



HON REBECCA WHITE MP
LABOR LEADER

Mr Girish Pande
Chair
RACS
By email: Mark.Morgan@surgeons.org

Dear Mr Pande

Thank you for providing Labor with the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) 2018 Election Statement. It is my pleasure to respond on behalf of the Tasmanian Labor party and to also provide a copy of our health policy, *Putting Patients First*.

Labor has a comprehensive Better Health Plan to keep Tasmanians healthier for longer, treated faster and home sooner. Labor's plan starts from birth, right through to old age.

We understand the best way to take pressure off the health system, workers and the budget is to act early and intervene sooner.

Our commitment is to work with you and your membership to provide better health services to all Tasmanians by investing in preventative health, primary and community health and acute health services. We will invest in employing more staff and upgrade the infrastructure that services our population to provide for more beds.

Below are responses to the specific questions raised by RACS and as always, please get in contact if you have any further matters you wish to raise.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca White'.

Rebecca White MP
TASMANIAN LABOR LEADER
MEMBER FOR LYONS

22 February 2018

Enc: Putting Patients First – A Better Health System Action Plan.

Q1 and 2.

Please see Stage Four of our *Putting Patients First* policy document that outlines Continuous Improvement strategies for the Tasmanian health system and workforce.

Labor has also committed to recruit more Doctors in the Tasmanian health workforce to increase the number of permanent doctors in the health system. I encourage you to read Stage Two of *Putting Patients First* for more details.

Q3 and 4.

Labor has listened to the concerns of the College regarding the provision of elective surgery interstate and inadequacy of information sharing between sites that impacted on patient after-care. We will invest in the Tasmanian health system to increase capacity to perform more procedures here so that patients do not need to fly interstate for routine procedures.

Please see Stage One of our *Putting Patients First* policy document for more details about our \$75 million commitment to provide an additional 15,000 outpatient appointments and more elective surgery. We have also secured a commitment of \$30 million from Federal Labor to provide an additional 3000 elective surgery procedures in Tasmania.

Q5 and 6.

Please see Stage Four of our *Putting Patients First* policy document. The Labor party also welcomes the opportunity to work with the College to understand how we can improve the workplace culture and improve patient safety and looks forward to discussing the option of an MOU between the College and Government if we are elected.

Q7.

The work of TASM is important and the Labor party commits to negotiate in good faith about continued funding for the program.

Q8 and 9.

Labor will soon announce a grants program to support the purchase of essential Australian approved equipment by farmers and other quad bike users to work towards reducing injuries and accidents from quad bike usage.

Q10.

Please see page 12 of our *Putting Patients First* policy as well as Stage Five of our policy document which details the work of the Healthy Communities Commission.

Q11.

Please see page 19 of our *Putting Patients First* policy.

Q12.

Labor has announced a \$60 million community roads package to upgrade roads identified by the RACT and Local Government to improve safety on our roads. In consultation with the RACT, a majority Labor Government will also design and launch a \$400,000 multi-faceted Road Safety Education Program aimed at visitors to the state and building on existing safety awareness programs for Tasmanian drivers, particularly in regional areas.

Q13.

Labor is committed to doing all we can to improve child health and will be guided by the best evidence as to how we do this. Labor has a strong relationship with our Federal counterparts and if we are elected to Government commit to investigating how we can work together on strategies to improve child health outcomes.

Putting Patients First

A Better Health System
for Tasmania Action Plan



*Putting **people** first*

Labor's Better Health Plan

Health is Labor's number one priority.

Fixing the health crisis will require a significant investment in more beds, more nurses, more doctors, more ambulances and more appointments for patients.

Labor has consulted widely to develop a comprehensive plan to repair the damage done by the Liberals, after Will Hodgman cut \$210 million from health in his first budget and Malcolm Turnbull cut \$1.1 billion from Tasmania's health system.

Labor has a Better Health Plan to keep Tasmanians healthier for longer, treated faster and home to their families sooner.

The staged plan will be rolled out over six years.

- Stage one: Reducing waiting times in Emergency Departments and clearing the backlog of patients waiting to see a specialist for an appointment or have their elective surgery.
- Stage two: Recruiting more staff to the health and hospital system.
- Stage three: Investing in health infrastructure to meet future demands.
- Stage four: Continuous improvement to make Tasmania's health system the best performing in the country and a model employer for health professionals.
- Stage five: Improving the health of our community and keeping people out of hospital.

Together with health professionals, Labor will build a health system that Tasmanians can be proud of.

