



PRESS RELEASE

DATE: February 4

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Therapy Plus at StGiles

The New Year brought a new look to StGiles, with the introduction of its first private service - Therapy Plus - AND a review of its public therapy, support and housing services for people within the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

It was the introduction of the NDIS that triggered a three-year review of StGiles services culminating in the decision that the long-term sustainability of StGiles was linked to a flourishing, private stream, StGiles chief executive Ian Wright said.

“It’s our aim to make StGiles an easy, smart and friendly place to find the right therapist, housing, living support or equipment for any person living with disability,” he said.

“We have developed attractive array of services that can be bundled to fit within an individual’s NDIS plan,” Mr Wright said.

“At the same time, our review also means that for the first time in our history, StGiles highly skilled allied health and support teams will be available to privately insured Tasmanians through Therapy Plus,” he said.

In January, StGiles appointed its senior physiotherapist Daniel Justice as the manager of its first private allied health stream - Therapy Plus.

Traditionally, StGiles well regarded-public therapy and support services were funded by donations, bequests and Commonwealth and State government grants.

“We simply can’t rely on continuity of Commonwealth or State government funding,” Mr Wright said.

“Therapy Plus will compliment and support our philanthropic work into the future,” StGiles chief executive Ian Wright said.

“It will be the role of Therapy Plus to create the revenue StGiles needs to grow innovative public programs that are jeopardised when government changes funding priorities like it did at the end of 2014



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with our early intervention, outreach speech pathology and behaviour therapy program for 300 at risk children,” he said.

Mr Justice said the Therapy Plus, user pays system, would bring StGiles’ expertise to the wider community.

“We have spent 77 years developing a highly regarded, evidence based model of allied health services and it’s exciting to know that people from all walks of life will be able to benefit from our teams,” he said.

“The development of a private stream, gives StGiles therapy and support teams the chance to be even more innovative with the programs they can provide,” he said.

StGiles Participate Assistive Technologies (PAT) program is an example of complimenting private and public services.

Using PAT, adults and children with communication restrictions can be assessed by the PAT teams in Launceston or Hobart and provided with equipment to trial.

Funding for the purchase of the device can then be sourced from private health funds, MAIB, the NDIS or Commonwealth funding models like Helping Children with Autism or Better Start.

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