

Submission by [REDACTED] 27 June 2024

In the response to the question regarding why St Lukes seeks a 10 year authorization, the supporting information from St Lukes discusses the barriers to dental care in Tasmania, and specifically uses data for waitlists in the public dental system. My concern is that St Lukes does not in any way make clear how they propose to assist anyone who seeks public dental care in Tasmania, and need to justify why invoking these statistics provides any justification for their proposal. In marketing material regarding this proposal, they have also used statistics pertaining to the public dental system in Tasmania, without providing any information as to how their Applicant Practices or Participating Partners would have any effect on public dental patients. I cannot help but feel that the name 'St Lukes Gap Free Network' is misleading and will actively encourage misconceptions amongst St Lukes members, who will reasonably expect gap free care based on this name. St Lukes has made clear in their submissions that care will not be comprehensively gap free. This will lead to harm and upset when patients expect gap free care under this system, only to find that only a portion of items are gap free. Dental practice staff will bear the brunt of this misunderstanding when patients become upset, when it is the fault of St Lukes for choosing a deceptive name.