*Putting **people** first*

STAGE ONE

More appointments and more elective surgery

Close to 30,000 Tasmanians are on the waiting list to get an appointment to see a specialist.

If you can't see a specialist you can't even get on the waiting list for elective surgery.

This is the waiting list the Liberal Government doesn't want to talk about.

Labor will work with patients, GPs, clinicians, health administrators and other key stakeholders to deliver a \$75 million strategy to improve waiting times for outpatient appointments and deliver elective surgery.

- Employing more doctors
- More specialist outpatient services
- More telehealth specialist services
- Improved referral practices across the state, building on Health Pathways
- Online appointment management systems
- Better communication between GPs and hospitals
- More timely elective surgery and follow up care

Cost: \$250,000 to develop the More Appointments and More Elective Surgery strategy and \$75 million for implementation.

Reducing Emergency Department waiting times.

Tasmania's Emergency Department waiting times are the worst in the country.

That is in large part because of a serious shortage of hospital beds, with doctors warning the issue has cost lives.

Labor's plan will deliver more beds over the next six years but it is critical we also deliver a solution to the crisis right now.

Discharge rates are stalling over the weekends due to a lack of staff and services. This means patients are staying longer in hospital than they need.

Labor's plan will free up beds and to make sure patients can go home when they are ready.

More Nurses and health workers

Labor wants our hospitals to operate seven days a week to support the delivery of safe patient care.

Labor will fund a discharge coordination nurse seven days a week in each hospital. We will also work with health professionals and clinicians on new ways to make the discharge process benefit patients and the hospital.

Labor will provide funding for community health nursing to extend services seven days a week. This will help keep people out of hospital as well as provide appropriate care for those people who are discharged from hospital.

Patients that need services before they go home like radiology, medical imaging, allied health or pharmacy will be able to get these services during evening hours and weekends, to make their discharge faster so they can get home sooner.

Labor understands that transport home from hospital can be difficult for some people.

Labor will increase our capacity to transport patients back to regional or rural hospitals, aged care facilities and a patient's home by extending transfer services during weekday hours and on weekends.

These initiatives will provide better patient care and create more jobs in our health system.

Cost \$47.5 million

Medihotels

Medihotels have been proven interstate and overseas to provide an alternative for patients transitioning out of hospital care.

Examples include patients who are ready to go home but are waiting for a script to be filled, an outpatient appointment, or lack transport options because of the time of their discharge.

These patients can stay overnight in a Medihotel at a much cheaper cost to the Government and taxpayer than if they stayed in the hospital. This means freeing up beds in the hospital for patients with more serious medical needs.

Labor will seek a suitable hotel for the provision of rooms in Hobart, Launceston and Burnie to take pressure off the hospital system. Nursing staff will provide supervision 24/7.

Labor will work with clinicians in each region to develop a model of care and protocol for eligibility that meets the needs of each patient group.

Cost: \$20.2 million

Better transport options for the West Coast

Labor recognises that for remote and regional areas transport options to and from medical appointments is limited. Labor will conduct a two year trial of a fixed transport service, operating seven days a week, between the West Coast and Burnie, Devonport and Launceston for patients who are fit for independent travel. This service would have the capacity to transport 10 patients at a time.

Cost: \$265,000 over two years

Connecting Health Services

Labor has a vision for a health system that supports patients to transition between services seamlessly and offers continuity of care from birth to old age.

We have heard the frustration of patients who are forced to repeat their symptoms to multiple doctors and undergo repeat tests because of a lack of integration between various levels of the health system, including within the same hospital.

Labor will strengthen communication between acute hospitals, rural hospitals, providers of primary health services, aged care, private hospitals, mental health and disability services.

Stronger linkages mean that each health service can provide better information, better transition of care between services, and better use of health facilities.

These linkages can reduce Emergency Department admissions and lead to better utilisation of beds.

Electronic patient records and the digitisation of data will help to better connect providers and patients and ensure that Government is making informed decisions about the health needs of Tasmanians.

The Labor party supports the continued transition to electronic health records.

Most health sites across the state now have tele-health facilities but they are not as well utilised as they could be. The Labor party will work to improve the understanding of health care professionals about the capacity in regional hospitals and community health centres to provide telehealth services and patient care where the patient lives. Increasing the use of tele-health will assist patients access some appointments without travelling which will enhance their options for accessing care.

The use of video conferencing for staff meetings and professional development in the health sector should be actively encouraged and supported. The use of technology has the potential to save time and money whilst linking our health system with best practice models from around the world.

