

CONSTITUENT QUESTION

House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Helen Burnet MP

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

QUESTION:

My question is from the daughter of a resident at Rosary Gardens. When Rosary Gardens was purchased, did you or your department take into account arrangements and ramifications for residents and staff?

Were you aware that they were promised that they could stay until June of this year, and how do you reconcile the lack of more aged care beds with the closure of Rosary Gardens and the loss of 96 beds?

ANSWER:

- Southern Cross Care has committed to ensuring all current residents are assisted in the transition to other appropriate accommodation by 30 June 2026.
- The Chair of Southern Cross Care, Sonya Beyers, has stated publicly that no resident will be left without a home.

- The Tasmanian Government has a clear expectation that Southern Cross Care will treat residents and their families or guardians with respect and care during this process.
- If any residents or their families or guardians have specific concerns, I encourage them to contact the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission, as they are the most appropriate body to investigate those matters in the first instance.
- Rosary Gardens staffing is a matter for Southern Cross Care, however, there are always jobs available for health professionals in Tasmania and we would welcome applications from any health care staff interested in transferring to the Tasmanian Health Service.
- In relation to the loss of aged care beds, Southern Cross Care independently made the decision to sell Rosary Gardens.
- However, I recently attended a roundtable with Federal Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Rebecca White MP, COTA, the ANMF, and Department of Health representatives to further discuss these issues.
- Our Government continues to actively seek viable solutions from the Federal Government to ensure older Tasmanians can access aged care beds when they are needed.
- Despite aged care being a Federal Government responsibility, we are working to increase the number of aged care homes around the State.

- We have committed to undertaking an Expression of Interest process for aged care providers to construct and operate three assisted living facilities in the North, North West, and South on greenfield government-owned land.
- An audit of government-owned greenfield sites has recently been completed, and the Department of Health is now doing further analysis to determine the most suitable sites for the Expression of Interest.



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