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14 October 2024

Cecily Rosol MP
Greens Member for Bass
Email: Cecily.rosol@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Rosol

Regarding your question in Parliament on 19 September 2024:

"A number of constituents in Bass have written to me with concerns about inpatient and outpatient renal facilities in Launceston. Despite federal funding announced in 2019 for redevelopment of the Kings Meadows Community Health Centre and satellite renal unit, the project has seen little progress.

We have heard from several constituents that the renal service is overwhelmed. There is a lack of sightlines to patients on dialysis, overcrowded facilities with non-compliant and insufficient storage space and one constituent told us of patients having reduced haemodialysis treatments in the Launceston General Hospital acute renal unit due to overflow from the Kings Meadow Satellite Renal Unit resulting in insufficient dialysis spaces for the number of people requiring treatment.

My constituents would like to know what has happened to the federal funding promised in 2019 and when will additional state funding be allocated to ensure the Kings Meadow Satellite Renal Unit is properly redeveloped?"

My response is as follows:

The Australian Government has provided funding of \$10 million through the Community Health and Hospitals Program to redevelop and expand the Kings Meadows Community Health Centre (KMCHC).

The Department has been working through the challenge of how best to apply the Australian Government funding to improve the facilities, while achieving the objective of expanding and redeveloping the facility.

The outcome of this process has identified that the redevelopment and expansion can best be achieved through a staged approach:

- Stage 1: includes the demolition of the existing smaller Joan Marshall building and construction of a new building with an expanded footprint.
- Stage 2: proposed to include demolition and replacement of the main building at the KMCHC to improve and potentially expand service delivery for both allied health and oral health services.

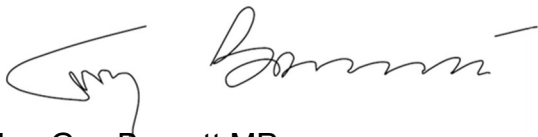
In Stage 1, the new building will allow renal services to relocate from their existing space at the KMCHC and **increase their service capacity from 15 to 18 chairs**, which equates to six additional treatments per day. The new facility will be fit-for-purpose and will address current issues including restricted sight lines to clients, overcrowding and non-compliant storage space.

At this stage there is no need for the State Government to commit additional funds for Stage 1 of the project as preliminary investigations indicate the redevelopment can occur with the funding provided by the Australian Government.

The Department is currently engaging with the Australian Government regarding funding for the second stage of the development. The Department is also assessing what priority repairs can be conducted to the main building during Stage 1 to address building condition issues to improve conditions for the occupants until Stage 2 occurs.

It is anticipated that Stage 1 works will commence on site at the KMCHC in mid-2025 and will be completed in mid-2026.

Yours sincerely

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