STAGE TWO

More staff, better services

Tasmania's health system is in crisis because there simply aren't enough health professionals to meet demand.

Labor will build the capacity of the health workforce steadily over the next six years to allow for more beds, more medical services, more elective surgery, shorter emergency wait times and better ambulance response.

For example, the new wing of the Royal Hobart Hospital is due to open at the end of 2019, with capacity for an additional 250 beds.

The Liberal Government has not allocated funding to ensure these beds are staffed.

Labor will recruit more health workers right across the state to ensure additional beds can be opened as they come online.

More Doctors in our hospitals

Labor will work to increase the number of permanent doctors recruited to the health system by working with clinicians and the Department to identify the vacancies and immediately advertise to fill them.

This will be necessary to not only fill vacancies in areas where there is a critical need, such as neurosurgery in northern Tasmania, but to also provide more outpatient clinics to provide more appointments to patients as well as provide care within the hospital as more beds come on line.

Last financial year the Tasmanian Government spent \$27.75 million on locum doctors.

This inefficiency is not only bad for the state budget, it does not provide the best outcomes for patients.

Labor will immediately take steps to recruit 20 new doctors to work in areas of need across the state.

Labor will continue the trial of the recruitment and retention allowance in the North West in an effort to attract and keep doctors in the region.

By creating a supportive work environment that is safe and values excellence, Tasmania will be in a stronger position to attract skilled professionals who see our state as a destination of choice to live and to work.

Cost: \$17.59 million

Where possible, this allocation will be funded using savings from reduced expenditure on locums.

More GPs in regional areas

Too many Tasmanians living in regional areas cannot get an appointment to see a GP.

This can result in unnecessary presentations to the Emergency Department.

Labor will fund eight internships a year to attract graduate doctors to places like Flinders Island, New Norfolk, Strahan and the Huon Valley. This will help us keep our best doctors in the state and provide experience for our junior doctors in regional general practice.

It is well recognised that patients receive most of their healthcare in general practice as opposed to the hospital system and we want to encourage a pathway for Doctors to work in regional general practice. This will also help patients to access the best quality care, no matter where they live.

Cost: \$640,000

Allied health professionals

Labor respects the very important work our allied health professionals undertake in the health system, both in the community setting and in hospital. In recognition of this Labor will legislate for a Chief Allied Health Professional with the same standing as the Chief Nurse and ensure the vacancy that exists in this position currently is filled.

Psychiatric Emergency Nurses (PEN)

Labor will fund PENs to be rostered every shift in the Emergency Department at the RHH, LGH and NWRH to help assess, care and treat mental health patients in conjunction with psychiatric support. This will greatly assist with improving mental health treatment for patients and their care outcomes in the ED.

Cost: \$8.58 million

Careers in nursing – 100 more graduate nurses

There are currently 246 vacancies in the nursing workforce in Tasmania. Labor will work to fill these vacancies by recruiting new nurses and by increasing the number of graduates employed through the Transition to Practice Program.

Labor will provide an additional 25 graduate positions each year, above the current 118 minimum.

By providing more graduate places we will ensure we can keep our best and brightest in the Tasmanian health system.

Cost: \$6.5 million

More Ambulances and more Paramedics

Labor will make sure our ambulance service can respond to the needs of our community.

As more people need more ambulances, the pressure on our paramedics has increased.

Tasmania now has the worst response times in the country. Ambulance crews are often called from out of their area to help people because there are not enough crews rostered in metropolitan areas.

Labor will fund 25 new ambulance paramedics and two new ambulance trucks—one in Hobart and one in Launceston.

Labor will also undertake a long term strategic plan for staffing and resourcing for Ambulance Tasmania based on the Service Development Planning State-Wide Emergency And Medical Services Report and other relevant reports.

Cost: \$15.9 million including two new trucks

More ambulance support staff

In times of emergency the communications staff at Ambulance Tasmania are the first to take the calls from the community and provide help. There are a number of vacancies within the communications staff at Ambulance Tasmania which is resulting in fatigue and staff overtime.

Labor will recruit to fill the vacancies with an additional 15 staff to be employed to properly staff the roster. Funding for this initiative will be a combination of new money and savings from the overtime budget.

Cost: \$3.2 million

Better ambulance stations

Labor will provide funding to help upgrade the ageing infrastructure of ambulance stations across the state and will prioritise station upgrades on advice from Ambulance Tasmania. This will also help create construction jobs in regional communities.

