



**MEDIA RELEASE – 24<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

## **Scrap the THO Bill and start again.**

President of AMA Tasmania Dr. John Davis and Chairman Dr. Chris Middleton met with members of the Legislative Council in committee yesterday to provide a briefing on the AMA's views on the Tasmanian Health Organizations Bill due to be debated in the Upper House.

Even as this bill goes through the Parliament, the time for this legislation has passed, Dr. Davis said. Originally designed under the Rudd Health Reforms the THO Bill was suited for local administration under a single funder. But that is not what we have. This Bill cements the silo mentality into our health system. It should be rejected, he said.

Whether we have one or three Local Hospital Networks, the fact remains this Bill allows significant Ministerial interference via, charters, policies, directions and service agreements. We will still end up with politically influenced medical decisions. The proposed Lead Clinicians Group, which was to provide advice, has been omitted entirely.

Dr. Davis said, Having the THO CEOs answerable to three masters: the Minister, the DHHS and their own Board will be conflicting to say the least.

The AMA proposes that the Legislative Council reject this Bill and send a message to the State and Federal Governments that they should start again with restructuring Tasmania's Health System, especially in the context of the recent severe funding cuts which have resulted in a Tasmanian Health Emergency.

END

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