

Free and Low-Cost Women's Health Services

Ms JOHNSTON question to MINISTER for HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH and WELLBEING

I have a constituent question from Lynn in Glenorchy. Lynn saw the announcement about expansion of The Bubble clinic in Launceston to which the Tasmanian government is contributing \$3.8 million to extend its consulting practice. Lynn said even The Bubble's Dr Vavreck admitted the expansion won't mean free or low-cost services to people on low incomes, but it will increase their capacity to provide service to people with the means to pay.

Lynn is aware of long wait times with free and low-cost services through Family Planning Tasmania, including in the south of the state. Lynn would like to know how the government can justify giving \$3.8 million to a private for-profit provider when not-for-profit organisations like Family Planning Tasmania and Women's Health Tasmania can't get funding to do outreach so more Tasmanians can access their free and low-cost services.