

Better Care in Northern Tasmania



A MAJORITY LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

- Invest \$160 million over the next six years to:
 - Open 40 new beds, including a new ward
 - Make the Community Rapid Response Service permanent
 - Recruit an estimated 161 new hospital and health staff
 - Deliver a \$87.3 million Launceston General Hospital Redevelopment
 - Invest \$5 million for up to 168 new car parks



More Services, More Staff

Ward 3D – A New 32 Bed Inpatient Ward

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will recruit, fully staff and open 32 new beds on a new Ward 3D.

As part of the \$87.3 million major redevelopment of the Launceston General Hospital, a new women's and children's clinic area will be built as an additional level on the upcoming Ward 4K redevelopment and extension.

This will provide a state-of-the-art facility for these important services. The space they currently occupy will be redeveloped as a new 32-bed inpatient ward.

The use of these new beds will be determined in consultation with clinicians, but it is estimated that almost 100 additional full-time staff will be recruited, including 60 nurses, 13 doctors, 10 allied health staff and more than 15 operational and administrative support staff.

Eight New Beds on Ward 4K

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will provide \$19.1 million over six years to fully staff and open eight additional beds on Ward 4K, on completion of the redevelopment, including specialist facilities for mental health care.

This will allow the Launceston General Hospital to deliver better psychiatric services to young patients and their families and carers, from across the North of Tasmania.

Detailed service planning will occur with staff and stakeholders while the construction of Ward 4K is completed, but it is expected approximately 26 additional full-time equivalent staff will be recruited, including 18 nurses, 2 doctors and 3 allied health staff.

It is expected the new beds will open when the Ward 4K Redevelopment is complete in 2019.

Our Targets

#24: 90% of Tasmanians will be treated within clinically recommended timeframes for their elective surgery by the end of the next four year term of Government

#25: 90% of emergency presentations will be in and out of the Emergency Department within four hours by 2022

#26: Reduce emergency ambulance response times to national average waiting time by 2025

Why Tasmania Needs This

We are seeing growing demand, and we must act now to boost capacity to ensure hospital services are available to all Tasmanians when they need them.

Our investment will see shorter waiting times in the ED, for Elective Surgery, for Outpatients, and will give Tasmanians the health system they need and deserve.



Supporting Care

Record Boost for Mental Health Care

As announced as part of the *Record Boost for Mental Health Care* policy, a re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will invest \$95 million in Mental Health care over the next six years to open new beds, employ more staff and provide better care.

The Tasmanian Liberals' *Record Boost for Mental Health Care* policy can be found online at: <http://bit.ly/MentalHealthcare>

180 More Nursing Graduates across Tasmania

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will fund an additional 30 nursing positions each year, which will see an additional 180 offered over the next six years.

It is estimated that 60 of these positions will be in Northern Tasmania.

This builds on the success of the expanded program introduced by the Hodgman Liberal Government in 2014, where transition to practice placements have increased each year.

Graduates will be offered positions at the major public hospitals around Tasmania, as well as at rural and regional sites, with placements over the last four years including Flinders Island MPC, Deloraine and George Town hospitals.

We will build on this, and also look for opportunities in other non-traditional placements such as combined placements across Child Health and Parenting Services, Paediatrics and associated services.



Health care closer to home

Community Rapid Response – Permanent Service for Launceston

A re-elected Hodgman Liberal Government will make the Community Rapid Response service a permanent part of the health system.

This is a continuation of the service established in the first term of the Hodgman Liberal Government, which supports people who need short-term intermediate care that can be safely delivered in the community or in the home.

The program provides around 8,500 appointments and other services each year and a survey of GPs found 96 per cent agreed the patients referred would otherwise have needed to go the LGH Emergency Department for intervention or hospitalisation.

We will invest \$6.9 million over the next six years, supported by 9 full-time equivalent staff, with 6 nurses and 3 allied health staff.

Urgent Care Centre Feasibility Study

A re-elected Hodgman Liberal Government will commission a feasibility study into establishing Urgent Care Centres in the Launceston area.

Under similar models operating interstate and overseas, specialist General Practitioners, supported by hospital specialists, provide care in the community.

This would take pressure off the Launceston General Hospital emergency department and help get people treated sooner and closer to where they live. The study will look at how such centres could work with the Community Rapid Response Service and local Health Centres.

Funding of \$120 000 is provided for the study, which is anticipated to take six months to complete.



Health care closer to home

Better Patient Transport on Flinders Island

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will provide \$30 000 per annum over two years to Community Transport Services Tasmania (CTST), to fund a two year pilot partnership program to extend transport operations on Flinders Island.

