



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### AMA COMMENT ON PM ANNOUNCEMENTS

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AMA Tasmania welcomes additional Federal funding for Tasmania's cash strapped public hospital system but condemns the Tasmanian State Health Department for creating the environment where the Federal Government, in response to rural and regional community insecurity, has felt the need to further intervene in the Tasmanian Health System.

AMA Tasmania supports Tasmania's Future Health Plan that will, if implemented, provide a sustainable and quality health system for decades to come. Dr Middleton said "Unfortunately we have yet to see a fully resourced plan with timelines so that we know what is happening, where and when and how it is to be funded."

The Health Minister's constant refusal to acknowledge these concerns of the community and the medical profession has resulted in today's announcements from the Prime Minister.

Dr Middleton said "We need to improve our state's hospital infrastructure. Tasmanians in rural and regional areas need deserve decent services and facilities. Frankly put, Future Health is in meltdown. What we want is state government action now."

The State Health Department has continued to underfund our public hospitals to dangerous levels. AMA Tasmania members and their colleagues have bravely persisted in attending to the health care needs of their patients under the most strenuous of circumstances.

Today's media revelations underlining serious problems at the Launceston General Hospital's Emergency Department are further evidence of a failure of duty of care by the DHHS and State Government to provide safe, high quality health care to the Tasmanian community.

For further information contact AMA State Office on 62232047. Dr Middleton can be contacted on 0408 130 449.