

CONSTITUENT QUESTION

House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Cecily Rosol MP

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

QUESTION:

My question is on behalf of GroWaverley, a community-led organisation that provides food support. GroWaverley is aware of patients being discharged from the Launceston General Hospital (LGH) after long hospital stays with no food at home and no way to get groceries, meaning they can't easily access food.

GroWaverley has frozen meals it can quickly and easily delivered to people in these circumstances. The meals are already funded and prepared. Only a communication or referral pathway is needed to open the door to them being delivered to patients on discharge.

GroWaverley asks what steps it should take to make its service more widely known to patients at LGH. Will your department reach out to GroWaverley and identify and create a pathway to connect patients who need food with this service, so no one is discharged from LGH without easy access to food?

ANSWER:

The Hospitals North Social Work team provides Launceston General Hospital (LGH) patients with information about a range of post-discharge support options, including meal preparation services.

The team does not make referrals to specific service providers, but makes patients aware of organisations, including recognised and regulated charities.

This approach to provide general guidance enables patients, families, friends and broader care networks to explore the options available and make informed decisions that best meet their individual circumstances and nutritional needs.

I am advised that the Social Work team is not aware of GroWaverley, nor whether it is compliant with regulatory schemes for food safety or charitable fundraising requirements. The team would welcome an introduction to GroWaverley's services.

GroWaverley is welcome to contact Sue Vucak, Head of Social Work, directly at sue.vucak@ths.tas.gov.au.



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