This partnership is expected to provide 3,000 trips over the course of the trial, helping connect local residents to both medical and social appointments.



Infrastructure Investment

Plan next stage of the LGH

A re-elected Hodgman Liberal Government will establish a masterplan for the LGH and adjacent health facilities for the next 50 years of health service delivery in Northern Tasmania, in line with Tasmania's Clinical Services Profile.

This process will begin by updating the LGH Master Plan, which was last reviewed in 2008, including an extensive public consultation process on what local residents want for the future of their hospital.

We will consider the proposed LGH co-location, in line with the unsolicited bids process, but a re-elected Hodgman Liberal Government will not hand land over to a private company free of charge and will not compromise the long-awaited 4K Children's Ward redevelopment.

This process will inform the delivery of our \$87.3 million Launceston General Hospital Redevelopment.

Launceston General Hospital Redevelopment

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will invest in a major redevelopment of the Launceston General Hospital.

Funding of \$87.3 million will be provided over six years, commencing in 2018-19, for a major redevelopment and expansion of the LGH building, including improvements across medical, surgical, maternity, obstetric, paediatric and mental health units.

The medical, surgical, maternity and paediatrics wards at the Launceston General Hospital were constructed 30 years ago

Planning for these upgrades will be informed by models of care, population characteristics, health facility guidelines and standards, as well as advances in building engineering and services, where there has been little or no change to the infrastructure over the past three decades.



Infrastructure Investment

Launceston General Hospital Redevelopment (continued)

The program of works will be subject to consultation with staff and stakeholders and is expected to include:

- Refurbishment of existing wards, and the development of new single rooms.
- Expansion of existing blocks to accommodate additional beds.
- A new Women's and Children's outpatient building on top of the proposed Ward 4K project.
- Contemporary mental health facilities.

The Redevelopment will commence immediately and will be finished in 2024.

Launceston General Hospital – Air Conditioning Upgrade

A re-elected Hodgman Liberal Government will invest \$1.4 million in a comprehensive air-conditioning upgrade at the Launceston General Hospital.

Many of the wards at the LGH were constructed three decades ago, and have seen little or no change over that time.

Funding will provide air-conditioning in some areas that have never had it before, such as wards in D-Block. In other areas, funding will provide for the upgrade of ageing infrastructure to meet modern standards.

This important investment will ensure patients, visitors and staff are much more comfortable in both summer and winter.

The schedule of works will be determined by local hospital management, to ensure the worst affected areas are fixed first while ensuring hospital operations are not disrupted.



Infrastructure Investment

Launceston General Hospital – More Car Parking

A re-elected Hodgman Liberal Government will take action to increase car parking at the Launceston General Hospital, with an investment of \$5 million to provide up to 168 additional car parks, and to develop a long-term car-parking plan.

To provide additional parking as soon as possible, we will build another level on top of existing multi-storey car park, which is expected to provide an additional 68 car parks.

Subject to engineering confirmation, we will also construct a new underground car park beneath the upcoming Ward 4K Redevelopment, which is expected to provide up to 100 additional car parks.

To ensure a long-term solution to this problem, a 10 year car-parking plan will be developed in consultation with staff and local stakeholders, with consideration given to:

- Feasibility of building underneath the existing Howick St Car Park, while preserving the opportunity to build on that site.
- Seeking engineers' advice on whether the multistorey car park can be reinforced to take further additional levels.
- Any other options to provide additional car parking, including an assessment of other crown-owned property nearby.

With the Launceston General Hospital Redevelopment, and the opening of 40 new beds at the LGH in coming years, it is important we get this right and deliver the most sustainable long-term solution

Better accommodation for health professionals on Flinders Island

A re-elected Hodgman Liberal Government will invest \$500 000 to provide better accommodation for health professionals on Flinders Island.

This includes the purchase of new property, as well as refurbishments, to provide better accommodation for nursing, medical and allied health professionals working on Flinders Island.



Infrastructure Investment

Statewide – Rural Hospital and Ambulance Station Upgrade Fund

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will provide \$15 million for capital improvements over three years at Tasmania's rural and regional hospitals.

This is the same funding that the Labor Party would spend on Medihotels, where sick Tasmanians would be put into hotel rooms in Tasmania's cities.

Rather than undermine the viability of our rural and regional hospitals, we will invest that funding in better facilities for staff and patients in our rural hospitals, and paramedics and volunteers at rural ambulance stations.

