clinics across 92 services. Of those 92 services, 25 are Aboriginal health services, and 67 are mainstream health services.
- Northern Tasmania has so far been provided with 644 clinics for 81 services. Of those 81 services, 31 are Aboriginal health services and 50 are mainstream health services.
- Northern Tasmania has so far been provided with 406 clinics for 48 services. Of those 48 services 25 are Aboriginal health services and 23 are mainstream services.

Importantly, this service distribution reflects population data for Aboriginal Tasmanians.

With the roll out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), there is a likely to be improved market prospects for private providers in regions, particularly for disciplines that did not have much of a prospect for operating privately in the past such as occupational therapy and speech pathology.

3 LEAVE TO TABLE ANSWER TO QUESTION AND INCORPORATE ANSWER INTO HANSARD.—*Ordered*, That Mrs *Hiscutt* have leave to Table answer to Question No. 3 and have the answer incorporated into the Hansard record.

4 PAPERS.—The Clerk of the Council laid upon the Table the following Papers:—

- (1) Occupational Licensing Act 2005: Statutory Rules 2018, No. 21, containing Occupational Licensing (Electrical Work) Amendment Regulation 2018.
- (2) Liquor Licensing Act 1990: Statutory Rules 2018, No. 22, containing Liquor Licensing (Infringement Notices) Regulations 2018.
- (3) Local Government Act 1993: Statutory Rules 2018, No. 50, containing Local Government (General) Amendment Regulations (No. 2) 2018.
- (4) Heavy Vehicle National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2018: Act No. 10 of 2018. Parliament of Queensland.
- (5) Hobart City Council: Infrastructure By-Law. By-Law No. 1 of 2018.
- (6) Hobart City Council: Environment Health By-Law. By-Law No. 2 of 2018.
- (7) Hobart City Council: Waste Management By-Law. By-Law No. 3 of 2018.
- (8) Hobart City Council: Parking By-Law. By-Law No. 4 of 2018.
- (9) Hobart City Council: Parking By-Law. By-Law No. 5 of 2018.
- (10) Tasman Council: Regulatory Services By-Law. By-Law No. 1 of 2018.

5 ROYAL ASSENT TO BILL.— The President read a Message from Her Excellency the Administrator as follows:—

MESSAGE

Justice Helen Wood, Administrator

A Bill for an Act to assist the acute demand for housing to be met, by enabling the rapid, appropriate rezoning of certain government land, the alteration of planning provisions that apply to such land, the transfer to the Director of Housing of Crown land that is declared to be housing supply land under this Act, and for related purposes (Bill No. 19 (*Act No. 8 of 2018*))

having been presented to the Administrator for the Royal Assent, she has, in the name and on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen, assented to the said Bill.

Government House, Hobart, 20 July 2018

6 ROYAL ASSENT TO BILLS.— The President read a Message from Her Excellency the Administrator as follows:—

MESSAGE

Justice Helen Wood, Administrator

A Bill for an Act to the appropriation of \$4 747 600 000 out the Consolidated Fund for the services of the Government for the financial year ending on 30 June 2019 (Bill No. 16 (*Act No. 6 of 2018*))

A Bill for an Act for the appropriation of \$31 708 000 out of the Consolidated Fund for the services of the Parliament and Statutory Offices for the financial year ending on 30 June 2019 (Bill No. 17 (*Act No. 7 of 2018*))

having been presented to the Administrator for the Royal Assent, she has, in the name and on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen, assented to the said Bill.

Government House, Hobart, 20 July 2018

7 STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT –APPOINTMENT OF TAMARA CLARK ELECTORATE OFFICER.— The President said —

“Honourable Members, before proceeding to the business of the day it is with pleasure that I formally and very warmly welcome to this Chamber Tamara Clark. Tamara is a recent addition to the staff of the Legislative Council.

Tamara took up her position as Electorate Officer to the Honourable Member for Launceston on 25 July. Tamara has relocated back to Launceston from Western Australia and has extensive experience in marketing, events management, media and communications.

She has worked with a number of high profile public and private organisations such as the Wesfarmers Group, the University of Western Australia, Department of Housing and Works (Western Australia), Home and Living Lifestyle Magazine and Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in Launceston.”

8 SPECIAL INTEREST MATTERS.— The President advised the Chamber of six Members who had indicated their desire to speak and of the order in which they were to speak as follows —

- (1) Mr *Finch* – Justices of the Peace;
- (2) Ms *Forrest* – Junction Arts;
- (3) Mr *Gaffney* – BioMar;
- (4) Mr *Dean* – Neville-Smith Forest Products;
- (5) Ms *Armitage* – Tasmanian Dog Training Club; and
- (6) Mrs *Hiscutt* – Ulverstone Poultry Club’s Chook Amnesty initiative.

At the conclusion of Special Interest Matters the Council proceeded to Orders of the Day.

