Jeremy Rockliff

Premier of Tasmania,

Minister for Health,

Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing,

Minister for Tourism,

Minister for Trade,

Jeremy.Rockliff@dpac.tas.gov.au

Dear Jeremy,

**Ward Ventilation at the Launceston General Hospital -** Ref: MIN22/329

Congratulations on your recent elevation to Premier.

Thank you for your correspondence dated 18th March 2022.

It seems we have a few problems that I am not comfortable with.

1. There is no conditioned supply air to the wards because of hydronic (heating/cooling) ceiling tiles.
2. There is no ventilation system in the wards.
3. Ward windows are preferred to be kept closed.
4. There are 4 circular fans, one surface-mounted above each patient’s bed and under normal conditions these just churn used air around.
5. During pandemic conditions these fans are disconnected so patients and staff have to breathe stagnant air.
6. None of these conditions are acceptable as suggested to mitigate airborne transmission, and
7. Could actually aid in transmission of airborne disease.

Be this as it may we have dodged a bullet, but we are not out of the woods yet with an increase in Covid numbers and deaths in Tasmania.

You state. *“The Tasmanian Government has committed $580 million funding over 10 years to improve the amenity and capacity of the Launceston General Hospital and this will deliver modern hospital inpatient units with an increased number of single rooms and improved air handling.”*

This is commendable but over 10 years to fix ward ventilation in the LGH?

Can you please indicate which other LGH wards and which other health buildings are faced with similar ventilation problems?

In the meantime what is the position with this serious health and well-being problem which exists right now?

Thank you.

Kind regards,

Clive Stott

cleanair@cleanairtas.com

15th April 2022