



Ombudsman Tasmania

FRIDAY 11 AUGUST 2023

OMBUDSMAN TASMANIA & HEALTH COMPLAINTS COMMISSIONER
MR RICHARD CONNOCK

Community call for expressions of interest for Mental Health Official Visitor roles

Public expressions of interest are being called for people with relevant experience who wish to be considered for appointment as Mental Health Official Visitors.

Mental Health Official Visitors conduct a regular program of visits to all approved hospitals and the secure mental health unit in Tasmania – the Wilfred Lopes Centre.

Ombudsman, Health Complaints Commissioner and Principal Official Visitor, Mr Richard Connock said the Mental Health Officer Visitor function provides independent oversight over mental health facilities across Tasmania.

“We are seeking appropriately qualified people to help determine the adequacy and quality of approved mental health facilities within Tasmania,” said Mr Connock.

“Official Visitors in their role have the ability to receive complaints from or concerning patients in these facilities with an aim to resolve matters at the lowest possible level. Mental Health Official Visitors also assess whether patients are informed and accorded their rights,” he said.

“Ombudsman Tasmania and the Health Complaints Commissioner administer the program with the Principal Official Visitor coordinating appointments for Visitors based in the north, north-west and south of the state,” said Mr Connock.

“Mental Health Official Visitors are empowered to report suspected contraventions of the *Mental Health Act 2013* or any other matters requiring investigation to the Principal Official Visitor,” said Mr Connock.

Mr Connock said applicants will be provided the necessary training to act as an assessor and barometer for the performance of the state’s mental health system.

“The appointment of Mental Health Official Visitors is an opportunity for people in the community who wish to make a positive difference across the service delivery platform,” said Mr Connock.

‘The added layer of scrutiny in the mental health system is beneficial in addressing the needs of those who may be in a vulnerable position and provides an avenue to ensure their needs and requirements are being met satisfactorily,” he said.

Interested applicants can find out more at [Mental Health Official Visitor](#) regarding the EOI process.

ENDS

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