\$8 million

Mental health checks and presumptive Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)

Labor will enhance on-the-job mental health checks, improving workplace support and training and encouraging staff to come forward and ask for help.

It's imperative we recognise the high levels of PTSD experienced by Tasmania's first responders and Labor will work towards introducing presumptive PTSD legislation for first responders within the first year of Government.

10 Public mother and baby unit beds statewide

Support and care for new parents is vital to ensure babies get the best start in life and to develop healthy and strong parent and child relationships.

Labor believes that if parents are facing difficulties with a new baby they should be able to get the help they need.

Currently there is only one public bed available in a mother and baby unit in the south of the State. This means that many Tasmanians are not able to get help and support when they need it most.

Labor will introduce more public beds in the North, North West and South and we will staff each unit with qualified accredited midwives with additional qualifications in lactation consultancy and maternal and child health.

Cost: \$12.8 million

Devonport Integrated Care Centre

Labor will enhance primary care, allied health and outpatient services on the North West with the construction of an Integrated Care Centre.

The new facility in Devonport will incorporate a significant range of visiting and permanent services to provide better management of the chronic and complex conditions that exist within the region.

Cost: \$10 million

Dental health

Dental health in Tasmania is among the worst in the country with the highest rate of complete tooth loss, the greatest number of dentures, the highest average number of missing teeth and the greatest number of people who haven't seen a dentist in the last five years. Tooth decay is in many instances a preventable health problem that costs far less to treat with a preventative dental check than in the costly hospital system.

There are barriers to accessing existing dental health services for reasons that are often complex. Labor will fund Oral Health Services Tasmania to work in partnership with the Royal Flying Doctors Service to reach people, especially children, who are currently not accessing dental services.

Dental care for people in aged care continues to present challenges. A Labor Government will work with the Federal government to highlight this issue and seek funding to provide on-site dental treatments and training for aged care staff in the provision of oral care and maintenance.

Cost: \$6.4 million

Palliative Care

Labor understands that many people at the end of their life would like to be able to die in the comfort of their own home.

High quality palliative care services in the community allows for people to die in comfort in their home surrounded by family and loved ones and it also relieves pressure on the hospital system.

A Labor Government will provide funding to support 1000 Tasmanians a year to die at home with support from community nursing services.

Cost: \$12 million

Labor is also aware of the challenge many families face when dealing with the Guardianship and Administration Board when they are grieving.

Labor will fund a Liaison Worker to work with families navigating the Guardianship and Administration Board and to educate relevant service providers.

Cost: \$150,000

Drug and Alcohol

Drug and alcohol support services play an important role in helping to take pressure off the acute health system.

Labor will continue the reform process started under the Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug Directorate in collaboration and consultation with service providers to understand how the system can better support those needing treatment.

From this work it will be clear where resources need to be provided to ensure Tasmanians seeking treatment can access it and that services are well integrated.

Labor will update Tasmania's outdated Alcohol Strategy and review the provision and location of needle and syringe programs to ensure this vital intervention program operates effectively.

Mental health

Labor is committed to supporting better mental health and wellbeing for all Tasmanians.

Labor will work together with the community and health professionals to help Tasmanians stay well or, if they need to access support, that mental health initiatives deliver the services that they need.

More acute mental health beds

The current service design for the mental health ward at the new Royal Hobart Hospital does not provide for the number of beds needed to meet current and future demand.

Labor will work with clinicians to find a suitable location for up to 10 additional mental health beds to provide a total of 42 acute mental health beds in or close to the RHH.

These beds will be funded through Labor's health plan as new beds come on line.

Mental health accommodation in communities

Labor understands that in addition to acute beds, there is a need for more mental health services and accommodation in communities.

Labor will commit to reviewing current levels of acute, transitional and long term accommodation and associated services in order to provide best practice mental health treatment and rehabilitation.

Labor will build 12 individual homes statewide to assist Tasmanians with mental ill health into recovery. Labor wants to achieve the best outcomes to support the mental wellbeing of Tasmanians which is why we will partner and consult with the community housing sector and Mental Health Council of Tasmania and service providers to deliver a therapeutic approach to support Tasmanians with mental ill health to live independently.

This pilot program is designed to identify low to moderate at risk clients and support them into housing to prevent avoidable backlogs in transitional mental health residential facilities.

Cost: \$2.5m

Millbrook Rise Redevelopment

Labor will commit funding towards capital works required to repurpose the former Salvation Army building at Millbrook Rise in New Norfolk for accommodation for mental health consumers as a step down facility from the acute setting.

