

CONSTITUENT QUESTION

House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Michael Ferguson MP

ANSWERED BY: Hon Bridget Archer MP
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing

QUESTION:

My constituency question is on behalf of my constituent Bridget, who generously shared with me her struggle with chronic pain. I greatly admire Bridget and her husband for the way they manage that pain, but importantly, the way they have advocated on behalf of other people with similar struggles. I ask the minister to advise me on progress toward the Persistent Pain clinic for Launceston for the people of my community, and exactly when people will be able to receive support from that new service.

ANSWER:

- Our government absolutely recognises and understands the importance of specialist services for people living with musculoskeletal conditions, including persistent pain, and we are committed to providing equitable access to these services for Tasmanians right across the State.
- In line with that commitment, work is continuing to establish permanent rheumatology and enhanced persistent pain service capability in Northern Tasmania.
- Recruitment is approaching finalisation at the Launceston General Hospital to permanently appoint:
 - Specialist Rheumatology Consultant/s
 - Advanced scope physiotherapists
 - Clinical Nurse Consultant.

- Administrative support.
- I am advised that following the finalisation of recruitment, the permanent services for Northern Tasmania will be established early next year.
- This new rheumatology service will complement existing musculoskeletal care pathways, including:
 - Orthopaedic and neurosurgical services, and
 - Allied health-led non-surgical back pain and joint assessment and treatment.
- Additionally, the Department has already progressed improved persistent pain service capability, supported by a partnership with a private pain specialist service in Launceston and the Overcoming Pain and Living Life (OPALL) service, which is a ten-week course for people experiencing complex persistent pain comorbid with one or more other conditions.
- This service is available now and patients can access it through a referral from their GP to the Launceston General Hospital, Specialist Outpatient Clinics.



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Date: 02 DEC 2025