

# RESPONSE TO PETITION

## Petition No. 36 of 20 Legislative Council

Tabled L. Hiscutt  
01 June 2022

Michelle  
Deputy Clerk

The petitioners ask the House to:

Note that:

- (1) The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states "*Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including ... medical care and necessary social services, sickness ... other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control*";
- (2) There is a crisis within the mental health services in Tasmania, in particular the inability to provide appropriate care and support for those who have eating disorders particularly young people with eating disorders;
- (3) There is a lack of suitably qualified adolescent mental health professionals and limited access to appropriate education and training in Tasmania; and
- (4) Many young people in Tasmania are not receiving appropriate care when suffering from acute adverse mental health conditions, particularly eating disorders.

Ensure that:

- (1) All Tasmanians are educated about eating disorders and the impact of the physical and mental health and wellbeing of those suffering with eating disorders;
- (2) The necessary resources are available to train more qualified workers in the areas of practice required to treat and support those with eating disorders; and
- (3) Access to appropriate care for young people with eating disorders, with appropriately qualified staff and facilities in Tasmania and until this is available provide funding support for care in Victoria or another mainland State.

### GOVERNMENT POSITION:

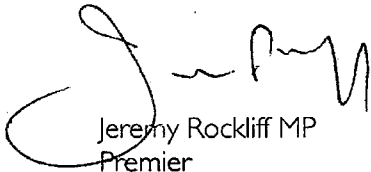
- The Tasmanian Government is firmly committed to improving the mental health and wellbeing of all Tasmanians, including young people, a commitment which is underpinned by the multi-million dollar investment in Tasmania's Mental Health Reform Program and a \$45.2 million investment to implement our response to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Review.

- The Tasmanian Government, with funding support from the Australian Government, is working to ensure that Tasmanians with an eating disorder, and their families and support networks, have access to evidence-based treatment and support.
- In April 2019, the Australian Government committed \$10 million to establish a new Eating Disorders Treatment Centre in Tasmania under the Community Health and Hospitals Program (CHHP) agreement.
- The Department of Health has developed the model of care for the new Tasmanian Eating Disorder Services (TEDS).
- TEDS will provide two treatment streams, in alignment with the National Eating Disorder Collaboration stepped system of care. These streams are:
  - A residential treatment program (to be located in Hobart); and
  - Intensive community-based treatment (day/evening programs) at sites in Launceston and Burnie.
- TEDS will provide a range of evidence-based treatments, including psychological treatment, wellbeing therapies, and meal support.
- Of the overall \$10 million, \$7.5 million will be used for the construction of the physical infrastructure to deliver the residential treatment stream at St Johns Park, New Town. The remaining \$2.5 million has been allocated to the community-based treatment sites in the North and North West. Construction is planned to commence in March 2023 and is scheduled for completion in the first half of 2024.

## RESPONSE:

1. The Tasmanian Government acknowledges that early identification and early intervention can reduce the severity, duration, and impact of an eating disorder.
2. The new Tasmanian Eating Disorder Service (TEDS) will provide education and training for:
  - Families and friends of people with eating disorders
  - Health professionals of a range of relevant disciplines, and
  - Other sectors including those most likely to be first identifiers, such as in sport and education.
3. We have invested \$45.2 million to fully fund a major shift in the delivery of Child and Adolescent Services (CAMHS). This work is led by Professor Brett McDermott, who will also take on the administration role for TEDS.

4. TEDS will have a whole of life remit. As such, young people will be central to the service. Further, TEDS will be integrated with existing community CAMHS and new CAMHS initiatives such as the Youth Mental Health Service.
5. It is expected that the recruitment and staffing structure of the service will be difficult, given a nationwide shortage of health professionals equipped to treat eating disorders. Eating disorder treatment services in Tasmania are currently provided by both public and private health providers. A new CAMHS eating disorders model of care will provide improved access to eating disorders expertise from Southern Tasmania practitioners to colleagues in other regions of the state. This should mitigate any requirement for accessing interstate services.



Jeremy Rockliff MP  
Premier  
Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing

Date: 31/5/22