

CONSTITUENT QUESTION

House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Kristie Johnston MP

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

QUESTION:

Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation Treatment in Tasmania

Ms JOHNSTON question to PREMIER

My constituent's son William has treatment resistant depression and relies on regular transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS), an evidence-based treatment that allows him to live and work with some normality. Until this week, he received that care as an inpatient of the Hobart Clinic. With its closure and the earlier loss of St Helens, there are now no affordable inpatient TMS options in Tasmania. Outpatient treatment costs at least \$600 every six weeks with no Medicare or private health rebate. Without regular TMS, patients risk relapse, hospitalisation and increased suicidal ideation. Two years after assurances from you and the then Health Minister, TMS is still not available at the Royal Hobart Hospital. When will this service be available in the public system? What support will be offered to Tasmanians like William who otherwise face going interstate or paying unaffordable costs?

ANSWER:

The Tasmanian Government will provide one-off, transitional funding of \$2 million to The Hobart Clinic, enabling it to continue operating for the next six months.

While the Tasmanian Health Service does not offer TMS, we expect this funding will enable the Hobart Clinic to continue to provide TMS as one of its inpatient service options.

This grant will also provide the Clinic with time to work on changes to its business model and to ascertain if it can operate sustainably without reliance on ongoing Government funding support into the future.

Privately operated providers also continue to offer outpatient TMS, including Hobart TMS and the Neurocentrix TMS Clinic in Launceston.

I can also confirm I have written to, and met with, the Federal Minister Mark Butler requesting the Federal Government increase the Medicare rebate for TMS.

The Tasmanian Government will continue working collaboratively with private providers to ensure the mental health needs of Tasmanians can be met into the future.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bridget Archer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

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

Date: 27 October 2025