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ONE HEALTH SYSTEM
Green Paper Submission

Submitted by:

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Full List of Consultation Questions

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| COMMUNITY | ? | • Is the Tasmanian health system all it should be, or should we be open to change in order to improve outcomes for all Tasmanians regardless of where they live? |
| COMMUNITY | ? | • How would you find out about what travel support, information and services are available to you to get the right care, by the right person, the first time? |
| COMMUNITY | ? | • If you are already a user of these services, are they sufficient? |
| COMMUNITY | ? | • If it improves the quality and safety of care, do you agree we should limit the number of sites at which some services are provided? |
| COMMUNITY | ? | • If yes, what should we consider in deciding where a service is located and what support needs to be considered to ensure patients have equitable access? |
| CLINICIAN | ? | • How well does the proposed framework align with practice in your discipline? |
| CLINICIAN | ? | • Where are the areas of service duplication in your discipline? |
| CLINICIAN | ? | • Where are the gaps? |
| CLINICIAN | ? | • Are there any services being inappropriately provided, or planned, at your facility? |
| CLINICIAN | ? | • How do we promote and maintain safe primary and community care to consumers and communities such that they seek out these services rather than attend Emergency Departments when their conditions are more advanced? |
| CLINICIAN | ? | • How do we determine which services to focus on to expand the role of primary and community care? |
| COMMUNITY | ? | • What services do you currently receive in a hospital setting that you think could be safely delivered in your community? |
| COMMUNITY | ? | • How can we better help you understand the standard of care you are entitled to, and support your involvement in your healthcare decisions? |
| COMMUNITY | ? | • What public-private partnerships should we explore for the delivery of health services in Tasmania? |
| CLINICIAN | ? | • What services do not have sufficient volume or activity in Tasmania to maintain a safe, high quality service? |
| CLINICIAN | ? | • What additional areas should we be considering for interstate partnerships in order to improve service within Tasmania? |
| CLINICIAN | ? | • What services, despite comparatively low volumes, should we continue or invest in in Tasmania, and what interstate supports may be required to maintain them? |

Submission to the Green Paper on Tasmania's Proposed new Health System

Is the Tasmanian Health System all it should be?

Of course it isn't, as is commonplace in Australia as a whole. However, in the public health forum the Hon Minister Michael Ferguson mentioned **three** cities Burnie, Launceston, Hobart.

It is worthy of note that there is a **fourth** and that is the city of Devonport **with a fast growing population**. As such, like the other three cities it deserves a fully operational hospital with specialists, and the necessary clinicians. In no way should the Mersey Community Hospital bear the brunt of a downgrade but rather the opposite. The North West have already been purged in the past, and will not support any suggestion of closure or downgrade whether or not it belongs to the Federal Government or the State.

The Minister promised and guaranteed **that no hospital would be closed** however, what if the Federal Government happened to one day renege on keeping the Mersey Community Hospital. We would expect the State Government to **still honour** that promise and guarantee. Tasmanians, regardless of where they live, deserve these improved outcomes including the population of the North West.

With regard a suggestion of a hospital at either Ulverstone or Penguin. This would be an atrocious waste of money, as there are two perfectly good hospitals, one at Burnie, one at Latrobe providing neither is downgraded in any way.

With regard finding out about what travel support, information and services are available for the right care, your GP would be the first stop, and therefore, it is the responsibility of GPs to familiarise themselves with that support. We are very fortunate in so much as we have an excellent GP with all that information at her fingertips. Hospitals also should be capable of the same.

Both my wife and I have used these services and still do, and find them satisfactory in fact, we count ourselves most fortunate. We have used Allied Health at the GP's suggestion, and also I have used the cancer transport for Radiotherapy at the Holman Clinic Launceston.

Quality and safety of care have been with the services provided in our experience, and we do not agree that the limitation of sites for such services an ideal solution. Most certainly, sites should be at each of the hospitals for a start, and from a central point in regional areas.

Services are difficult to define according to what your health problem is.

My wife has cardiac problems as well as diabetes. She attended the cardiac rehabilitation at the Mersey Community Hospital and it was excellent, and should be a permanent service and

upgraded wherever possible. There is also the Heartmoves that I believe is connected to the Heart Foundation and though not in a hospital setting is a good follow up to the Hospital Cardiac Rehab. From my wife's experience, with regard Hospital Cardiac Rehab it couldn't have been more safely delivered.

Supporting our involvement in healthcare decisions is a combination of your own interest and that of your GP. Communication on **both** levels is vitally important and this requires a good family medical practice who carry out that necessary communication whether it be for checkups, blood tests etc.

As regard public-private partnerships Tele communication would be excellent and should be explored more than it is in Tasmania. In 2013 my wife had an Ischaemic Stroke and after being admitted by the Mersey Community Hospital, was flown down to Hobart where she was seen by the neurosurgeon. Later, when her time came for a review which would have meant travelling down to Hobart for possibly a short discussion with the neurosurgeon plus all the stress associated with such an upheaval he phoned, and the review was carried out at home with no stress, no travel, and the same information that would have been presented had we travelled down to Hobart. For safe delivery that was the ideal.

There are various surgeons travelling from the south to the North West and there could be more I believe, even if they operated from doctor's surgeries.

One last point with regard the Mersey Community Hospital. A little while ago I experienced a very bad haemorrhage. We had just moved home to eight minutes drive from the Mersey Community. Previously we had lived at Staverton, forty five minutes drive from the hospital. The excellent doctor from Sydney caring for me, told me had I been in the previous address I would not have made it. This experience has been exactly the same for my wife who, if Mersey Hospital had not been there, would have suffered the same fate. These are only our personal experiences, but they are multiplied among the population in this area. This is why this Hospital, the **only one** the **City** of Devonport has, needs upgrading not downgrading in any discreet way.

When, by this Government, there are threats to nursing staff etc as regard lay offs, the health system in **any** state or country will suffer. Also, perhaps it would be a great idea if more expertise were gathered from overseas, and a greater encouragement given to them from Government to work specifically in understaffed hospitals here. An emphasis was placed on the table by a GP at the Public Health Forum stating that **population** dictated where ideal services were. There is no excuse that these required services should be absent from any of the **FOUR** hospitals in Tasmania.

