

Department of Health and Human Services

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Dr Ian Holland
Committee Secretary
Senate Community Affairs References Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Holland

Subject: Inquiry into the Care and Management of Younger and Older Australians Living with Dementia and Behavioural and Psychiatric Symptoms of Dementia

Thank you for your advice concerning a submission received by the Committee containing comments directed to the Minister for Health, the Hon Michelle O'Byrne MP and an officer of the Department of Health and Human Services. The Minister has asked that I reply on behalf of the Tasmanian Government.

It appears that the main purpose of the comments made by Mr Tooth is to dispute the statements made by the former Health Minister and others in the course of Budget Estimates hearings. They reflect his personal opinions and are consistent with others made by him across the period of his campaign in support of ADARDS. The Tasmanian Government has previously responded in detail to these comments.

The Tasmanian Government supported the decision by the ADARDS nursing home to merge its services with Presbyterian Care Tasmania in 2008.

Presbyterian Care has a long history of providing quality aged care services in Tasmania with specialised and valuable experience in caring for older people with dementia.

In the years leading up to the merger, the ADARDS team managed admirably in keeping the facility operational, but economies of scale made the need for change inevitable.

The assistance jointly offered by both the Australian and the Tasmanian Governments has ensured a strong and optimistic future for a valuable service with much to offer the Tasmanian community.

The new facilities, including a new respite centre and additional residential accommodation, are modern and contemporary in design, with care practices continuing to be based on the best and proven features from the ADARDS model.

The ADARDS Board made its decision to change the management structure in the best interests of the home's residents, their families, staff and the wider community.

Over the last four years, Presbyterian Care has made a significant investment in building a quality facility to meet the needs of its community and has gained support in the wider community for its excellent achievements.

The Committee is advised that this response is able to be made public.

Yours sincerely

Mathew Daly
Secretary

 June 2013