It is estimated that \$10 million will be spent on rural hospitals and \$5 million will be spent on ambulance stations, but the final allocation of funding will be based on areas with the greatest need.

These works will be planned with local councils, to ensure we provide the community with the facilities they need and deserve.



Statewide Initiatives

Health Recruitment, Retention, and Workforce Planning Unit

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will establish a dedicated Health Recruitment, Retention and Workforce Planning Unit to:

- Recruit the health professionals staff needed to operationalise the new beds around Tasmania.
- Prepare a 20-year Future Health Workforce Plan – a first for Tasmania – including current and future training and recruitment, re-training and post-graduate training and recruitment processes.

This is more important now than ever before and will support the roll-out of more than 300 hospital and community beds, and other services, across Tasmania.

A Healthy Tasmania

A re-elected Hodgman Liberal Government will provide ongoing funding of \$1.1 million per annum to support our Healthy Tasmania Five Year plan, from 2020-21 after current funding ceases.

This will come in addition to revenue being raised through increased tobacco license fees, and will be further supplemented by Community Support Levy funding after the levy is applied to casinos in 2023.

Tasmanian Community Health Fund

A re-elected Hodgman Liberal Government will provide \$6.6 million to establish the Tasmanian Community Health Fund, to provide grant funding to individuals and groups with ideas to improve the health of their community.

The scope of the fund will be deliberately broad, to allow consideration of any initiatives that will improve the health of Tasmanian communities. This might include, for example, the purchase of first aid training, mental health first aid training for a local group or community, or the purchase of medical equipment as well as preventive health measures.

Our Targets

#21: Reduce smoking rates to below the national average by 2025, and halve the gap between State and national youth smoking rates (for under 25s)

#22: Reduce Tasmania's rate of obesity to below the national average by 2025

#33 The lowest use of crystal methamphetamine (ice) of any State by 2022



Statewide Initiatives

Tasmanian Community Health Fund (continued)

We will ensure the process for applying and receiving a grant will be as straightforward as possible, to avoid bureaucracy and lengthy paperwork.

More Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Beds

A re-elected Hodgman Liberal Government will provide \$6 million of funding over three years for 30 additional community-based drug and alcohol rehabilitation beds over the next three years.

With \$100,000 per annum over two years, Pathways Tasmania will expand their Transformations residential program to include a new program specifically for women.

GoodSports

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will provide \$870 000 over two years to the Alcohol and Drug Foundation (ADF) to expand the successful Good Sports program.

This funding will allow the ADF to deliver their core program to 150 more local sporting clubs, expand the reach of the “Healthy Minds” program to improve awareness and reduce stigma of mental ill health, and conduct a small grants program to support health promotion in the community.

Epilepsy Tasmania

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will provide \$880 000 over two years to Epilepsy Tasmania to support improved services for Tasmanians living with epilepsy.

Epilepsy Tasmania will be able to increase the availability of support services, improve GP liaison and hospital avoidance, increase education and awareness of epilepsy (including through the *Smart Schools* Program), and boost peer and family/carer support.



Statewide Initiatives

Palliative Care Tasmania

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will provide \$132 000 over two years to Palliative Care Tasmania (PCT), to improve community access to palliative care support.

PCT will support families in their dealings with the Guardianship and Administration Board, as well as expand their clinician training and development through the GP Education program.

Palliative Care Clinical Nurse Educators

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will support better care for Tasmanians in specialist palliative care units, by providing \$400,000 per annum, over two years, for Clinical Nurse Educator positions in each region.

These positions will help to enhance the skills of our clinicians and ensure Tasmanian palliative care maintains a best practice approach to end of life.

Stroke Foundation

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will provide \$220 000 per annum over two years to the Stroke Foundation to implement a range of initiatives, including the establishment of a Tasmanian "Community of Practice" to improve care.

The new Tasmanian Stroke Patient Follow-Up Service will ensure that stroke survivors and their families are connected with the services and information they need, while the community will be more aware of stroke responses through the promotion of FAST and StrokeSafe.



Don't Go Back

Labor-Green Record

Under the former Labor and Labor-Green Governments, Tasmania's health system was badly damaged, with:

- The downgrading and closure of smaller local hospitals including at Ouse and Rosebery
- Savage budget cuts causing closure of hospital beds and entire hospital wards, including Ward 4D
- Closed the Hospital in the Home Program
- Closure of elective surgery theatres, and waiting list blow outs
- Savage budget cuts to health of more than \$500 million
- 287 nurses cut from Tasmanian hospitals

Labor now plan to put sick Tasmanians into hotel rooms, not hospital beds - this is not a plan to improve our health system.