

**Deputy Premier
Minister for Health
Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing
Minister for Advanced Manufacturing and Defence Industries**

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Ref: MIN22/329

18 March 2022

Mr Clive Stott
Email: cleanair@cleanairtas.com

Dear Mr Stott

Thank you for your correspondence on 2 February 2022 regarding ward ventilation at the Launceston General Hospital.

I am sorry to hear about your recent experience at the Launceston General Hospital and I hope your recovery is going well. I am advised the surgical wards at the Hospital utilise a hydronic radiant cooling, ceiling tile system for cooling. This system is different from air conditioning in that it does not use fans for circulation of cool air. The temperature is set at 22 degrees in accordance with best practice and industry standards. To ensure the entire hospital's air conditioning system is working as efficiently as possible, wards are encouraged to keep external windows closed.

I am also advised that the Infection Prevention Control Unit has implemented COVID-19 risk mitigation strategies, which include restricting the use of oscillating fans to reduce the risk of spreading airborne viruses. I acknowledge that COVID-19 restrictions can be challenging for patients and staff, but our focus is always to provide the safest possible hospital environment for our patients.

Although I note that this does not change your experience, I look forward to the upgrades that will be delivered during the next stages of the LGH redevelopment. The Tasmanian Government has committed \$580 million funding over 10 years to improve the amenity and capacity of the Launceston General Hospital and this will deliver modern hospital inpatient units with an increased number of single rooms and improved air handling.

Thank you for sharing your experience as it will enable us to further improve our health services and provide the best possible care for our community.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeremy Rockliff".

Jeremy Rockliff MP
**Deputy Premier
Minister for Health**