

Charge for North West Regional Hospital Accommodation Unit

Ms DOW question to MINISTER for HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH and WELLBEING

My question is from my constituent Gary in Smithton. Gary presented to the Smithton District Hospital emergency department late at night, was unable to be treated and consequently had to travel to the Burnie emergency department, where he was treated, discharged and asked to present again early the next morning. He asks why he had to pay \$70 a night to stay in the units of the North West Regional Hospital. Why are already disadvantaged regional and remote Tasmanians having to pay for accommodation to access basic emergency department services that aren't available in their own town? I thought these units were provided for accommodation for people travelling from rural and remote areas so they could get timely access to care.