

CONSTITUENT QUESTION

House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Kristie Johnston MP

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

QUESTION:

My question is from Dennis. Dennis has attended the renal unit at St Johns Park in New Town for dialysis several times a week. He says that while the renal unit is staffed by skilled, experienced and friendly staff, the facility itself is severely rundown and uncomfortable for patients. They bring their own blankets to keep warm during winter during dialysis. Having visited myself, I can agree it's barely fit for purpose. Where does the renal unit fit into the redevelopment plans for St Johns Park? When will a warm, dignified and fit-for-purpose unit be available to Tasmanians seeking dialysis?

ANSWER:

The St Johns Park Health and Wellbeing Masterplan will set out the Department of Health's (DoH) long-term vision for transforming the site into a contemporary healthcare campus that reflects its significant cultural heritage and meets the health needs of Tasmanians for decades to come.

The initial Draft Masterplan released in 2023 proposed that Karingal and Carruthers buildings be removed in the future, with a new location for a modern renal facility at St Johns Park to be identified. The Final Draft Masterplan will be released for further community consultation in the coming months.

While this planning work progresses, DoH has undertaken maintenance to improve the current environment. In 2023, a substantial program of works was completed at the Carruthers Building, including upgrades to exterior lighting, the patient drop-off and entry area, signage, and other external maintenance.

DoH will continue to review the support provided to patients, as well as explore options to enhance comfort, while maintaining compliance with infection control and safety standards.

DoH is committed to working closely with the Kidney Advisory Group as redevelopment plans progress, ensuring that the future renal facility at St Johns Park is fit for purpose for Tasmanians who rely on dialysis.



Hon Bridget Archer MP

Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing

Date: 29 April 2026