

# Record Boost to Health in Southern Tasmania



## A MAJORITY LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

- Invest \$459 million over the next six years to:
  - Recruit 1,073 new hospital and health staff
  - Open 250 new hospital beds, including 10 new ICU beds
  - Open 25 new mental health beds
  - Provide a dedicated Adolescent Unit at the Royal



## More Beds at the Royal

### 250 new beds and 946 new staff for the Royal

In the biggest single boost to acute care in Tasmania's history, a re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will fully staff and open 250 additional hospital beds at the newly refurbished Royal Hobart Hospital (RHH) and the Repatriation Hospital, with all beds open by 2024.

This is an investment of \$299 million over the next six years.

Clinicians will determine the final mix of services and beds, but it is estimated that approximately 946 full-time equivalent staff will be recruited, including 594 nurses, 125 new doctors, more than 85 additional allied health professionals and almost 140 other hospital staff, such as orderlies, cooks and cleaners.

While the Redevelopment is finished, we will work with clinicians and stakeholders to plan the best clinical mix of beds, with funding to support 10 new Intensive Care Unit beds, a 16 bed Dedicated Adolescent unit, designed to provide mental health care, as well as a mix of medical and surgical beds, including consideration of subacute beds.

Bed openings will commence twelve months after the RHH Redevelopment is complete, allowing time for commissioning, with all beds open by 2024.

It is estimated the new beds will provide medical care for more than 26,000 Tasmanians each year, including elective and emergency surgery.

An additional \$28.1 million of capital funding is committed to create new ward spaces and set up new beds.

### Retain the 54 Bed J- Block Inpatient Facility

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will work with the Hobart City Council on options to retain the \$22 million J-Block inpatient facility on Liverpool Street, beyond the completion of RHH Redevelopment.

Once Council approval is obtained, the Government will work with staff and stakeholders to determine the best future use for that 54-bed facility.

### 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

The Royal Hobart Hospital is Tasmania's major tertiary centre, providing care not just to Southern Tasmania, but statewide.

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.



## More Beds at the Royal

### Planning for 250 new beds and for the next stage of RHH health precinct

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will begin planning for the immediate future of the Royal Hobart Hospital and for the next stage of the Royal Hobart Hospital health precinct, with \$250 000 provided to support this task.

This will commence within 100 days of the re-election of a majority Hodgman Liberal Government, with establishment of a Clinical Planning Taskforce, led by the Department of Health and Human Services, in consultation with senior doctors and nurses, professional organisations, unions, as well as health consumers.

The Taskforce will lead planning for:

- the models of care and clinical planning for the new hospital beds;
- the potential future uses for the J-Block Inpatient building; and
- update the RHH Master plan, to guide the next stage of the Royal Hobart Hospital health precinct.

Planning will occur in consultation with clinicians, other health professionals and key stakeholder groups.

### 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 supporting 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.



## 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.

This includes \$72.6 million in Southern Tasmania, which will enable the opening of 25 new beds, as well as an Adolescent Unit designed for specialist mental health care at the Royal, supported by an estimated 100 additional staff.

The Tasmanian Liberals' *Record Boost for Mental Health Care* policy can be found online at: <https://www.tas.liberal.org.au/policy>

### 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 90 of these positions will be in Southern 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.

### Our record in Government

In our first term, we have:

- ✓ Developed *Rethink Mental Health* – a 10 year plan with universal support.
- ✓ Abandoned Labor's plan to send acutely unwell mental health patients to the suburbs, and kept them at the Royal Hobart Hospital.
- ✓ Provided more than \$100 million each year for mental health services across range of settings.
- ✓ Increased funding for mental health, including funding for rural outreach, packages of care, new beds and child and adolescent mental health.
- ✓ Purchased community-based mental health properties at New Norfolk, Glenorchy and near the RHH – which Labor previously had on long-term lease.



## Health care close to home

### Community Rapid Response for Hobart

A re-elected Hodgman Liberal Government will roll out the Community Rapid Response program to the Greater Hobart area, to take pressure off the Royal Hobart Hospital.

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

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.

\$5.6 million will be provided for a three-year pilot program, commencing in 2018, with an evaluation of the service after the first two years.

It is estimated that five full-time equivalent allied health professionals and 12 nurses will operate the service, and that it will provide more than 15,000 appointments and other services over the three-year trial, to more than 1000 people.

### Urgent Care Centre Feasibility Study

A re-elected Hodgman Liberal Government will commission a feasibility study into establishing Urgent Care Centres in the Greater Hobart area, including Kingston and Glenorchy.

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

This takes pressure off emergency departments, and helps 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 our Health Centres, which are under construction in Kingston and Glenorchy.

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

### Our record in Government

- ✓ We have increased frontline staffing in the Tasmanian Health Service by more than 300 FTE, including more than 250 FTE nurses and almost 40 FTE doctors.
- ✓ Delivered the One Health System plan – improve Tasmania's Health System.
- ✓ Provided funding for the first new Ambulance Tasmania crews in years.



## Infrastructure Investment

### Royal Hobart Hospital Ward Upgrades

A re-elected Hodgman Liberal Government will provide \$28.1 million over five years for redevelopment of existing wards at the Royal Hobart Hospital and the Repatriation Hospital.

This comes on top of \$50 million of investment across the Royal in the first term of the Hodgman Liberal Government, including the new J-Block Inpatient Facility, Access and Patient Flow Wards and the expansion of the Emergency Department.

### Royal Hobart Hospital – Air Conditioning Upgrade

A re-elected Hodgman Liberal Government will provide \$3 million over two years for air conditioning upgrades at the Royal Hobart Hospital – including addressing issues in F-Block, D-Block and A-Block.

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.

### Midlands Multipurpose Centre (Oatlands Hospital) Upgrade

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will provide \$2.5 million for a major upgrade of the Midlands Multipurpose Centre at Oatlands.

The main building was opened in 1970 and is in need of a range of upgrades, with works to provide for a better layout, more privacy and increased space.

We will work closely with the Southern Midlands Council and the local Community Advisory Committee, to ensure the redevelopment is designed to best support the local community.



## 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 at our rural hospital 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.

### Holyoake Gottawanna

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will provide Holyoake with \$50 000 per annum, for two years, to continue the Gottawanna program.

The Gottawanna program provides support to clients with drug and alcohol addiction issues, including helping them to develop strategies that improve their family relationships.

### 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.

### Our Targets

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



## Statewide Initiatives

### 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.

### 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:

- Savage budget cuts to health of more than \$500 million;
- 287 nurses cut from Tasmanian hospitals;
- Slashing hospital beds numbers and closure of entire hospital wards;
- Closure of elective surgery theatres, and waiting list blow outs;
- A cumbersome health bureaucracy with 4 health agencies, and disjointed leadership structures; and
- The downgrading and closure of smaller local hospitals including at Ouse and Rosebery.

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