



**Tasmanian
Government**

DPAC Budget Estimates 2025-26

**Minister for Women and the Prevention of
Family Violence**

17 November 2025 – 20 November 2025

Folder 1 of 1

Parliamentary Briefing 2025

Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family Violence

Output Group 1 - Policy, Reform and Government Priorities

Output – 1.4 Women and the Prevention of Family Violence

Opening Statement - Women and the Prevention of Family Violence

Current as at: **16-October-2025**

Talking Points

- I begin by recognising the deep history and the culture of this island and acknowledge and pay my respects to the Tasmanian Aboriginal people, the past and present custodians of the land on which we meet and gather.
- I pay respect to and acknowledge the devastating impacts of family and sexual violence in Aboriginal communities and recognise the ongoing leadership role of Aboriginal communities to prevent and address this violence.
- I acknowledge the resilience and courage of victim-survivors of family and sexual violence. We pay our respects to those victim-survivors, their families and communities that all feel the devastating impacts.
- I would like to recognise that Women and the Prevention of Family Violence is now combined under the one portfolio and budget Output.
- This means greater alignment of our efforts to achieve gender equality, which will help to reduce family and sexual violence in the long term.

- The two are inextricably linked: we know that women disproportionately experience family violence, and that improving gender equality fosters safer environments for women and girls.
- Combining the portfolio into one Output allows us to leverage the national agenda of the women and women's safety Ministers focussing on gender equality, economic participation and women's safety.
- By empowering women's economic, social, political and community participation, we can ensure that women have real choices, in their professional and their personal lives.
- Advocating for women is much more than preventing family violence. By joining these two important portfolios, we can have the important conversations, get voices heard at the decision-making tables, and continue the spotlight on supporting women and girls and eliminating family and sexual violence in Tasmania.

Women

- The Tasmanian Government is committed to advancing gender equality and creating systems that ensure women's full participation in all aspects of society.
- We have made significant strides, and I am thrilled to announce that we have met our target of 50 per cent women on Tasmanian Government boards and committees.
- We also continue to exceed our target of 50 per cent of women in the Senior Executive of the State Service as well.
- While we have made progress, persistent gaps in economic opportunity, leadership representation, safety, and healthcare access remind us that our work is far from complete.

- Our priorities include strengthening responses to gender-based violence, promoting women's leadership across sectors, and ensuring reproductive health services remain accessible and comprehensive.
- This includes our recent commitment to enable women to access 'the pill' through pharmacies.
- We recognise that women's experiences are diverse. Our policies must acknowledge and respond to the unique challenges faced by women from marginalised communities, women with disabilities, women from migrant communities, Tasmanian Aboriginal women, and women from various socioeconomic backgrounds.

Prevention of Family Violence

Action Plan – funding and initiatives

- Eliminating family and sexual violence is a key priority of our government. The government's Third Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan 2022-2027: Survivors at the Centre is supported by funding of \$140 million over 5 years to deliver actions, which includes additional Arch Centre funding since the Action Plan commenced.
- Since 2015 we have funded three comprehensive whole-of-government Family and Sexual Violence Action Plans.
- There are many examples of the ***innovative approaches*** the government is taking.
- We have a ***nation leading electronic monitoring program*** not only holding perpetrators to account and addressing risk and safety but also providing victim-survivors with the option of a

discreet monitoring device that alerts them when their family violence offender is nearby.

- The ***multi-disciplinary Arch Centres*** in the North and South of the State are delivering a survivor-centred, holistic and integrated response to family and sexual violence.
- We are delivering a third Arch Centre in the North West, which is expected to be operational in early 2026, as part of our 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future.
- We have established the Family and Sexual Violence ***Victim-Survivor Advisory Council*** to enable an ongoing voice of victim-survivors to the Tasmanian Government.
- ***A new Peak Body, the Tasmanian Family and Sexual Violence Alliance, is now in operation*** to work towards strengthening the capacity of the community sector by improving coordination, supporting policy development, and allowing service providers to focus on what they do best – delivering high-quality services to Tasmania.
- In March 2025, Tasmania became the second jurisdiction to meet our target under the national 500 worker initiative of 24.6FTE additional workers commenced by 30 June 2025.

National and State based collaboration

- The Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence team within the Department of Premier and Cabinet takes a highly collaborative and coordinated approach across the sector, including the community sector, government agencies as well as with the Commonwealth and other jurisdictions.
- I also attend and advocate in my role on the Women and Women's Safety Ministerial Council.

- Earlier in 2025, the Government signed the renewed five-year Federation Funding Agreement on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses 2025-2030 which sees the Tasmanian and Federal Government's equally contribute a total of \$15.7 million for critical family, domestic and sexual violence programs in Tasmania over five years from July 2025.
- In addition, the Council have been tasked with driving the implementation of the *Rapid Review of Prevention Approaches to End Gender-Based Violence*.
- Tasmania supports the focus on prioritising key areas in 2025 including: **men's behaviour change, risk assessment and management**, and expanding the **specialist FDSV workforce**, which are critical areas to strengthen services and outcomes in our state.
- Furthermore, the development of the standalone national plan, *Our Ways – Strong Ways – Our Voices: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Safety Plan*, has made strong progress and is approaching the release of the final plan.

