



**THE HON SUSSAN LEY MP  
MINISTER FOR HEALTH  
MINISTER FOR AGED CARE  
MINISTER FOR SPORT**

Ref No: MC16-013412

Mr Andrew Wilkie MP  
Member for Denison  
GPO Box 32  
HOBART TAS 7001



Dear Mr Wilkie *Andrew*

Thank you for your representations of 31 March 2016 regarding funding for the Psychiatric Emergency Nurse Service (PENS) at the Royal Hobart Hospital.

I note your request to maintain Commonwealth funding for the seven Psychiatric Emergency Nurse positions at the Royal Hobart Hospital, and I recognise that the PENS provide an important service to the Hobart community.

As you are aware, the PENS at the Royal Hobart Hospital was funded as part of the Tasmanian Health Assistance Package, which was always due to conclude on 30 June 2016. It was not intended to be an ongoing program. Under the terms of the Agreement, the latter stage of this project includes planning for the sustainability of the service beyond the term of the Schedule.

Responsibility for the management of and consideration of ongoing funding of the PENS rests with the Tasmanian Government. You may wish to raise this issue with the Tasmanian Minister for Health, the Hon Michael Ferguson MP. Minister Ferguson's contact details are: The Hon Michael Ferguson MP, PO Box 537, LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.

The Turnbull government is committed to improving health services for all Tasmanians and continues to support Tasmania through a range of initiatives. These include:

- Extending the Mersey Hospital agreement for 2 years to 2017 at a cost of \$148.5 million;
- Providing \$20 million for acute and sub-acute projects in Tasmania; and
- \$10 million for the John L Grove Rehabilitation Centre.

Thank you for writing to me on this matter.

Yours sincerely

The Hon Sussan Ley MP

18 APR 2016