



Andrew Wilkie MP  
INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR DENISON

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The Hon Julia Gillard MP  
Prime Minister  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

I'm writing further to our discussion and correspondence about the dreadful state of the Tasmanian public health system.

As you would know I've discussed the issue with the Tasmanian Minister for Health, The Hon Michelle O'Byrne MHA, and am able to confirm that the Tasmanian Government believes that boosting federal health funding by about \$100m/year would go some way to remedying the Tasmanian public health system. Such funding would be directed at the placement of medical interns, elective surgery, emergency departments, sub-acute dementia treatment and other mental health services.

With all of this in mind I now call on the Federal Government to urgently enter into a four year extra ordinary health funding agreement with the Tasmanian Government to deliver not less than an additional \$100m/year, commencing with some immediate assistance in FY11/12 and continuing through to the end of FY15/16. This arrangement should be exempt from the carve-up of GST on account of the unique additional cost of delivering health care in the island state. It should also be in addition to all current and forecast federal expenditure on the Tasmanian public health system, and include a safeguard to prevent the State Government from taking money out of the health budget to spend in other areas.

I also urge the Federal Government to work with the State Government to put Tasmania's public health system on a sustainable footing, and in particular to instigate a formal inquiry examining, among other things, the possibility of a federal takeover or at least the adoption of a single funding model.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Wilkie  
Independent Member for Denison