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Wednesday, 2 May 2012

The Hon. Tanya Plibersek MHR
Minister for Health
Parliament House
PO Box 6022

Via email: Minister.Plibersek@health.gov.au

Dear Minister Plibersek,

Re: Request for meeting regarding Tasmania becoming a pilot for a single funder model

I am writing on behalf of the Tasmanian Greens to draw your attention to the urgent matter of Tasmania's Health System, and the need to place it onto a sustainable footing.

I am certain you would be aware of the growing concerns of Tasmanians over the health system, particularly since the cuts were announced to the Health Budget in last year's State Budget.

Last year I hosted a Health Stakeholders Forum to discuss the merits, or otherwise of a single funder model for health. Participants at the Forum included healthy policy analysts, representatives of various health sectors and health unions.

My office produced a Report from this forum which summarises key points arising and findings. I was most surprised at the level of consensus at the Forum regarding the challenges facing Tasmania's health system. The unanimous view amongst participants was that moving to a single funder model would be a vital step in addressing many of these challenges, both in the short and long term.

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I have attached a copy of this Report to this letter, for your consideration.

I am aware that the suggestion of a single funder model was raised with your predecessor, The Hon. Nicola Roxon.

I write to you now to urge you to revisit this matter and give it due consideration, given the substantial momentum this issue is gaining among the Tasmanian community.

I wish to formally request a face to face meeting with you to discuss the urgent need for Tasmania to become a pilot for a single funder model.


I have not heard a plausible argument against Tasmania being used as a trial state for a single funder model. Your Tasmanian Labor Colleague and Health Minister, The Hon. Michelle O'Byrne MP last week expressed formal support for this to occur.

While a meeting in Tasmania may better inform you of the sense of urgency this matter has engendered, if it is not possible for you to come to Tasmania for this meeting, I would personally be willing to travel to Canberra to help facilitate a meeting at the earliest possible time.

I can't stress enough how important this issue is to the Tasmanian community and in respect of that I would appreciate a response at your earliest convenience, in order to progress this matter.

A hardcopy of this correspondence will also be mailed to you.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. T. O'H.', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul O'Halloran MP
Tasmanian Greens Health Spokesperson

Cc: The Hon. Julia Gillard MP, Prime Minister
The Hon. Michelle O'Byrne MP, Tasmanian Health Minister
The Hon. Nick McKim MP, Tasmanian Greens Leader
Senator Christine Milne, Australian Greens Leader