

# CONSTITUENT QUESTION

## House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Dr Shane Broad MP

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

### QUESTION:

My constituent Tammy from Wynyard has asked: The Department of Health has been tasked with finding more than \$700 million in savings over the Forward Estimates. Tammy, and many other Tasmanians, are understandably confused. On one hand, the Government is claiming record investment in Health. On the other, it is demanding hundreds of millions of dollars in savings from a system already struggling with workforce shortages, surgery waiting lists and Emergency Department pressures. Can the Minister explain how both of these statements can be true at the same time and specifically identify where \$700 million in savings will be found without reducing services, delaying care, or increasing pressure on frontline health workers?

**ANSWER:**

The 2026-27 Budget continues the Tasmanian Government's plan to deliver better healthcare for Tasmanians, with record investment of more than \$15 billion into our health system across the forward estimates.

That's more than \$10 million every single day invested into our health system and a clear increase compared to last year's interim Budget, with Health now making up 35 per cent of the State Budget.

While we are investing record amounts, we are also committed to delivering a sustainable health system for the future. We have been very transparent about the fact that efficiencies must be made, and our clear expectation is for the Department of Health to focus on delivery of frontline services, while ensuring every single dollar of taxpayer money is used wisely.

Work is already underway to introduce technology and remove duplication as we transition to digital processes right across our health services. There will also be an increased focus on decreasing locum and agency costs, boosting cost recovery, particularly regarding what we can claim in Medicare rebates, for example, and a revised executive structure and other structural changes, including a reduction in the number of Deputy Secretaries.

Across Government, we know we need to be more efficient so we can drive down debt and keep our economy strong and continue to deliver sustainable services for now and into the future.



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

Date: 1/6/26