

CONSTITUENT QUESTION

House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Dr Rosalie Woodruff MP

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

QUESTION:

My question is from Suze in Deep Bay, and she reflects other comments I've had from the community - an outpouring of disbelief, concern and anger after hearing of the shock decision to defund the Cygnet Family Practice's urgent and after-hours clinic immediately on 30 June. Suz writes: Minister, this service was provided by nurse practitioners and community paramedics. Making an immediate cut like this out of the blue after four years to a critical service provided by hardworking, dedicated people was brutal, callous and completely disrespectful. It's also unbelievably short-sighted. It was saving the state health budget more than \$1 million a year for four years. There are less ambulances getting called out and people don't have to go to the Royal for things that can be treated locally. It's so important for regional Tasmanians. It's done its bit to cut ambulance ramping times. Minister, how could you be so heartless? Will you continue this funding until you have secured the same level of funding or more from the federal government?

ANSWER:

The funding for Cygnet Family Practice is a prime example of where we've stepped in to provide services that should be funded by the Commonwealth.

The State has provided approximately \$1 million in time-limited funding to the Cygnet Family Practice since 2022, to support its after-hours service.

I can confirm we will again provide a one-year extension of funding through to 30 June 2027, but to be clear, this is transitional funding only and will not be extended any further.

This transitional funding will allow these services to continue for another year, while giving the Commonwealth adequate time to fund them through the 2027-28 Federal Budget.

The Commonwealth cannot continue to wipe their hands of their Federal responsibilities and pretend that Urgent Care Clinics are where their responsibilities for primary care end.

I would welcome the Parliament's support in advocating to the Commonwealth to fund the Cygnet Family Practice's urgent and after-hours clinic, along with other primary care services across the State.



Hon Bridget Archer MP

Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing

Date: 2/6/26