



Hon Michael Ferguson  
Minister for Health  
Minister Information Technology and Innovation  
Leader of Government Business in the House of Assembly

20 February 2015

Dear Minister,

The Tasmanian General Practice Forum is pleased to be able to provide comment on the Tasmanian Government's Green Paper *Delivering Safe and Sustainable Clinical Services* as part of the *One State, One Health System, Better Outcomes* reform program.

The Tasmanian General Practice Forum is a source of information and comment from general practice. The Forum – comprising the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM), Australian Medical Association (AMA) Tasmania, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) Tasmania, Rural Doctors Association Tasmania (RDAT) and Tasmania Medicare Local (TML) – provide a forum of significant value and strength for discussion and positioning on key issues and challenges, and a mechanism for joint advocacy on important matters concerning general practitioners and the general practice sector.

Each of the five respective Forum organisations is addressing the Green Paper with separate submissions. Collectively, however, the above members of the Forum have agreed on the following recommendations as fundamental to the position of general practice as gate keepers of the health system:

Recommendation 1	That the White Paper, in defining a framework and steps to be followed in Tasmanian health system reform, acknowledges the essential system partnership role played by the primary care sector.
Recommendation 2	That clinically-led decision making and evidence be front and centre of all Tasmanian health system investment and policy.
Recommendation 3	That any proposed re-configuration of service delivery must involve consultation and joint planning with general practice to identify opportunities for improved utilisation of primary care capacity in the community.
Recommendation 4	General practice supports the Tasmanian Governments' emphasis on system integration and coordination recognising that strengthening the interface between tertiary and primary care, and also primary and community care, offers the greatest potential for system wide efficiencies to be realised.
Recommendation 5	That the comprehensive skill set General Practitioners apply in the primary and secondary care settings should be recognised in developing a Role Delineation Framework that includes recognising and responding innovatively to the unique needs of rural and remote communities.

The Forum looks forward to the release of the White Paper and to actively contributing to further the whole of health system reform that is required to make Tasmania a healthier state. The TGPF will continue to meet regularly to discuss Tasmanian health reform and provide consensus based advice from the General Practice community.

Yours sincerely

**Tasmanian General Practice Forum Members (as detailed below)**

If you would like more information please contact any of the member organisations.

**Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM)**

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