



ONE HEALTH SYSTEM FOR EVERYONE

One State, One Health System, Better Outcomes

One State, One Health System, Better Outcomes is our plan to deliver a better health system for everyone.

Despite the best efforts of doctors, nurses and other specialists, our health system is letting people down, it needs to change.

We have spent a lot of time listening to Tasmanians about what they need from our health system. Now we have released what is called 'a White Paper Exposure Draft' which talks about the changes we want to make so Tasmania's health system is better for everyone.

Instead of regional health systems competing against each other for specialists and equipment we are moving to one single state-wide system where we all work together.

This is not about saving money – it is about getting people off waiting lists and into better care.

Every hospital will remain open and have an important role to play.

The difference is hospitals will specialise in the procedures they are best equipped to provide and patients will go to where the best service and experts are.

That may be on your doorstep, or it could mean going to a hospital a little further away. To make any travel easier on patients and their families, we will look at how we can strengthen transport and accommodation support.

What's important is that you will get the best medical attention.

This new, better coordinated approach will result in less duplication and waste, so a greater share of health funding can go towards more people getting treated and waiting lists being reduced.

The benefits of one health system will be shared around the state with higher quality services and better results for patients.

[For more information go to: www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/onehealthsystem](http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/onehealthsystem)



What does this mean for the North?

One health system for everyone means that patients in Northern Tasmania will be able to get higher quality services and expect better results when they require surgery and other health care support.

The Launceston General Hospital (LGH) has an important role to play in a more coordinated health system that benefits everyone.

The LGH will remain a major referral hospital and it will be able to provide more complex health care. In some cases where it has the most expertise, the LGH will provide specialists across the entire North of the State, so patients can access the best treatment and get the best result.

Changes include:

- A **Northern integrated cancer service** that also treats people in the North West, and
- **More services** at the LGH to meet patient demand –
 - This includes endocrinology, infectious diseases, neurology, respiratory medicine, rheumatology and pain management, oral health services, child and adolescent mental health services and geriatric services.
- Neonatal services will continue to be provided, however premature babies will be transferred to the higher level unit in Hobart at 30 weeks to ensure they have the best possible chance of survival.

the patient journey

Now

Mike is a 60 year old mechanic from Launceston. He has had crippling wrist pain and pins and needles in his hand due to carpal tunnel syndrome for two years. He frequently drops his tools, and some days cannot work at all.

Mike has been on the waiting list for a carpal tunnel release for 18 months. In the last six months, Mike has been called up for elective surgery by the LGH twice. Both times he took time off from work, arranged care for his pets and was admitted to the hospital for his operation.

Unfortunately, Mike's surgery was cancelled on both occasions due to other emergencies arriving, and he was sent home without being provided with a date when he would actually get his surgery.

One Health System

Mike has his surgery scheduled at the Mersey elective day surgery centre. He is provided with four weeks' notice and information about how his transport from Launceston to the Mersey can be supported, and reassured that his surgery would not be cancelled as the Mersey surgical services are not interrupted by emergency surgery.

Mike travels to the Mersey, has his procedure by the surgeon from Launceston (who had also travelled to the Mersey to undertake cases for the day) and returns home later that day.