



# AMA

## TASMANIA

### **MEDIA RELEASE – 10<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

#### **HOSPITAL WAITING TIMES GET WORSE!**

Today saw the release of the annual Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Report 2007 -08.

Spokesman for the AMA in Tasmania Dr. Michael Aizen said, “the median waiting time for elective surgery in public hospitals for all Australia’s was 34 days in 2007-08, two days longer than the previous year and 6 days longer than the 2003-04”.

In Tasmania, he said, “The median elective waiting times were consistent with national figures, but more than 10% of Tasmanians waited for over a year for admission to hospital for elective surgery, this compares with the national figure of just 3%”.

“The median waiting time for Tasmanians was 38 days for emergency admission compared with 3 days nationally and 7.4% waited more than one year for emergency admission compared with 0.9% nationwide”, he said.

“Overall looking at elective and emergency admissions Tasmanians waited for 49 days compared with 38 across the nation and more than 13% waited for over a year compared with 4.2% nationally,” he said.

Dr. Aizen, said, “The AMA in Tasmania is concerned at the worsening trend and reinforces its previous calls to the State Government to increase the total number of beds available for treatment in order to cope with increasing demand”.

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END