

# Department of Health

GPO Box 125, HOBART TAS 7001, Australia

Web: [www.health.tas.gov.au](http://www.health.tas.gov.au)



Contact: Dee-Ann Simmons  
Phone: 0408 595 736  
E-mail: [dee-ann.simmons@health.tas.gov.au](mailto:dee-ann.simmons@health.tas.gov.au)  
File: D26/39789/1

Scott Hennessy  
Secretary  
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works  
Parliament of Tasmania  
[publicworks@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:publicworks@parliament.tas.gov.au)

Dear Scott,

**Subject: North West Mental Health Precinct –Matters Taken on Notice at PWC  
Hearing 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

Thank you for outlining the items requiring additional information following the public hearing for this project on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

On behalf of the Department of Health please find our enclosed responses.

Yours sincerely

Dee-Ann Simmons  
Project Manager

16/04/2026

**Enclosures:**

1. Letter from Scott Hennessy to Dee-Ann Simmons dated 09 April 2026.
2. Department of Health responses to matters raised in Enclosure 1.



Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

9 April 2026

Dee-Ann Simmons  
Project Manager, Infrastructure Services  
Department of Health  
Via email only: [dee-ann.simmons@health.tas.gov.au](mailto:dee-ann.simmons@health.tas.gov.au)

Dear Dee-Ann,

**North West Regional Hospital Mental Health Precinct**

Thank you for appearing before the Public Works Committee at the public hearing for the North West Regional Hospital Mental Health Precinct on Wednesday, 11 March 2026.

At the hearing you and your colleagues committed to provide additional information to the Committee on the following matters:

- 1) Please provide the number of additional car parks that will service the proposed works, as well as the number of additional car parks provided in the North West Regional Hospital Masterplan.
- 2) Please provide additional background information regarding the relocation of the Spencer Clinic from Wynyard to the North West Regional Hospital, including whether it was originally planned to be an interim arrangement and the decision to locate it beside the Children's Ward.
- 3) Please provide data on the projected need for acute mental health services in the north west region, and the ideal number of beds to meet future demand.
- 4) Please provide data on the demand for short-stay admissions compared to longer-term admissions in acute mental health facilities in the north west region.
- 5) Please provide the Implementation Plan that forms part of the North West Regional Hospital Masterplan.
- 6) Please provide data on the frequency of helicopter landings and take-offs at the North West Regional Hospital.

Could you please provide this information to me by Thursday, 16 April 2026.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Hennessy'.

Scott Hennessy  
Secretary

**Enclosure 2:** Department of Health responses to matters raised in Enclosure 1.

- **Q1** - *Please provide the number of additional car parks that will service the proposed works, as well as the number of additional car parks provided in the North West Regional Hospital Masterplan.*
- **A1** - 32 carparking spaces will be added to current available parking at North West Regional Hospital as part of this project. This number includes 2 accessible carparks. An additional bay will also be added for drop offs.
  - Approximately 630 additional car parks are expected to be delivered across the 20-year North West Hospitals Masterplan.
  - To date, 43 additional car parks have been provided at the North West Regional Hospital through various improvements to parking.
  - The intention is that the additional car parks will be provided in basements and under crofts of new buildings where possible, and through the creation of car parks at ground level.
- **Q2** - *Please provide additional background information regarding the relocation of the Spencer Clinic from Wynyard to the North West Regional Hospital (NWRH), including whether it was originally planned to be an interim arrangement and the decision to locate it beside the Children’s Ward.*
- **A2** - The proposed project has been unable to locate evidence documenting the relocation of the Spencer Clinic to NWRH, nor whether the decision to locate adjacent to the Children’s Ward was based on a temporary or longer-term solution.
- **Q3** - *Please provide data on the projected need for acute mental health services in the north west region, and the ideal number of beds to meet future demand.*
- **A3** - Occupancy rates for beds at NWRH over the past five years have grown from 85 per cent in 2021 to 100 per cent in 2025. Mental Health related presentations at the NWRH have grown from 1882 in 2021 to 1954 in 2025 and admissions have grown from 415 to 457 in the same period. The data would indicate a similar continued trend for growing demand.

<b>NWRH Spencer Clinic</b>	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
NWRH - Spencer Clinic (19 Beds)	85%	90%	96%	90%	100%
Total admissions	415	372	374	454	457
NWRH ED - Mental health related presentations	1882	1844	1979	1915	1954
NWRH ED - Mental health related presentations ALOS (hours)	5.9	6.8	7.7	8.8	10.4
Average wait for inpatient mental health bed from ED	3.8	6	10.4	12.2	16.5

- **Q4** - *Please provide data on the demand for short-stay admissions compared to longer-term admissions in acute mental health facilities in the north west region*

- **A4** - Separations data for the NWRH Spencer Clinic indicate a sustained level of inpatient mental health activity, with an average of 37 separations per month over the most recent two year period. While the largest proportion of separations relate to short term admissions of 1-7 days LOS (18 per month), a substantial number of patients experience longer stays, with an average of 7 separations per month for stays of 8-14 days and 12 separations per month for stays exceeding 14 days LOS.

Separations - Monthly average (2 year period)	Short term 1-7 days LOS	Medium 8-14 days LOS	Long >14 days LOS	Total
NWRH - Spencer Clinic	18	7	12	37

- **Q5** - *Please provide the Implementation Plan that forms part of the North West Regional Hospital Masterplan.*
- **A5** - The following link will take you to the NWRH masterplan. The implementation schedule is referred to on page 67, with NWMHP implementation detailed on page 70: [North West Hospitals Masterplan](#)
- **Q6** - *Please provide data on the frequency of helicopter landings and take-offs at the North West Regional Hospital.*
- **A6** - There are on average 20-25 helicopter flights to and from the North West Regional Hospital per month.

**END**