

Grey, Christine W (DHHS)

From: Fyfe, Scott W (DHHS)
Sent: Monday, 26 January 2015 11:13 AM
To: One Health System (DHHS)
Subject: Response to Green Paper - Delivering safe and sustainable clinical services.

Good morning,

I have previously submitted my response to the questions outlined in the paper and would like to expand on one particular point.

My speciality is as an Intensive Care Flight Paramedic with a total of 6 years on rotary wing as an Intensive Care Flight Paramedic (ICFP) with Air Ambulance Victoria.

The current system of response to initial incidents and subsequent inter facility transports results in significant time delays in transporting patients to definitive care facilities, especially where advanced procedures are required. For example a patient involved in a motor vehicle accident at Smithton with a head injury will be most likely taken un-intubated by Ambulance Tasmania (AT) into the NWRH, have their airway secured (following a significant delay from the initial insult) undergo investigations including scans etc and then ultimately be transported to the RHH usually by AMMRD. By contrast in Victoria once it was established the patient had a head injury a Helicopter with appropriately trained ICFP would respond to the case, secure the airway, initiate treatment with expanded scope of practice and transport them directly to facilities of definitive care, negating the need for subsequent transfers. Other non traumatic examples would include post cardiac arrests where AT has successfully resuscitated patients only to have them transported to their local hospital and again ultimately transferred to either LGH or RHH.

The Green Paper suggests change in the whole of health service delivery throughout Tasmania and I strongly support this. Safe and sustainable clinical services also means delivering the right patient to the right facility in the first instance by AT, reducing overall costs in the long term, something that is not common place throughout Tasmania with the exception the surrounding Hobart areas and Launceston areas. A rotary wing platform will be integral in achieving this, along with expansion of capacity of private transport mediums in moving non urgent patients between facilities.

Regards

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