



MEDIA RELEASE

Sunday, 13 December 2009

RHH plumbs new depths of dysfunctionality and there is worse to come.

The Royal Hobart Hospital's status as a teaching institution is now in question with the Hospital administration's failure to ensure the accreditation of the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Unit's program for specialist training.

The RHH looks like being the first ever tertiary teaching hospital in Australasia to have its training status withdrawn by Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. This is a dismal result for those doctors currently training in the specialty but that is only the tip of the iceberg.

The downstream effects of this woeful mishandling of a critical administrative function will include:

- A serious downgrading of O&G service delivery to the women of Tasmania requiring specialist attention in the public sector.
- An even greater difficulty in attracting consultant staff not only in O&G but also in other disciplines in the RHH due to the serious damage to the hospital's reputation that will result.
- An even worse future shortage of locally trained specialists to work in Tasmania. It is noted that the majority of the current O&G specialists in Hobart did at least part of their training at the RHH and this is a great incentive to return in future years.
- Serious implications for medical student teaching due to poor consultant and registrar staffing in O&G.

Women's Health is an essential service and is recognised as such even in the developing world. The Minister, the DHHS and the RHH administration must come to their senses and give this matter the highest priority. Whatever resources are necessary to prevent this looming calamity must be made available urgently.

END

For clarification or further comment:

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