Cost: \$600,000

Residential Mental Health Prevention and Care Facility

Labor will fund an investigation into planning for the development of a new residential Mental Health Prevention and Care Facility. The scope for this facility will incorporate clinical treatment and psychosocial support for consumers in short term, transitional accommodation, outpatient support services, and outreach services for long term consumers in community based accommodation.

Cost: \$120,000

Adolescent and Youth Residential Mental Health Treatment facility

Labor will fund an investigation into planning for the development of an Adolescent and Youth Residential Mental Health Treatment facility, so that

Tasmanian parents and carers no longer have to take their young people to the mainland to access the treatment and support they need to recover.

Cost: \$120,000

Child and Adolescent Mental Health

Labor will review the service delivery model for Child and Adolescent Consumers of Mental Health Services, to ensure that our young people have the best treatment and support services available to them.

Labor will commence a consultation process with clinicians to ensure that appropriate Child and Adolescent Mental Health staff are employed in our hospitals.

Labor will introduce Child and Adolescent outreach mental health teams in the South, North and North West to support the increase in hospital emergency room presentations.

Cost: \$7.2

Rethink Mental Health

Labor is committed to the Rethink Mental Health Strategy. This is an important strategy for Tasmania, but there are concerns that the rollout has not progressed as intended.

Labor will ensure that any updates that are required as a result of reforms that have taken place since the strategy was published are implemented. Some of the reforms that have had an impact on Mental Health in Tasmania include the rollout of the NDIS, and the changing role of the Primary Health Networks. Labor will work with key stakeholders to ensure that the strategy is, and continues to be, contemporary.

Supporting Carers and Families

Members of our community who provide care and support to loved ones who are living with mental ill health face unique challenges.

Labor is committed to better supporting carers of people living with mental ill health. A Labor Government will work with Mental Health Carers Tasmania to deliver two new projects in Tasmania; working with organisations to implement strategies to increase carer inclusiveness, and engaging with and supporting hidden carers in the community – those who don't recognise that they are carers.

Cost: \$1 million

Rural Alive and Well

Rural Alive and Well (RAW) has a proven track record of providing a valuable service to rural and regional Tasmania. No Tasmanian should ever feel isolated and alone. Rural Alive and Well plays a vital role in making sure people know there is someone there to talk to.

Unfortunately funding for RAW has been cut by the Liberal Government which has impacted their ability to provide outreach. Labor will provide additional funding to RAW to ensure it can continue to do this important work across regional and rural Tasmania.

Cost: \$1.8 million

Using Technology to support Mental Health and Wellbeing

Labor recognises that advances in technology present opportunities to streamline the journey of mental health consumers and empower them to manage their own pathway to recovery.

Labor will develop a user-friendly, mobile accessible service directory, enabling members of the community to easily and accurately find the right service for their needs at the time they need it. Labor will also investigate the development of an interactive mobile app, able to be personalised for individuals, as a tool for documenting and tracking their pathway to recovery, in conjunction with their clinician/service providers and personal support networks.

Cost: \$720,000

STAGE THREE

Labor's \$250 million Future Hospital's Project will map the future demands on the hospital system and fund major infrastructure improvements right around the state.

More Beds

Too many Tasmanians can't access the health care they need when they need it because there aren't enough beds in our health system. Labor recognises this is a problem right across the state which is leading to adverse outcomes for patients and, in some tragic cases, avoidable deaths.

Labor will work with the health workforce, clinicians, unions, University of Tasmania, patients and the community to increase the capacity of our hospitals to meet current and future demand.

We will update the masterplan for each of the state's four major hospitals to plan for capital improvements on each site as well as develop comprehensive health precinct plans for Launceston, Hobart and Burnie. This work will identify where more services can be located to meet community need, including more inpatient beds.

Royal Hobart Hospital

Under the Liberals the redevelopment of the Royal Hobart Hospital has been plagued by delays and cost overruns.

Stage one of the redevelopment is due for completion in mid 2019 but the Liberals have presented no plan for how they will staff the additional beds.

What's more, there are concerns that facilities such as mental health will not meet current, let alone future demand.

The update of the masterplan for the Royal Hobart Hospital will include a timeframe to advance stage two of the redevelopment, which involves replacing the old clinical school with a new hospital wing.

Launceston General Hospital

Labor has a vision for a Launceston Health Precinct that brings together primary and acute care, specialist clinics and a private hospital built close to the LGH.

The precinct will provide more car parking and better linkages to public transport.

