

NOT STOPPING 'But boosting our health system is more than just numbers. It's about people'

Budget set to deliver greater health results

Guy Barnett, Health Minister

MORE frontline health workers, more services and better facilities are on the way as a result of the 2024-25 budget. We know that demand has grown through our health system. The fact of the matter is, we must continue to boost our health system, and that's exactly what we are doing.

The health budget has increased significantly since we came to government - from \$5.8 billion, to \$12.1 billion last financial year, and now \$12.9 billion this year. That's more than \$8.8 million every single day.

But boosting our health system is more

than just numbers. It's about people.

We've been on a recruitment blitz since April and we've already seen nearly 930 more health workers join the ranks - a net gain of 167. And we aren't stopping.

We have recently announced targeted incentives to not only bring more nurses and midwives to Tasmania but to keep them here.

Recruitment for 40 new doctors - specifically for our rural and regional communities with a new scholarship program that provides \$100,000 relocation grants.

And we are currently recruiting for our new GP NOW Rapid Response Unit - a team of 10 GPs that can be deployed into local commu-

nities when and where they are needed, in the event of a sudden GP closure.

We are providing the funding that is needed to attract and retain more staff, and we are also providing the necessary funding to build bigger and better facilities and equipment.

We are progressing the first stage of the North West Hospitals Master Plan upgrades at the North West Regional Hospital, including an expanded Emergency Department, a new ambulance drop-off, a significant increase in carparks over the implementation and a new medical inpatient building.

We are delivering the first stage of the Master Plan's upgrades at Mersey Community

Hospital, which includes a new sub-acute building to provide medical oncology services and an inpatient unit for geriatric evaluation and management.

Importantly we are supporting Tasmania's mums and bubs, by investing \$18 million to enable the North West Maternity Services to transition from the North West Private Hospital to the Tasmanian Health Service - providing greater certainty for those using the service.

All of this and more is delivered in the budget through our 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future as we work tirelessly to build a better health system.