



Tabled by  
Hon. D. Parkinson  
5/9/06.

Petition No: 1 LC/2006

## RESPONSE TO PETITION

**Title of Petition:** Concerns that sleep apnoea sufferers of the North West do not receive the same State Government assistance as that afforded to those in Southern and Northern Tasmania.

To the Honourable, the President and Members of the Legislative Council in Parliament assembled.

The humble petition of the undersigned citizens of Tasmanian sheweth: that your petitioners are gravely concerned that sleep apnoea sufferers of the North West do not receive the same State Government assistance as that afforded to those in Southern and Northern Tasmania.

And your petitioners humbly pray – that the Legislative Council calls on the Government to take whatever action is necessary to rectify this discriminatory situation.

### Government's Position

- Currently North West patients are required to make a co-payment of \$50 per annum in order to lease a Continuous Positive Airways Pressure machine, and are required to pay for their initial consumable items such as mask and tubing. Patients in the North and South are not currently charged for these items.
- This historical regional difference has arisen in the North West due to a differing set of management arrangements which have been in place for many years in relation to the provision of CPAP equipment.
- The Government is concerned about the variation in support that patients get across the state in relation to sleep apnoea and considers that this is not acceptable.
- The Government is aware of the regional variations in approach to co-payments and consumable purchases by sleep apnoea patients, and we are addressing the need for a consistent statewide approach to sleep apnoea management.
- I have directed the Department of Health and Human Services to develop a management framework for sleep apnoea which will ensure consistency of clinical support as well as equitable provision of CPAP machines and consumables to all eligible public patients within Tasmania.

Lara Giddings, MHA  
Minister for Health and Human Services