Labor will call for Expressions of Interest from private providers to build a co-located private hospital.

Ensuring the Government drives this project means that consultation can take place about the design and services to ensure that there is a high level of collaboration across both private and public hospitals.

This will result in better outcomes for both public and private patients and assist Launceston to recruit and retain skilled workers across a broader range of health services.

North West Regional Hospital (NWRH)

By updating the masterplan for the NWRH the Government can plan for future growth in the region and ensure that current services can be delivered sustainably into the future.

Consultation on the masterplan will allow discussion to take place about things such as ante and post natal services, as well as plan for where birthing service will be located when the contract with the private hospital expires.

Mersey Community Hospital (MCH)

Since the MCH returned to state ownership there is a requirement to plan for future capital expenditure, which the state will be responsible for funding. Updating the masterplan to ensure the site is able to provide appropriate services to the community is a necessity.

Cost: \$750,000

Future capital provision for upgrades to the state's hospital network: \$250 million - Labor will work with the Federal Government to secure funding commitments for these projects.

STAGE FOUR

Continuous improvement

Labor recognises that the health workforce has the ideas and drive needed to fix the health system.

We are not proposing another series of extensive consultations, we have heard what has been suggested and now is the time to work collaboratively to see it achieved.

Good governance and leadership of the health system is essential to drive a healthy culture that empowers the workforce, provides a safe work environment and delivers health services that are both of a high quality and sustainable.

The Tasmanian health system needs to work on continuous improvement to ensure Tasmanians can access the health care they need and that we have a constant focus on doing things better.

Innovation in technology and health care will revolutionise the way services are delivered and Tasmania needs to ensure that research and development drives clinical improvements and better outcomes for Tasmanians.

The ability to deliver good health care depends upon having a skilled workforce that is empowered to work to their full scope, utilise their expertise and is provided with the right equipment to do the job.

Improving the workplace culture will foster a work environment that helps Tasmania recruit and retain staff, maintain accreditation and provide a safe and productive place of work.

To truly make the patient the centre of the health system, we need to make sure that their voice is elevated.

This can be achieved through existing peak bodies having a greater say, re-invigorating Consumer Committees for each region and by listening to individuals and their experiences in the health system.

The growing pressure on Tasmania's health system requires Government to work smarter to meet demand.

Management of the Tasmanian health system

There has been serious concern raised about the governance of the Tasmanian Health Service for a long time and finally there has been some action taken to address the problem.

Currently there is no clear figure with authority in charge of the health system and this is creating confusion for staff.

Labor supports the consultation process currently underway and is mindful of change fatigue prevalent in the health system.

Our priority is to install local leadership and decision making at a hospital level.

The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services should have oversight of the entire Tasmanian health system, reporting directly to the Minister.

A Labor Government will work in partnership with the workforce to ensure that a statewide health system can operate with the full confidence of those who are engaged in it daily.

Saving: Abolishing THS CEO and Governing Council \$3 million

Workforce planning

In order to fill the vacancies that currently exist across the health system and recruit to fill new jobs a Labor Government will work with unions, clinicians and the Department to develop workforce plans.

These plans will look at the following:

- demographic of the current workforce.
- ways to recruit workers to more regional and rural areas.
- development of a stronger relationship with the University of Tasmania to discuss entry points for health professionals looking to re-enter the workforce or re-train.
- the opportunity for better course design and the potential for new courses in professions such as allied health.

Clinical Advisory Groups 2.0

Service delivery relies upon strong engagement with clinicians to ensure that resources can be deployed to meet patient need.

Labor commits to reinvigorating the Clinical Advisory Groups with clear terms of reference, strong collaboration across primary and acute care, with broad geographic representation and the inclusion of private and public practitioners to ensure that there is better integration across the health system.

The role of Clinical Advisory Groups is important to ensure evidence based decision making by the Government with a particular need for statewide plans for chronic conditions from birth through to old age.

Research and teaching

Tasmania has a unique opportunity to better capitalise on the fact we have one University, one Primary Health Network and one statewide health system.

The ability to integrate services and share research to improve the lives of Tasmanians, drive innovation and enhance recruitment efforts provides a great incentive to work more closely together.

A Labor Government will work to strengthen these relationships and examine how Tasmania's reputation as a place to work can be enhanced through our connection with the University of Tasmania and the opportunity this presents for teaching and research capabilities.

STAGE FIVE

Improving health outcomes

Labor understands health affects everything we do – how we work, the time spent with our family and loved ones and what we do in our spare time.

