



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **NEW HOSPITAL FUNDING – INFRASTRUCTURE TRUST**

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Professor Haydn Walters, President of AMA Tasmania, said “This year AMA Tasmania has made a number of health budget submissions to the Tasmanian Government. Our submissions are with treasury. Urgent health reforms are locked in a fifteen year plan and if the new Royal Hobart Hospital is planned in alignment with those, it will take too long, if it is built at all. Today the AMA calls on the Tasmanian Government to establish an Infrastructure Trust in the next budget to confirm its pledge on the RHH construction.”

AMA Tasmania has recommended that the Tasmanian Government invests \$200 million from the sale of the Hobart Airport plus half of Budget surpluses for the next three years into a new hospital future fund. The fund would be managed by a Trust and gain interest. The amount to be accumulated from year to year until the new Hospital is commissioned. Now is the time to address such an important issue while the Tasmanian economy is strong and the Tasmanian Government aims for budget surpluses.

Professor Walters said “AMA Tasmania is aware the government commissioned the Tasmanian Health Plan for integrated state-wide services which will require a new tertiary level hospital in Hobart. The new hospital is needed to support the Health Plan as the current one cannot. AMA Tasmania recommends that the current review of implementation of the state wide service plan be released and that the Tasmanian Government commits now to commencing construction on the new Hospital within 3 years.”

**Professor Walters will be available for interview at 9am on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February at AMA State Office, 147 Davey Street, Hobart. Media contact is through 03 62232047.**

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