



Green Paper – West Coast Council Submission on Questions

Question: *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?*

No the Tasmanian Health System is not all it could be. Change to improve outcomes for everybody would be good.

West Coast residents need to travel currently for just about every level of service above a GP consultation.

Improvement in transport options is needed to facilitate access to services – Burnie, Launceston and Hobart hospitals. Accommodation options also need to be available for those that need them. A community car system is currently operated for those that cannot make their own way. This service could be improved and be available to anybody needing to access medical services outside our district.

Question: *How would you find out about what travel support, information and services are available to get you to the right care, by the right person the first time?*

Good Question, this should be available at the local Health Centre ie through a GP referral or Community Service Provider.

Question: *If you are already a user of these services are they sufficient?*

One would have to admit they are scattered with different levels of service/care at different sites. Generally we find the level of service gets better the further afield you go ie specialist cancer treatment in Melbourne.

Question: *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?*

If it improves the quality and safety of care then limiting the sites for delivery is appropriate.

Question: *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?*

Access to the services is imperative via Community Transport Systems or Public Transport, the provision for accommodation for support family members where applicable. The service must have the ability to provide the care in a timely manner ie no long waiting lists.

Question: *What services do you currently receive in a hospital setting that you think could be safely delivered in your community.*

Good GP services in regional communities that can provide a level of service would save hospitals being overloaded. Being able to access a GP locally five days per week with some afterhours provision is important to all.

Question: *How can we better help you understand the standard of care you are entitled to and support your involvement in your health care decisions?*

Education and making sure the level of care entitled to is actually available (a GP service of 2 days per week to a town of 1000 people is not acceptable).

Question: *What Public-Private partnerships should we explore for the delivery of healthcare in Tasmania?*

The provision of specialist services in the Public System probably needs to be a mix of Public-Private to keep the best staff/professionals.