Good health boosts productivity and improves workplace participation.

A healthy state will deliver a stronger economy.

Tasmania's future depends on our ability to turn around our long-term health challenges.

This will require extensive changes to meet demands of increased rates of chronic disease and an ageing population.

The Labor Party is committed to this challenge.

The best way to take pressure off the health system and the budget is to act early and intervene sooner.

Healthy Communities Commission

Labor will take preventative health seriously by establishing the Healthy Communities Commission.

The Commission's sole focus will be to provide policy advice, research and programs that result in better health outcomes for all Tasmanians.

The Commission will be informed by a board including non-government health organisations, the Menzies Research Institute and the Department of Health and Human Services.

Cost: \$20 million

Health in all policies

A Labor Government will direct the Department of Premier and Cabinet to act as the lead agency to adopt a Health in All Policies approach to improve the health and wellbeing of Tasmanians.

This will ensure there is government leadership in policies, intervention and actions beyond the health sector.

HealthStats to include preventative diseases

In order to improve the health of Tasmanians, we need evidence that will drive changes and support people to stay healthy.

Labor will amend the quarterly HealthStats to include preventable illnesses, including preventable diseases, tobacco, drug and alcohol related diseases, avoidable deaths, avoidable hospitalisations and early detection of diseases.

This will help us understand why some health outcomes in Tasmania are poorer than the national average and work to improve the lives of people in our community.

Child and Family Centres

Child and Family Centres have transformed the lives of children and their families by giving them better access to early learning, health services and support.

Labor wants more communities to have access to the valuable support that Child and Family Centres provide which is why we will build six new Child and Family Centres in our first term of Government.

Labor has identified Sorell, the northern suburbs of Launceston and Mornington/Warrane as the first three locations for these new centres.

Cost: \$27 million (DoE)

Child Health and Parenting Service (CHaPS) Nurses

CHaPS nurses play a critical role in looking after the health of the children and families in Tasmania.

CHaPS nurses support not just children's health but the health and wellbeing of families, offering parents information on a wide range of topics including: immunisation, child health and development, practical parenting tips, nutrition,

breastfeeding, sleep and settling, communication, play and safety, nutrition, oral health, post natal depression, fathering, balancing work and family life, play, injury prevention and SIDS.

Labor is committed to ensuring that all current CHaPS nurses positions are filled to ensure an ongoing service is available for children and families in their communities, and critical early checks can be performed for all children.

Cost: \$2.6 million

Child health smartphone app

Labor will make it easier for parents to keep track of their child's health progress by rolling out a Child Health and Parenting Service app (blue book).

This app will give parents direct communication with CHaPS and reminders about their child's next health check. It will also provide parents with tips on maintaining the health and wellbeing of their child.

Cost: \$50,000

School nurses

In collaboration with Child Health and Parenting nurses, school nurses will perform sight and hearing checks on every Tasmanian student aged between five and nine.

Labor will work with Catholic Education and other private schools to provide the program through a shared funding model.

Healthy boost for Tasmanian children - immunisation

Labor will lift vaccination and immunisation rates in Tasmania by providing additional funding to CHaPs, building more Child and Family Centres and working with GPs.

Labor is committed to protecting children and staff who care for them, from disease. Labor will amend the Public Health Act to give childcare centres and primary schools the authority to refuse enrolment to families and children who are not fully immunised.

Sugary drinks

It is a priority for Labor to prevent children from becoming overweight so that they don't face the lifetime of health risks associated with obesity.

Labor has committed to phase out the sale of soft drinks in public school canteens and the provision of soft drink in school vending machines.

Labor will work with hospital volunteers and hospital auxiliaries to phase in new products to replace existing sugar sweetened drinks that are currently sold in hospital food and drink retail outlets.

Social and emotional learning

Labor understands that all young people deserve support to manage their health and wellbeing, especially their mental health.

Labor is committed to introducing compulsory age appropriate social and emotional learning programs in schools, starting in primary schools.

Labor will work with educators to support them to deliver social and emotional learning programs and provide appropriate professional learning and resourcing required for their success

Speak Up Stay ChatTY schools program

Labor will fund the Speak Up Stay ChatTY schools program for an additional 12 months.

Labor will work with stakeholders (services and educators) to develop guidelines to ensure that programs in schools are being delivered safely and in accordance with best clinical practice.

Cost: \$280,000

Working It Out School Program and outreach worker to North West

Working It Out provides outreach work in schools and colleges through professional learning, support, parent information sessions and diversity groups. The current program only has funding until June 2019. Labor will continue to support WIO to deliver this program beyond 2019.

