

CONSTITUENT QUESTION

House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Craig Garland MP

ANSWERED BY: Hon Bridget Archer MP
Minister for Health, Mental Health and
Wellbeing

QUESTION:

A constituent of Ridgley who wishes to remain anonymous has raised concerns with me about hospital bed availability on the North West Coast, particularly where patients who are medically ready for discharge remain in hospital because appropriate aged care, NDIS or other community placements are unavailable. For the North West Regional Hospital and Mersey Community Hospital, over the past 12 months, what was the average daily number of patients who remained in hospital for this reason and how many total hospital bed days were occupied by those patients during that period?

ANSWER:

Based upon fortnightly snapshots from September 2025 to August 2026, there were on average 36 patients per day stranded in our North West hospitals who were medically ready to leave hospital but were waiting for a residential aged care placement or for NDIS access/supports. When applied to the 12-month period, this equates to a total of 13,140 hospital bed days.

During the period, there was an average of 14 patients per day waiting at the Mersey Community Hospital, with an average of 11 patients waiting for residential aged care placement and three patients waiting for NDIS access/supports. When applied to the 12-month period, this equates to a total of 5,110 hospital bed days.

Additionally, there was an average of 22 patients per day waiting at the North West Regional Hospital, with an average of 20 patients waiting for residential aged care placement and two patients waiting for NDIS access/supports. When applied to the 12-month period, this equates to 8,030 hospital bed days.

This has a real human impact on these Tasmanians, who are ready to leave hospital but through no fault of their own cannot be discharged, sometimes for weeks and even months at a time.

Further, when patients are unable to be discharged to appropriate care, beds in wards cannot be used, surgeries cannot be undertaken, and patients wait longer in Emergency Departments.

This is a national issue that continues to get worse and every State and Territory across the country, both Labor and Liberal, continues to strongly advocate for more action from the Commonwealth to fix these ongoing issues.



Hon Bridget Archer MP
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing

Date: 25/6/26