

# TASMANIA'S HEALTH PLAN ACTION

Issue 12 March 2009



Hobart community forum participants work provide feedback to health department representatives on Tasmania's Health Plan.

## Community forums hear of Health Plan's progress

**A series of community forums around Tasmania in March were told of the significant progress of many projects under Tasmania's Health Plan.**

But the forums were far from a one-way street – community representatives fed back many suggestions and closely questioned DHHS staff on a range of issues.

A well-attended forum in Hobart heard that community engagement with the whole health system was a key element of Tasmania's Health Plan.

**"People want three things: to be heard, to be trusted and to be respected."**

Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Dave Roberts said his agency was determined to make community engagement a reality.

"When I talked to people at Ouse about how to resolve their issues they told me they wanted three things: to be heard, to be trusted and to be respected," Mr Roberts said.

"We have to be brave enough to go and listen to what people are really saying," he said.

"Community engagement is a mind set but we also have to find the mechanisms to hear the community's voices; that's probably a five-year journey." [THP](#)

## Allied health services under one roof

**People living with type 2 diabetes in northern Tasmania now have a range of integrated, multidisciplinary allied health services near home.**

The new General Practice North Allied Health Service in Launceston opened its doors on March 1.

The service is operated by General Practice North and features the Primary Health Chronic Disease Demonstration program, part of Tasmania's Health Plan.

Patients are referred to the service by their GPs and are offered diabetic education, nursing, podiatry, dietetic and exercise physiology services.

The service operates at the Queen Victoria Building in High Street, Launceston and at a number of rural centres including Scottsdale, George Town, Beaconsfield, Deloraine/Westbury, Campbell Town, Scottsdale, St Marys and St Helens.

It is hoped this service will eventually expand to cater for people with other chronic diseases.

The State government has provided \$400,000 to the service and will contribute up to \$1.5 million in recurrent funding over the next three years. [THP](#)

## New service points to care access

**The Victorian Royal District Nursing Service (RDNS) was recently appointed to put Tasmania's Access Point Demonstration Project into action.**

Now known as TasCarepoint, and initially based in southern Tasmania, the service provides a single entry point to Home and Community Care services

TasCarepoint will make it easier for potential clients, carers, family members and health professionals to access services and information. Client screening for service referral is done over the phone.

A soft launch began on February 2 and RDNS is training a Tasmanian workforce for full implementation in March.

TasCarepoint will initially include community nursing, nursing clinics, home care, personal care and home maintenance.

Streamlined management will reduce the need for client's to provide repeat information. The service will expand to the rest of Tasmania in future stages. [THP](#)

# TASMANIA'S HEALTH PLAN

## New hospital straightens out Circular Head's health needs

Health minister Lara Giddings recently opened the \$5.2 million redevelopment of the Smithton Hospital, which she said was a good example of Tasmania's Health Plan in operation.

"This is exactly what the Health Plan is about – providing a full range of sustainable services locally where possible to cater for the growing needs of our ageing population and to boost primary and preventative health services," Ms Giddings said.

The minister said the new integrated Smithton District Hospital and Community Health Centre was more than just a new building.

"The building is a means to an end and the end is a comprehensive primary health service to work with individuals and the community to build and retain good health, rather than relying on acute care to treat people after problems develop," she said.

The redevelopment brings together mental, oral, child health and parenting services with three emergency beds, 16 acute care beds, a medical day unit and an emergency maternity room.

The redevelopment has also upgraded in-patient facilities and relocated 22 aged care beds to Emmerton Park. [THP](#)

## Boost to Central Highlands services



Tasmania's Health Plan has delivered more health and community services, and \$3 million in capital spending for the Central Highlands.

The package includes additional healthy lifestyle programs, more community care, a day centre with respite services and several high and low aged care packages to support the elderly to live at home.

The capital investment program includes:

- \$1 million to improve and upgrade the Ouse Community and Health Centre
- \$1.2 million to design and build four new independent living units for the frail and aged
- \$100,000 towards the upgrade and transfer of five public housing units to the Central Highlands Council
- A \$422,500 partnership between Telstra and DHHS Telehealth to improve telehealth facilities, including

the integration of technologies to extend mobile phone coverage in the region

- \$600,000 towards supporting New Norfolk Corumbene Nursing Home's application for more high care places from the Australian Government
- An all-wheel drive community transport car at Ouse to take residents to medical appointments and for other health-related activities. [THP](#)

## Quit war: Pharma army mobilises



The State Government has funded a campaign to promote community pharmacies as centres for advice and support for Tasmanians trying to give up smoking.

Health Minister Lara Giddings launched a new television ad that underpins the campaign at the Albert Ng Amcal Pharmacy at Bellerive recently.

Tasmania's Health Plan aims to make smoking cessation advice a routine part of healthcare.

"The involvement of pharmacies in promoting smoking cessation is an important step towards reducing the high smoking rates in Tasmania," Ms Giddings said.

**The State government will provide \$2.7 million over four years to promote quitting and give smokers better access to support to help them quit.**

The pharmacy television ad is screening in conjunction with a Quit Tasmania campaign during March and May.

The community pharmacy campaign has also provided training to more than 300 Tasmanian pharmacists and pharmacy assistants so far to help them provide smokers with accurate quit information. [THP](#)

## Tasmania's Health Plan

To find out more:

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