



# AMA

## TASMANIA

### **MEDIA RELEASE – 16<sup>th</sup> June 2011**

#### **Budget 2011**

“The big question from today’s State Budget is, where is the Government going to find \$350 million to cut from Health?” asked the President of AMA Tasmania Dr. John Davis following the budget handed down this afternoon in Parliament by the Treasurer Lara Giddings.

The AMA has been invited to contribute to a meeting next week to assist in finding these savings, however the amount required to be identified is very significant. “How these cuts can be delivered without impacting on patient care is, at this point in time, unknown”, said Dr. Davis.

Extra amounts being injected into additional staff at the LGH, state costs associated with the redevelopment of the RHH plus extra car parking at the NWRH are all costs added in, before the savings have to be found.

“We all know that during good times we should be saving in order to get us through the bad, and from this budget it seems we didn’t save enough. Health is a fundamental service that the State Government provides to the community and they can not back away from that responsibility by cutting patient care. Being frugal after the fact is not good enough”, he said.

Dr. Davis added, “It is vital, that in discussions with the Government that we ensure state obligations are fulfilled and not hidden behind Health Reform funding from the Federal Government”.

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For further information call Dr. John Davis on 0488 142 033