



Health Policy

SFF Tasmania believes that the backlog and weakness of our state health system stems from the removal of health services in rural and regional areas, and the reduction of bulk billing options throughout Tasmania.

As a result, more people are either having to travel from rural and regional areas to urban centres for basic health care or delaying health care until the problem becomes critical.

We are also seeing an influx of minor ailments presenting at hospital emergency departments as struggling Tasmanians can no longer afford to attend their local GP due to the lack of bulk billing options.

All of these scenarios place unneeded pressure on urban health facilities, often clogging up hospital emergency departments with non-emergency cases.

If elected, SFF Tasmania will use their vote in parliament to recommend:

- Increasing accessible preventative health services in regional communities and improving in-home and local community delivered palliative and community health care services. We believe this will keep people in their homes and free up hospital and emergency beds currently being utilised by non-emergency cases.
- Developing an incentive package to attract qualified health staff to regional areas and adopting a rural health policy focused on prevention and improving health literacy.
- Expanding patient transport services to service rural areas to reduce dependence on ambulances and free up ambulances for genuine emergencies.
- Increasing bulk billing options for general medical services throughout the community that makes obtaining general medical consultations affordable for all Tasmanians.
- Developing a bipartisan committee or board that oversees both health and child protective services. We believe this would ameliorate politics from these departments and could be used to identify major deficiencies, develop strategies around staffing levels, hospital locations and capacity, set budgets and develop a 20-year health plan for the future.