

*FE 8/10/08*

**POINTS ON GASTRIC BANDING FOR HEALTH COMMITTEE**

- Hobart Dr. Stephen Wilkinson's youngest patient was 16 and 300kg and oldest was 72 and 182 kg
- Have to go to a GP for referral
- Body Mass Index of 35 plus is morbidly obese this is determined by weight in kilograms divided by height in metres squared.
- Patients must meet a list of criteria including:
  - Being overweight for more than 5 years
  - Having a BMI of 40 or above, or 35 and above with an obesity related disease
  - Not suffering from an illness that has caused excessive weight gain
  - Commit to making changes in lifestyle
  - Have tried other weight loss techniques
  
- Plastic surgery can be used to remove excess skin after weight loss, but will not be considered for at least a year or two.
- Tasmania's Chief Medical Officer – David Broadle, has said that the public health system in Australia is only just starting to use this surgery as part of an "integrated, multidisciplinary approach to morbid obesity.
- has said that more public money should be put into lap band surgery, as it costs the State \$2000 for the surgery, but \$50 000 for treating type 2 Diabetes for 10 years.
- Major weight loss can lead to the complete control of chronic illness such as Diabetes, Hypertension and Heart Disease
- Tasmania is the only State to offer the surgery to public patients, but the waiting list is up to 5 years for a public patient.
  
- Lapband limits food intake by reducing the stomach's capacity. This slows the emptying of food into the stomach and gives an earlier sensation of fullness.
- Small incisions and a long shafted instrument are used to implant an inflatable silicone band. The size of the band can be inflated or deflated with saline introduced through an access portal placed during surgery
- The risks during the surgery are quite small, but all surgery carries some risk.
- Laparoscopic gastric banding surgery was first introduced to Australia in 1994. Since then, it has become the most widely used weight control surgery in the country.
- In 2005 alone, more than 6,000 laparoscopic gastric banding procedures were performed in Australia.
- Other health professionals including dieticians, psychologists, exercise experts and GP's help support patients in the long term.
- Patients can lose up to 27kg excess weight in 12 months

- It is significantly more successful than non surgical treatments, and less invasive than stapling and other major abdominal surgery.
- Lap bands are not designed to be removed, but can be if necessary
- Most patient stays in hospital are only 1-2 days