

**Gavin Pearce and Jeremy Rockliff lobby Albanese government to provide aged care beds for the West Coast**

The Premier and the federal Braddon member have revealed that they have been lobbying the Albanese government to provide more aged care beds for the West Coast.

The comments come as Tasmanian Labor health spokesperson Anita Dow questioned why the region still has a shortfall of aged care beds more than three years on from a commitment from the previous federal Liberal government on the issue.

"This commitment of \$1 million to be spent on aged care beds is now the responsibility of the State Government to deliver," she said.

"The state government needs to answer the question as to where that money has gone.

"The Tasmanian government has completely failed at planning for the health aged care needs of the local community, and now the wait list for those needing an aged care bed continues to grow."

Federal Braddon member Gavin Pearce said the Morrison government's 2019 election commitment of \$1 million delivered one additional bed after the Tasmanian Department of Health completed costings.

"In the lead-up to the 2022 election, Federal Liberal pledged to address the shortfall of aged care beds on the West Coast, with a \$3 million commitment to fund a further four beds.

"Regrettably, this important commitment to the West Coast community was not matched by Labor, and now the West Coast is left without any certainly around the provision of these services."

Premier and Health Minister Jeremy Rockliff said the Tasmanian government was committed to supporting district hospitals.

"The former federal government committed \$1 million towards upgrades to the West Coast District Hospital with the agreed scope including a redesign of the Emergency Department and one additional aged care bed.

"In addition, during the recent federal election, the former coalition government also announced funding for a further five aged care beds for the community in response to calls for additional beds from the West Coast Council.

"Acknowledging that the Federal government is responsible for Aged Care, I have written to the new Federal Minister in support of the West Coast Council and have requested that the new Federal Labor government matches the commitment made by the Coalition during the election."

**ENDS**

*Article by Simon McGuire*