

# HEALTH AND WELLBEING

## BUILDING BACK GREENER & FAIRER: A GREEN NEW DEAL FOR LUTRUWITA/TASMANIA

### BACKGROUND

Tasmania's health system is in crisis. Our ambulances are the slowest in the country, elective surgery waiting lists are soaring, and the proportion of patients seen on time in our emergency departments has crashed since 2014. We have the highest hospital admission and prescription rates for mental ill health in the country.

Successive governments have failed to plan for the inevitable annual additional patient load, or the need for more capacity in beds and staff due to our increasing chronic disease burden and ageing population.

The daily overwork burden faced by nurses and midwives, paramedics, clinical specialists, allied health workers, and mental health specialists has been dismissed for far too long. It also inevitably leads to poorer health outcomes for patients. It's time we put the voice of those on the frontline at the centre of our conversation about tackling the health crisis.

Tasmania can't ignore the reality of understaffing, insufficient beds and surgeries, the mental health impacts on staff, and the failure of governments to provide timely, accessible, affordable health services when people need them.

The Greens have listened to the concerns of health workers, patients and community. Our plan would confront the challenges they face head on.

### Statewide Strategy for Emergency Departments

We would develop a Statewide Strategy for Emergency Departments, and introduce mandatory reporting of incidents of 12- and 24-hour waiting times in emergency departments.

### LGH Infrastructure Investment

We will commit to investing \$120 million across the next four years in developing the infrastructure identified as priority in the LGH Masterplan.

We will make hiring an additional 21.43 FTE nurses for the LGH Emergency Department a key priority in our recruitment and training plan for nurses.

### Building a new Royal Hobart Hospital Campus

We will fast-track the design of the new Royal Hobart Hospital Campus on the Repatriation Hospital site and commence construction in 2022.

### Urgent Care Centres

We will fund the establishment and operation of two urgent care centres in the public health system – one in the north of the State, and one in the south.

### Addressing the Nursing Shortage

We will –

- Hire 600 new graduate nurses in the next four years.
- Recruit 40 permanent pool staff nurses and midwives for the LGH 40 for the RHH and 40 for the North West Regional and Mersey Hospitals.
- Recruit 10 Psychiatric Emergency Nurses (PENs) to enable proper triage, assessment and treatment of ED mental health presentations.
- Re-establish the role of Statewide Executive Director of Nursing and Midwifery, and ensure it sits on the Department of Health's Executive.
- Establish a dedicated, specialised recruitment process to tackle the shortfall of nurses and midwives in Tasmania.
- Invest in 25 Clinical Educators and 50 Clinical Coaches to assist with policy and professional support, and to onboard new nurses into individual areas.

### Investing in Paramedics and Ambulances

We will invest in 224 FTE more into Ambulance Tasmania staffing, the first tranche will be 119, followed by 105 more after two years.

We will also make legislative changes necessary to enable the certification of paramedic practitioners in Tasmania.

We will invest in 27 new ambulances, 7 new light fleet vehicles, and new stations in Rokeby, Channel, Ouse, and Legana.

We will invest in a formal trauma support program, with rostered professional debriefs for staff occurring quarterly/twice yearly. We will also invest in two permanent psychologist positions, Regional Peer Support Officer positions, non-operational support staff, and the establishment of a stand-alone rostering unit.

### Fixing the Mental Health System

We will establish an independent inquiry into issues in the Statewide Mental Health System, and provide an additional \$5 million per year into staffing, recruitment and retention initiatives.

### Community and Preventative Health

We will allocate \$3 million each year towards a grants program for community-based preventative health initiatives around the state.

We will fund an additional 50 allied health professionals in areas of critical need in community health centres across the state.

### Funding Alcohol and Drug Services

We will make governance and budget for the ADS self-contained, and establish a new state of the art Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drugs unit.

We will increase beds for withdrawal management to 23, and establish three new rehabilitation facilities in the public system. These facilities will be places in the south, the north, and the north west, and will have a total of 70 new beds.

*The Tasmanian Greens acknowledge and pay respect to the palawa/pakana people as the original owners and ongoing custodians of lutruwita/Tasmania. We are committed to Truth, Treaty, Justice, and the return of lands.*

# GREEN NEW DEAL

