

Better Care in North West Tasmania



A MAJORITY LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

- Invest \$79 million more over the next six years to:
 - Recruit 98 new hospital and health staff
 - Bring Community Rapid Response to the North West
 - Open new beds at the North West Regional Hospital
 - Upgrade the Mersey and Burnie Hospital and build a new car park at the Mersey



More Services, More Staff

A new 8 bed Acute Medical Unit at the North West Regional Hospital

A re-elected Hodgman Liberal Government will provide \$28.3 million over six years to fully staff and open eight new beds at the North West Regional Hospital.

These new beds will be placed adjacent to the Emergency Department, and for a high flow medical ward which will help put downward pressure on Emergency Department waiting times and help improve elective surgery throughput.

It is estimated that 27 additional staff will be recruited to support the beds, including 16 nurses, 3 doctors as well as additional allied health and operational support staff.

The new unit is expected to open by December 2018.

New Services and New Staff for the Mersey Community Hospital

A re-elected Hodgman will invest \$9.3 million in a range of new services at the Mersey Community Hospital, with the provision of new recurrent funding to establish a full Rehabilitation Ward, dedicated palliative care rooms, and a greater range of outpatient services.

This will be the first investment of recurrent state funding in the Mersey since prior to the Federal takeover in 2007, and is on top of the record \$730 million ten-year funding deal secured by the Hodgman Liberal Government in its first term.

Clinicians will determine models of care, and it is anticipated these new services will employ more than 34 new full-time staff, including more than 20 nurses, 4 allied health staff, 2 doctors and more than 7 other hospital support staff.

These new services will start in 2021-22 after the Mersey Community Hospital Redevelopment is complete, and will increase over the following two years.

This will build on the Mersey's new role as a Dedicated Elective Surgery Centre, and these new services will result in reduced travel to Burnie and Launceston for local residents.

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

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 30 of these positions will be in North West Tasmania and on the West Coast.

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.

Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Beds at Ulverstone

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will provide funding to the Salvation Army to continue operating 12 drug and alcohol rehabilitation beds at Ulverstone for a further three years after the current agreement expires, to 2022.

Established in the first term of the Hodgman Liberal Government, the residential rehabilitation service represents a significant boost in residential drug and alcohol rehabilitation capacity on the North West.



Care closer to home

Community Rapid Response Service for North West Tasmania

A re-elected Hodgman Liberal Government will roll out the Community Rapid Response Service across the North West Coast, so more people can receive care at home.

This is an expansion 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.

In its first year of service, the Launceston program saw more than 6800 occasions where care has been provided to patients in their usual place of residence, 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.

It is estimated that approximately 17 additional staff will be recruited to support the service, including 12 nurses and 5 allied health staff, and it is expected this initiative will provide almost 4000 appointments and other services across the North West coast each year.

Funding is provided for a three-year pilot program, with an evaluation after two years.



Infrastructure Investment

Mersey Community Hospital Redevelopment

A re-elected Hodgman Majority Liberal Government will bring forward the \$35 million Mersey Community Hospital Redevelopment, so a range of important improvements can start happening straight away:

- Upgraded air conditioning to bring the site up to modern standards
- A new hospital-wide Nurse Call/Duress system – to replace three ageing systems that are poorly functioning
- Establishing a dedicated Rehabilitation Ward as well as dedicated Palliative Care beds
- Upgraded surgical theatres and recovery areas, as well as redevelopment of the Day Procedures and Endoscopy Unit, to support the Mersey as a Dedicated Elective Surgery Centre
- Improved outpatient areas, to support a wider range of visiting specialists.
- A redeveloped medical ward, with improvements to allow for specialist geriatric care.

The new services we are delivering, along with these great improvements, will see increased activity at the Mersey, with more patients and staff, and we will construct a multi-storey car park, to provide up to 200 additional spaces for staff and visitors.

It is expected that the redevelopment will be completed in 2021.

These improvements are possible because in its first term the Hodgman Liberal Government secured the future of the Mersey with a record \$730 million ten-year funding deal.

These improvements will support investment already underway at the Mersey, with redeveloped ante-natal clinics and a new patient lounge now finished and construction of a dedicated emergency helipad and an expansion of the Latrobe Ambulance Station currently underway.

Our record in Government

- ✓ In our first term, we have increased the health budget by \$1.3 billion.
- ✓ We have funded more than 120 additional beds and treatment recliners – including 80 at or near the Royal Hobart Hospital.
- ✓ Delivered the shortest Elective Surgery Waiting List since records began.
- ✓ Reduced Ambulance ramping
- ✓ Put the Royal Hobart Hospital Redevelopment on track – after Labor spend a decade without laying a single brick.



Infrastructure Investment

Air Conditioning at the North West Regional Hospital

A re-elected Hodgman Liberal Government will invest \$500 000 to improve air-conditioning at the North West Regional Hospital.

Many areas of the hospital have inadequate heating and cooling, and this funding will provide infrastructure to meet modern climate standards.

This important investment will ensure patients, visitors and staff will be 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.

Air-conditioning at the Mersey will be addressed as part of the Mersey Community Hospital Redevelopment.

New Ante-Natal Clinic at the North West Regional Hospital

A re-elected Hodgman Liberal Government will invest \$2 million to build a purpose built antenatal clinic at the North West Regional Hospital, as part of the Integrated North West Birthing Service.

This is provide a state-of-the-art facility to better support mums, babies and the dedicated staff that operate the service.

We will work with the staff to locate the best site and to design the facility, which is expected to be complete by mid-2020.

Stage 2 of the King Island Hospital redevelopment

A re-elected Hodgman majority Liberal Government is committed to our remote and regional hospitals.

Following design consultation with the local community, we will build the next stage of the King Island Hospital redevelopment. These significant works will include palliative care and associated family rooms, acute care and observation areas, improved emergency and after-hours access and a kitchen upgrade.

The redevelopment will also include construction of dedicated housing for nurses working and living on King Island, to improve recruitment and retention.



Infrastructure Investment

Stage 2 of the King Island Hospital redevelopment (continued)

The redevelopment will commence in 2018-19, and will be staged over four years, with completion by 2022.



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, 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 beds at the North West Regional Hospital
- 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.