



Media Release – Monday 4th September 2023

Tasmanian aged and disability care organisations finalise merger.

The District Nurses and South Eastern Community Care today announced they have finalised a merger which will strengthen the provision of community services in Tasmania.

Both organisations have a long and shared commitment to providing exceptional care and support to Tasmanians and this move will bring together the rich histories, expertise, and resources of both providers to create even stronger and more comprehensive service for Tasmanians.

With closely aligned values and shared mission, this cooperation will see a newly branded entity enhancing the quality of life for Tasmanians by the provision of best practice care and support. The new entity will be a major employer of Tasmanians, supported by the combined strengths and capabilities of the partnered service providers.

Chair of The District Nurses, Tim Booker, said that this partnership follows an extensive period of consideration and diligence.

“This merger follows careful consideration by The District Nurses’ Board regarding which Tasmanian providers would be suitable for a long-term partnership with a goal of building a more sustainable organisation through scale. South Eastern Community Care are a Tasmanian provider, their values are closely aligned with ours and they are a not for profit, mission centered organisation like us. In bringing these two organisations together, we can be more effective through building scale and impact, which will serve us well as we navigate a challenging environment. One of the great things about the provision of care in a not-for-profit context means that as we make decisions to improve our organisation, the primary beneficiaries of this are the clients that we serve each day. Significant work has occurred at The District Nurses over the past 18 months to improve operations, and this is the next stage of our organisations journey. This merger will help us to continue to improve and build the quality and reach of our services to our community”.

President of South Eastern Community Care, Kerry Vincent, said the opportunity to enhance care of Tasmanians by Tasmanians has been a focus of the deliberations and his Board’s due diligence considerations.

“We have a proud history of delivering excellent services within our local community. Fifty years ago we commenced as a small operation working out of a single person’s garage near Richmond and have



grown to become a large provider delivering a wide range of services to over 1000 Tasmanians at any one time. This merger marks a significant milestone and further cements our presence for the future. This partnership will enhance the services we deliver to the community. Our Membership have confirmed that they support this merger and we are pleased to be working with a like-minded partner with a long history of meeting the needs of the community. The confirmation of the merger is a result of a significant period of consideration and hard work and we are committed to continuing to strive to meet the needs of Tasmanians into the future.”

“Importantly, the exceptional services that District Nurses and South Eastern Community Care deliver to our valued clients will continue. Similarly, the merger will not impact our dedicated and hard-working front-line employees who deliver our services to the community,” Mr Booker and Mr Vincent said.

The District Nurses, formerly known as Hobart District Nursing Service, has been providing community nursing and in-home healthcare support for people of all ages since 1896 and is one of Tasmania’s oldest community organisations. It provides a range of services, including home support and home care, community nursing, palliative care and end of life care, restorative care as well as domestic and social support.

South Eastern Community Care was formed in 1970 by a group of community representatives to support ageing community members. The organisation services southern Tasmania from Central Highlands to Glamorgan-Spring Bay, Sorell to Tasman, as well as down to the Huon Valley. It provides disability and aged care programs including in-home respite, home and community care, group programs and nursing services for people with acute and chronic conditions needing post-hospital care.

Both organisations are excited about the opportunities that this partnership presents and are committed to a smooth transition for all clients and staff.

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