

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## GENERAL PRACTICE TASMANIA WELCOMES BROAD DIRECTIONS FOR PRIMARY CARE

General Practice Tasmania has optimistically welcomed the release of the Government's broad directions for primary care in this State. At the same time, it has urged the Government to move quickly to develop a practical plan to implement the changes required to deliver long term sustainability.

General Practice Tasmania Chair, Dr Patrick O'Sullivan said that the release of the primary care service framework signalled a genuine intention to reform the system that would be generally well received by his colleagues statewide.

"All of us working in the community have long been aware of the urgent need to address issues of service administration, access to services, coordination between services and workforce sustainability in a systematic and considered way. The Government's framework, once it is implemented, offers an opportunity to do just that.

"Refreshingly there appears to be a willingness to look at new ways of working and to look beyond the public service system for the solutions. This is something that has been needed for a long time and we look forward to working with the Minister and her Department as well as the community and other professions in planning the implementation of these key reforms.

"If it is going to work, then those delivering the services need to be involved in developing the specific practical solutions and alternative models of healthcare at a community level," Dr O'Sullivan said.

Other key areas that General Practice Tasmania considers must feature in final plan include:

1. A clear intention to increase investment in primary care, health promotion and illness-prevention programs.
2. A commitment to information and communications technology infrastructure to support communication between the public health system and general practice.
3. A plan for appropriate transport systems including emergency response to support equitable access to services.
4. A clear statement about how services are to be intelligently and fairly distributed across the State.

"We would also like to encourage the Government to seek broad political commitment to the implementation of both the primary and clinical service plans. In the interests of the health of all Tasmanians these plans must be completed and reforms must be implemented."

### Contact Details:

General Practice Tasmania Chair, Dr Patrick O'Sullivan, may be contacted on 64251611 or 0419 366 177

*The General Practice Tasmania network is a unique statewide infrastructure that supports contemporary general practice in Tasmania by linking GPs with each other, by supporting all members of the general practice team and, increasingly, by employing or supporting allied health professionals such as physiotherapists, dieticians and psychologists to be part of the primary care team. General Practice Tasmania is also a proud member of the Australian General Practice Network.*

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