

# CONSTITUENT QUESTION

## House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Janie Finlay MP

ANSWERED BY: Hon Jacquie Petrusma MP

### QUESTION:

My question is from a constituent in Bass, Mrs Gutteridge. She has deep and real concerns - and I understand you have had a phone call with her - about the condition for renal patients in northern Tasmania. She is particularly concerned about the impact of the facilities on their mental health as they are undergoing treatment. The proposed improvements to the Kings Meadows Health Centre, as an example, provides for 18 renal patients, but only has five windows. Mrs Gutteridge is particularly concerned about the impact on nursing staff and patients. She wants to understand whether you will meet with her and what you will do to appoint a renal dietician and a renal psychologist.

### ANSWER:

I acknowledge Mrs Gutteridge's commitment and advocacy for renal services in Northern Tasmania, particularly in relation to the Kings Meadows Community Health Centre (KMCHC).

I can confirm I met with Mrs Gutteridge, along with the Secretary of the Department of Health, on 4 December 2024 to discuss her concerns in more detail.

The Australian Government has provided funding of \$10 million under the Community Health and Hospitals Program (CHHP) to redevelop the KMCHC. The \$10 million is proposed to fund Stage 1 of a two-stage redevelopment at the site, which will involve demolition of the smaller Joan Marshall building to construct a new Renal Services treatment space. This offers a new health facility designed for better patient flow, that is fit for purpose, and enables high quality and safe clinical care.

Stage 1 is well underway with the Development Application submitted to the City of Launceston on 25 September 2024. Construction is expected to commence in the third quarter of 2025 and be completed in 2026.

However, it is clear that more investment is needed to better meet the needs of Tasmanians and their renal services.

I have written to both major parties ahead of the Federal election due in 2025 requesting a \$14 million commitment to deliver Stage 2, which will demolish and replace the existing main building, provide contemporary clinical accommodation for the remaining services currently operating from the site including Oral Health Services, and provide additional expansion capacity for renal services.

Regarding allied health staff such as a renal psychologist and renal dietitian, work is underway to allow clinical and allied health staff to work at different facilities such as Kings Meadows.

APPROVED/NOT APPROVED



Hon Jacqui Petrusma MP  
Minister for Health

Date: 23/12/24