



College of Emergency Nursing Australasia Ltd

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**Statement in response to the Auditor-General's Report "Performance of Tasmania's four major hospitals in the delivery of Emergency Department services" (May 2019)**

CENA believes there are many positive aspects to the healthcare model in Tasmania, however, as with any healthcare system, there are opportunities for improvement and several items raised in the Auditor-General's report are certainly in harmony with concerns previously raised by the College of Emergency Nursing Australasia (CENA) and its members. The CENA Tasmanian branch has previously made a submission to the Legislative Council's Inquiry into Acute Health Services in Tasmania (which echoes many similar points raised in this current report by the Tasmanian Audit Office) and is eagerly awaiting the Legislative Council's final report.

All four major public hospitals in Tasmania are facing daily challenges such as access block, ED crowding, ambulance ramping, increasing patient illness and complexity, reduced access to other services such as mental health and difficulty with recruitment and retention of nursing staff. These challenges also impact on the emergency care that can be provided in the smaller district hospitals and other services.

CENA supports the position of the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine in relation to the Auditor-General's report and stresses urgency that engagement with both nursing and medical leaders will be critical to improving patient outcomes. Any sustainable changes to be made to improve access to emergency care and ultimately improve the Tasmanian health care system will require a long-term nonpartisan commitment from all key stakeholders and must involve the patients presenting to these services and the clinicians directly responsible for their care.

As the peak professional organisation representing emergency nurses in Australia, CENA is committed to working with the key stakeholders to drive improvement. CENA believes it is important to continue to hold our healthcare system to high operational and practice standards that protects emergency nurses, doctors, administrative and support staff and other healthcare workers. This will ensure ongoing safety, improvements and outcomes for patients and the communities we serve. Emergency nurses have always been and continue to be committed to providing safe and high-quality patient care despite the current challenges of the health care system.

On behalf of the Tasmanian branch of CENA, sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jodi Donoghue".

Jodi Donoghue

National Board Director, CENA

President, CENA Tasmania branch

Chair, Membership and Representation Committee