9 COMMONWEALTH WOMEN’S FORUM.— A Motion was made (Ms *Forrest*) and the Question was proposed, That this House —

- (1) Notes the Outcome Statement of The Commonwealth Women's Forum (CWF) held in London, United Kingdom from 16 to 18 April 2018; and
- (2) That the Council further acknowledges and notes —
 - (a) That the Commonwealth Women's Forum (CWF) focused on the theme “An Empowered Future for Women and Girls” with the ambition of finding ways to accelerate the advancement of gender equality for sustainable development, prosperity and peace for all women and girls in the Commonwealth;
 - (b) That despite the concerted efforts to transform the subordinate position of women and girls in many societies, the progress made so far towards gender equality, the advancement of the status of women and girls has been slow and uneven and investment to address the inequalities between women and men in all areas of social, civic, and economic life, including in efforts to address the impact of climate change has been low;
 - (c) That women face bias along multiple identity dimensions, including gender, race, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and age and we must focus our efforts on those facing multiple disadvantage where progress is slowest and that addressing this is a pre-condition for the promotion of women's leadership, economic empowerment and equitable participation in all spheres, which will result in an empowered future for women and girls; and
 - (d) That the Commonwealth Women's Forum (CWF) called on the Commonwealth to lead the world by creating and strengthening an enabling environment for women's empowerment, for a sustainable, secure, prosperous, and fairer society that is free from violence and coercion, focuses on actions to mainstream gender in all government programmes, policies and initiatives; including gender budgeting.

A Debate arose thereupon.

Ordered, That the Debate be adjourned. (Ms *Forrest*)

10 SITTING SUSPENDED.— *Resolved*, That the Sitting of the Council be suspended until the ringing of the Division bells for the purpose of a briefing. (Mrs *Hiscutt*)

The Sitting was suspended at 11.58 o'clock a.m. and resumed at 2.30 o'clock p.m.

11 DISTINGUISHED VISITORS.— The President said “I would like to draw to the attention of Honourable Members the presence in the Chamber of the Rotary Club of Central Launceston”.

12 QUESTION TIME.— The President called for Questions without Notice. There were four Questions asked.

13 SITTING SUSPENDED.— *Resolved*, That the Sitting of the Council be suspended until the ringing of the Division bells for the purpose of a briefing. (Mrs *Hiscutt*).

The Sitting was suspended at 2.42 o'clock p.m. and resumed at 3.33 o'clock p.m.

14 COMMONWEALTH WOMEN'S FORUM.— The Council, according to order, resumed the Debate on the Question, That this House —

- (1) Notes the Outcome Statement of The Commonwealth Women's Forum (CWF) held in London, United Kingdom from 16 to 18 April 2018; and
- (2) That the Council further acknowledges and notes —
 - (a) That the Commonwealth Women's Forum (CWF) focused on the theme “An Empowered Future for Women and Girls” with the ambition of finding ways to accelerate the advancement of gender equality for sustainable development, prosperity and peace for all women and girls in the Commonwealth;
 - (b) That despite the concerted efforts to transform the subordinate position of women and girls in many societies, the progress made so far towards gender equality, the advancement of the status of women and girls has been slow and uneven and investment to address the inequalities between women and men in all areas of social, civic, and economic life, including in efforts to address the impact of climate change has been low;

- (c) That women face bias along multiple identity dimensions, including gender, race, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and age and we must focus our efforts on those facing multiple disadvantage where progress is slowest and that addressing this is a pre-condition for the promotion of women's leadership, economic empowerment and equitable participation in all spheres, which will result in an empowered future for women and girls; and
- (d) That the Commonwealth Women's Forum (CWF) called on the Commonwealth to lead the world by creating and strengthening an enabling environment for women's empowerment, for a sustainable, secure, prosperous, and fairer society that is free from violence and coercion, focuses on actions to mainstream gender in all government programmes, policies and initiatives; including gender budgeting.

And the Question being put,

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

15 SALE OF ANGLICAN CHURCH PROPERTIES.— A Motion was made (Ms *Howlett*) and the Question was proposed, That the Legislative Council:

- (1) Commends the Anglican Church for their decision to participate in the National Redress Scheme.
- (2) Notes that the Anglican Church intends to fund their participation by the sale of 109 properties across the State.
- (3) Notes the concerns raised in regards to the potential adverse impacts of this decision on local communities.
- (4) Calls on the Anglican Church to consider these concerns, and to assess the suitability of adopting alternative funding methods, such as selling their commercial properties, or borrowing against the properties proposed for sale.

A Debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put,

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

16 BILL NO 21.— A Message from the House of Assembly:—

MR PRESIDENT,

The House of Assembly hath passed a Bill, intituled — “A Bill for An Act to amend the *Police Offences Act 1935*”,

to which the House desires the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

House of Assembly, 21 August 2018

S. HICKEY, *Speaker*

The Bill was read the First time.

Ordered, That the Second reading of the Bill be made an Order of the Day for Tuesday next.
(Mrs *Hiscutt*)

17 BILL NO 20.— A Message from the House of Assembly:—

MR PRESIDENT,

The House of Assembly hath passed a Bill, intituled — “A Bill for An Act to amend the Bail Act 1994, and the Corrections Act 1997, in relation to the granting of bail or parole to certain persons linked to terrorist activities, and for related purposes”,

to which the House desires the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

House of Assembly, 21 August 2018

S. HICKEY, *Speaker*

The Bill was read the First time.

Ordered, That the Second reading of the Bill be made an Order of the Day for Tuesday next.
(Mrs *Hiscutt*)

18 ADJOURNMENT.— A Motion was made (Mrs *Hiscutt*) and the Question was put, That the Council will at its rising adjourn until 11.00 o'clock am on Wednesday, 22 August 2018. (Mrs *Hiscutt*)

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

Resolved, That the Council do now adjourn. (Mrs *Hiscutt*)

The Council adjourned at 5.59 o'clock pm.

D.T. PEARCE, *Clerk of the Council*.

Briefing:

- *Police Offences Amendment (Prohibited Insignia) Bill 2018*