

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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University to manage \$12 million hospital improvement program

The University of Tasmania has been chosen by the Australian Government to coordinate a \$12 million Clinical Redesign program focused on improving acute patient care, boosting hospital efficiency, and delivering better satisfaction for health care professionals.

The centre managing the process, Health Services Innovation Tasmania (HSI Tas), was officially launched today by Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen.

Joined at the launch by Tasmanian Health Minister Michael Ferguson, the Vice-Chancellor said, "For the first time the Australian Government has appointed a University to manage the planning and rollout of a state-based Clinical Redesign program.

"HSI Tas is based in the Faculty of Health precinct in Hobart. It is working closely with health leaders and the state's hospitals, through newly opened clinical redesign offices in Burnie, Launceston and Hobart.

"For the University to host this specialised unit is a huge vote of confidence in our ability to work with the professional and broader community on key issues in the field of health care, which affects us all," Professor Rathjen added.

"The focus is on the safety and quality of clinical services, and establishing proper sustainability into the future, particularly by providing health care professionals and students with skills in the principles of clinical redesign."

Clinical Redesign is a key aspect of the federally-funded Tasmanian Health Assistance Package that emphasises better utilisation of budgetary resources to create high quality, safe and more sustainable health care.

It is recognised nationally and internationally as the best way for public health systems to face the increasing demand for services and more timely care.

“Embedding Clinical Redesign within the hospital patient’s journey has been shown to improve care significantly while delivering a more efficient use of clinical resources and lower costs,” Professor Rathjen said.

“In terms of our educational and research roles, the University is ideally equipped to work collaboratively with the community, and the Tasmanian and Federal governments, to improve the efficiency, quality and safety of patient care.

“The public health care challenge is recognised as being especially strong in Tasmania, which faces high demands for emergency services and elective surgery, two of the key areas that clinical redesign is well suited to addressing.

“The wellbeing of Tasmanians underpins this important initiative, and we are committed to assisting our hospitals perform more effectively within the national budgetary constraints.

“While there are no quick fixes, we are confident that Health Services Innovation Tasmania will help deliver a better health care experience for Tasmanians, and a more sustainable hospital system into the future.”

HSI Tas involves 14 full and part-time staff members, and its Co-Directors are Professor Greg Peterson, Associate Dean (Research), Faculty of Health and Associate Professor Craig Quarmby, a surgeon with lengthy experience in the Tasmanian health care system.

Health Services Innovation Tasmania - <http://www.healthinnovation.tas.edu.au/>

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