

Tasmanian Election Platform



2024

Stroke Foundation is an evidence-based, non-partisan national charity that partners with the community to prevent stroke, save lives and enhance recovery. We do this through raising awareness, supporting hospitals and health professionals, facilitating research, and supporting survivors of stroke.

Tasmanians know all too well the devastating impact that a stroke can have. Our state has the **highest per capita incidence of first-time stroke nationally**.¹ Unless further action is taken, it is estimated that by 2050 the number of first-time strokes experienced by Tasmanians will be nearly 1,000 strokes annually.¹

Stroke Foundation is calling on the next Tasmanian Government to continue to invest in its highly effective, evidence-based programs, to ensure

Tasmanians know how to reduce their risk of preventable stroke, recognise the F.A.S.T. (Face, Arms, Speech and Time) signs of stroke to reach hospital in time to receive world-class, best-practice stroke treatment and care, and are able to successfully transition from hospital to home and onto recovery to live the best possible life after stroke.

Current work in Tasmania

Stroke Foundation gratefully acknowledges the ongoing funding received from the Tasmanian Government, which has enabled us to maintain a local presence in the state and provide Tasmanian survivors of stroke with valuable information and support.

We are proud to be partnering with the Tasmanian Government in taking action to address the state's stroke burden. A strong foundation has been established with the delivery of the successful *F.A.S.T. Community Education, StrokeLink, StrokeLine Navigator* and *Living Well After Stroke* programs.

It is critical Tasmanians understand if they or someone they know experiences the signs of stroke, they must call triple zero (000) immediately. The *F.A.S.T. Community Education Program* in Tasmania is delivering results. Stroke Foundation's most recent study of the awareness of the F.A.S.T. signs of stroke found the unprompted community awareness in Tasmania was significantly higher than in all other states and territories.

Improving the quality of stroke treatment provided in Tasmanian hospitals is critical to reducing the burden of stroke in our state. The *StrokeLink Program* is supporting hospitals and health professionals across Tasmania to strengthen their capabilities in the delivery of evidence-based stroke treatment and care. Additional State Government resourcing of hospital infrastructure, including workforce, is needed to

ensure all Tasmanian stroke patients are able access best-practice care, including treatment in a certified stroke unit.

Navigating the complex health system after leaving hospital is one of the greatest barriers to success that Tasmanian survivors of stroke face in their recovery journey. Tasmanian Government investment in the *StrokeLine Navigator Program* is ensuring more Tasmanians, regardless of where they live, are supported to manage their stroke recovery, return to work (where possible), and resume social and community participation.

People are at higher risk after their first stroke, and stroke patients should be assessed and informed of their risk factors for recurrent stroke and educated about strategies to reduce their risk. State Government investment in Stroke Foundation's *Living Well After Stroke Program* is equipping Tasmanian survivors with a toolkit of transferrable behaviour change skills to support long-term self-management, and reduce their risk of future stroke, reducing the burden of stroke in our community.

Prevent stroke. Save lives. Enhance recovery

¹ Deloitte Access Economics. (2020). No postcode untouched, Stroke in Australia 2020.

State of stroke in Tasmania¹



665
Tasmanians experience a stroke for the first time annually.



11,242
survivors of stroke are living in our community.



217
Tasmanians lose their lives to stroke annually.

Key proposals	Investment
Prevention: Fewer preventable strokes in Tasmania	
<p>Continue the F.A.S.T. (Face, Arms, Speech, Time) Community Education Program and deliver a new F.A.S.T. Multimedia Education Campaign.</p> <p>This will ensure more Tasmanians know how to reduce their stroke risk, and recognise the signs of stroke. In addition, the roll-out of a F.A.S.T. Multimedia Education Campaign, which will include television, radio and social media advertisements, will ensure even more Tasmanians understand how to recognise a stroke when it occurs, and how vital it is to call an ambulance.</p>	<p>\$160,000 p.a. (over four years)</p>
Treatment: Ensure all Tasmanians have access to evidence-based stroke treatment	
<p>Continue the StrokeLink Program to provide a better plan for stroke treatment and care.</p> <p>Tasmanians are still dying, or being left disabled unnecessarily from stroke, because the care they receive is not in line with best-practice guidelines. The continuation of this effective program will ensure more Tasmanian stroke patients receive best-practice treatment and care, including education about behaviour change for modifiable risk factors and appropriate discharge care planning.</p>	<p>\$76,000 p.a. (over four years)</p>
Recovery: Enhance recovery to help Tasmanians achieve better outcomes after stroke	
<p>Continue the StrokeLine Navigator Service to help Tasmanians manage their stroke recovery.</p> <p>This will ensure more Tasmanian survivors of stroke are contacted following their discharge from hospital, connected to the appropriate services and supports, and have the information they need, ensuring they have a smooth transition from hospital into the community and avoid unnecessary hospital readmission.</p>	<p>\$20,000 p.a. (over four years)</p>
<p>Continue the Living Well After Stroke Program to reduce the risk of recurrent stroke through effective secondary prevention.</p> <p>The continuation of this program will provide more Tasmanian survivors of stroke with a clear pathway to health behaviour change and lifestyle risk management after discharge from hospital, reducing their risk of subsequent stroke.</p>	<p>\$124,000 p.a. (over four years)</p>

Stroke Foundation strongly supports the State Government's vision that all Tasmanians are supported by a world class, innovative and integrated health system. As the voice of stroke in Australia, we look forward to continuing to work with the Tasmanian Government to achieve the key objectives of the *Long-Term Plan for Healthcare in Tasmania 2040*, ensuring we deliver on stroke prevention, treatment and support for all Tasmanians.

Contact Us

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