Working It Out is not funded to provide outreach to the North West. Labor will ensure that LGBTI people and their families in regional Tasmania are not disadvantaged by funding an outreach worker in the NW.

Cost: \$300,000 (DoE)

Cost: \$350,000 for NW outreach worker

Food security community grants

Labor understands that access to fresh nutritious food has a major impact on the health and wellbeing of all Tasmanians.

Labor will provide grant funding to improve access to fresh and nutritious food for those who need it most.

The program will enhance community driven solutions and deliver emergency food relief.

Cost: \$2 million (DPaC)

Poker Machines

Gambling addiction is a health issue.

According to the Productivity Commission: "the harms from problem gambling include suicide, depression, relationship breakdown, lowered work productivity, job loss, bankruptcy and crime."

A Majority Labor Government will phase out all poker machines from Tasmanian suburbs and towns, over five years.

Reducing problem gambling will improve the health of Tasmanians, their families and their communities.

Labor would prefer to see the \$110 million lost on poker machines in communities every year spent across the broader Tasmanian economy.

Smoking Cessation

Smoking kills an estimated 500 Tasmanians every year and it is responsible for the greatest burden of disease in the country.

The cost of smoking cessation programs and products can be a barrier for people wanting to give up.

Labor believes that we should support people to make healthy choices and that is why we will trial the introduction of a subsidy for Tasmanians with a Health Care Card to access nicotine replacement treatment. It is estimated 2,500 Tasmanians could benefit from this support which would help them improve their health and take pressure off the health system.

Cost: \$125,000

Tobacco Control

Labor understands that to reduce smoking rates there needs to be a sustained effort to fund anti-tobacco campaigns.

Labor will boost anti-tobacco marketing to ensure it is high visibility and high impact.

We will undertake a regular Tasmanian Smoking and Health Survey to monitor smoking rates and assess the effectiveness of campaigns.

Cost: \$1.5 million

Influenza vaccination

Last winter the Tasmanian hospital system strained under the pressure from presentations related to influenza. Currently flu vaccinations are free for anyone at risk of complications from flu:

- pregnant women
- anyone aged 65 years or over
- all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and over
- people with certain medical conditions or underlying illnesses

Labor believes that there is an opportunity to reduce the rates of flu in the community, the risk of harm for vulnerable groups and the pressure our hospitals feel during the flu season by increasing the rate of immunisation.

Labor will conduct a one year trial of free influenza vaccinations for all children and adults not eligible for the Federal program.

We will also work with GPs to ensure the vaccine is stocked at their surgeries to remove the additional barrier of patients needing to go to a pharmacy and then taking the vaccine back to a general practice. The trial will be evaluated for effectiveness before continuing in 2019.

Cost: \$2 million

Labor's Better Health Plan Funded Initiatives	
	\$m
More appointments and more elective surgery strategy	0.25
More appointments and more elective surgery implementation	75
More nurses and health workers	47.5
Medihotels	20.2
Better transport options for the west coast	0.265
More doctors in our hospitals	17.59
More GPs in regional areas	0.64
100 more graduate nurses	6.5
Psychiatric Emergency Nurses	8.58
Ambulances and Paramedics	15.9
More ambulance staff	3.2
Better ambulance stations	8
10 public mother and baby units	12.8
Devonport Integrated Care Centre	10
Dental health	6.4
Palliative care	12
Palliative care liaison worker	0.15
Mental health accommodation in communities	2.5
Millbrook Rise Redevelopment	0.6
Adult Residential Mental Health Prevention and Care	0.12
Facility investigation	
Adolescent and Youth Residential Mental Health Prevention and Care Facility investigation	0.12
Child and Adolescent Mental Health	7.2

Supporting Carers and Families	1
Rural Alive and Well	1.8
Using Technology to support Mental Health and Wellbeing	0.72
Update the master plan at the states four hospitals and develop health precinct plan for Launceston, Hobart & Burnie.	0.75
Future Hospital's Project	250
Scrapping THS CEO and Governing Council	-3
Healthy Communities Commission	20
Child and Family Centres	27
CHAPS nurses	2.6
Child health smartphone app	0.05
Speak Up Stay ChatTY	0.28
Working it Out schools program	0.3
Working it Out North West outreach worker	0.35
Food security community grants	2
Smoking cessation	0.125
Tobacco control	1.5
Influenza vaccination	2
Total funding	562.99

For more information go to

taslabor.com

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