

Barton Deakin Brief: Tasmanian Health Green Paper

11 December 2014

The Tasmanian Minister for Health, the Hon Michael Ferguson MP, has released a Green Paper on *Delivering Safe and Sustainable Clinical Services* in the state's health system.

The [Green Paper](#) is the latest initiative of the [One State, One Health, Better Outcomes](#) health reform package launched by the Government in July 2014. It outlines plans to:

- Place a greater focus on primary and community care;
- Shift the balance of care provision from the hospital to the community;
- Redesign clinical services;
- Strengthen public-private partnerships; and
- Strengthen interstate partnerships.

Following public consultation, the Green Paper will be followed by the release of a White Paper by the end of March 2015.

Stakeholders are invited to make submissions in response to the Green Paper by Friday 20 February 2015. Submissions may be forwarded to:

- Email: onehealthsystem@dhhs.tas.gov.au; or
- Post: One Health System
Department of Health and Human Services
GPO Box 125
Hobart TAS 7001

Objectives

The Green Paper outlines the process by which the Government will determine where and how health services will be provided in the future.

The Government's key objectives are to build an effective and responsive primary care sector that:

- Promotes wellness;
- Limits the long-term impact of complex and chronic conditions;
- Keeps people out of hospital; and
- Improves Tasmanians' quality of life.

Role Delineation and the Tasmanian Clinical Services Profile

A major outcome of the Government's reform package will be the design of a new Tasmanian Clinical Services Profile for the delivery of safe and sustainable clinical services. This Profile will specify which services will be provided in each of the state's health facilities.



A process of role delineation will be employed to determine the clinical capacity of a health facility to provide services of a defined clinical complexity. It will also assess the size of the population, the likely demand for the service and the presence of other clinical disciplines within the facility.

The Green Paper is accompanied by a draft Tasmanian Role Delineation Framework, which will assist in the development of the Tasmanian Clinical Services Profile. The draft Framework includes the following key principles:

- The facility must be able to sustain a competent and high performing clinical workforce, infrastructure and support services required to provide care consistent with best practice.
- Appropriate minimum service volumes must be maintained to ensure the competence and professional practice of the multidisciplinary team can be sustained.
- Tasmanians must be able to access services which are determined by the facility's ability to deliver consistently safe, high quality care, rather than on considerations of proximity.
- Relying on small numbers of clinicians to be on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to maintain a service is neither safe nor sustainable. Workload needs to be sufficient to engage multiple clinicians across the range of necessary disciplines in the delivery of a quality, sustainable service. Services with key person dependencies must be redesigned to ensure quality, safety and sustainability.
- Care must be continually improved. The impact on patient outcomes and experience must be continually monitored, reviewed and evaluated. Tasmanians should expect to receive care comparable with national and international standards.

Click [here](#) to access the Draft Tasmanian Role Delineation Framework.

Supplementary Documents

The Green Paper is also accompanied by five supplementary documents that discuss in detail key areas of the Tasmanian health system:

1. Sustainability and the Tasmanian Health System;
2. Tasmania's Health Workforce;
3. Building a Stronger Community Care System;
4. Emergency Care; and
5. Elective Surgery.

Click [here](#) to access the supplementary documents.

Further information

Minister Ferguson has released a [media statement](#) welcoming the release of the Green Paper.

Barton Deakin's July 2014 Brief on plans to reform the Tasmanian health sector can be read [here](#).

As part of the consultation process, Clinical and Community Forums will also be held in Ulverstone, Launceston and Hobart in late January 2015, followed by workshops in February 2015.

For more information, please contact [Kristian Galanti](#) on +61 406 383 154.