**Jeremy Rockliff MHA**

**Deputy Premier, Minister for Health**

**Minister for Advanced Manufacturing and Defence Industries**

**Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing**

**Minister for Community Services and Development**

Level 10, 15 Murray Street

HOBART, TAS 7000

jeremy.rockliff@dpac.tas.gov.au

Dear Jeremy,

**Ward Ventilation – LGH**

After a stay in a 4 bed ward in Ward5B at the LGH I feel I have to write to you as Minister for Health about what I would call unsatisfactory ventilation.

Honestly I do not know how staff can work in that ward without proper ventilation and as for sick patients it was pretty horrible and could possibly lead to aerosol infection.

There seemed to be no supply air into the ward except what can make its way in through the doorway. However, these doors are closed at times and of a night to reduce light and noise levels coming from the passage way.

There is an outside window which can open at the top for a few centre meters, but this needed to be kept mainly closed because patients were complaining of a cold draft coming in. Had there been any ambient wood smoke in Launceston, which you know does occur because of the inversion layer in the valley, this window would have had to be fully closed.

There are circular fans mounted on the wall above patient’s beds; these have been made inoperable.

Flowers that were brought into the 4 bed ward soon smelt the whole room out.

It was a similar story when a bedside pan had to be used.

Both these things were an indicator of little-to-no natural or mechanical filtration/ventilation.

So in effect there is no air circulation/ventilation in these wards in this building, assuming they are all configured the same.

As someone who worked for state health in hospital engineering I had no idea this situation could be so bad for staff and patients.

Thank you and I look forward to your response.

Kind regards,

Clive M. Stott

cleanair@cleanairtas.com