

25 June 2020

The Hon Jeremy Rockliff
Deputy Premier
Tasmanian Government
Level 10
15 Murray Street
HOBART TAS 7000

By email: Jeremy.Rockliff@dpac.tas.gov.au

Dear Deputy Premier

FUNDING FOR ADULT EATING DISORDER TREATMENT FACILITY IN TASMANIA

We are writing to you on behalf of Dietitians Australia and in support of Ms Woodruff's [statement](#) on Tuesday 16 June 2020, to request your leadership in progressing the promised residential eating disorder clinic in Tasmania.

Currently in Tasmania, the only treatment option for adults living with an eating disorder is to pay for specialised treatment out of their own pocket. If the individual is unable to pay for these services, their condition may become critical and require hospitalisation.

The number of health professionals who specialise in eating disorders in Tasmania is limited. This creates inequity of service accessibility and impacting on the quality of care that Tasmanians are able to receive. An adult patient admitted to either Royal Hobart Hospital or Launceston General Hospital with a severe eating disorder is seen on a general medical ward, without the services of an expert eating disorder dietitian. If the patient is not accepted for an admission due to the severity, it is likely that they will be transferred to a better equipped hospital in another state. The lack of facilities, financial, and workforce resources in treating eating disorder is essentially against the fundamental rights to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health of Tasmanians.

In April 2019, the Liberal government promised a \$10 million dollar residential eating disorder facility to be built in Tasmania. It does not appear that any progress has been made in following through on this promise.

We are calling on you, as the Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing, to advocate to your federal colleagues to begin development of this essential and lifesaving residential facility.

Yours sincerely



Robert Hunt
Chief Executive Officer



Dr Varitha Kinghorn, PhD, AdvAPD
Chairperson, Dietitians Australia (Tasmania)