Next Action Plan

- Long-term social change takes time.
- In the short- and medium-term, we know that family and sexual violence reporting rates increase as more victim-survivors gain trust in formal support and response systems, as well as an increasing understanding about the nature of family and sexual violence.
- To inform further work in this space to drive long-term change, we will evaluate Survivors at the Centre, consult with the sector including victim-survivors, and consider national initiatives and alignment.

- We are committed to this vital work with a ***strong, collaborative and coordinated approach.***
- We remain steadfast in creating a Tasmania that is free from violence with a broad range of measures in place to prevent family and sexual violence, respond to and support victim-survivors, and hold perpetrators to account.

Closing remarks

- Thank you Chair and committee members for the opportunity to provide some opening remarks. I appreciate that there will be questions.

	Name	Position
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Cleared by	Courtney Hurworth	Chief Reform Lead, Keeping Children Safe Reform Group

	Name	Contact number
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Parliamentary Briefing 2025

Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family Violence

Output Group 1 - Policy, Reform and Government Priorities

Output – 1.4 Women and the Prevention of Family Violence

Overview - Output 1.4

Current as at: **16-October-2025**

Talking Points

- This portfolio brings together the Government's commitment to preventing family and sexual violence and advancing gender equality in Tasmania.

Family and Sexual Violence

- This portfolio is focused on changing the attitudes and behaviours that lead to family and sexual violence; supporting families and individuals affected; and strengthening the government's legal responses to hold perpetrators to account for their violent behaviours.
- The Australian Government contributes towards the funding for family and sexual violence responses to support the vision in the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022--2032 to end gender -based violence in one generation.
- The 2025-2026 total expenditure budget for Output 1.4 is \$25.8 million, which reflects a \$5.7 million increase on 2024-20-25 (\$20.1 million) and relates to the additional funding provided through the Federation Funding Agreements (FFA) for Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses.
- Under the Federation Funding Agreement for Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses 2021-2030, the Australian Government has allocated more than \$29 million to Tasmania,

which is in addition to our own investment of over \$140 million under our Third Action Plan to address family and sexual violence.

- This Australian Government funding includes the FFA 2025-2030 component which provides \$7.865 million over five years from 1 July 2025, with the Tasmanian Government matching this funding.

Women's

- This portfolio is committed to ensuring all women and girls in Tasmania have equal access to choice, resources and opportunities to participate fully in economic, social, political and community life.
- Tasmanian women have told us clearly, equal means equal for every Tasmanian, and this Government remains firmly committed to upholding that principle.
- While we have made strong progress, there is more work ahead.
- The Equal Means Equal Strategy (2022--2027) sets out a long-term vision for cultural change and a more equal future. We have continued to deliver the actions within the strategy.
- The 2022-20-23 State Budget allocated \$800,000 over four years (\$200,000 per year) to support the implementation of Equal Means Equal.
- In 2025-20-26 funding is provided for:
 - International Women's day Small Grants Programs (\$40,000); and
 - Women in Leadership Program - Scholarships (\$100,000).

Background

Family and Sexual Violence

Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) – Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence

Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence	Establishment FTE at 30 June 2025	Paid FTE at 30 June 2025
Band 8	1.0	1.0
Band 7	2.0	1.9
Band 6	3.0	1.7
Band 5	1.0	0.0
Total	7.0 FTE	4.6 FTE

Note: The above reflects a new staffing structure implemented within the Keeping Children Safe Reform Group in 2025.

Women's

Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) – Women's Policy

Women's	Establishment FTE at 30 June 2025	Paid FTE at 30 June 2025
Band 8	1.0	0.8
Band 6	1.0	0.8
Band 5	1.0	1.0
Total	3.0 FTE	2.6 FTE

Budget Information

State Budget allocation for Output 1.4 Women and the Prevention of Family Violence

	2025-2026 \$'000	2026-2027 \$'000	2027-2028 \$'000	2028-2029 \$'000
Women - Base Funding	195	3	3	3
International Women's Day Small Grant Program	40	40	40	40
Women in Leadership Scholarship Program	100	100	100	100
Tasmania's Third Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan: Survivors at the Centre 2022-2027	12,500	12,500	12,500	12,500
Output Transfer: Family Violence Recurrent grants programs¹	4,643	4,643	4,643	4,643
Budget Efficiency Dividend and Savings	(10)	(14)	(14)	(14)
Total²	17,468	17,272	17,272	17,272

Notes:

1. The increase of this Budget allocation relates to a transfer from the Output 3.3 Family Violence Recurrent grants programs.
2. This Output also delivers the Women on Boards Strategy 2020-2025, grant programs for International Women's Day and Scholarships for Women's Leadership Development.

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Prepared by	Pip Hankin	Assistant Director, Women's Portfolio
Cleared by	Courtney Hurworth	Chief Reform Lead, Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence, Keeping Children Safe Reform Group

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DPAC contact for more information:	Tegan Dwyer	Out of scope, s.36
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Output Group 1 - Policy, Reform and Government Priorities

Output – 1.4 Women and the Prevention of Family Violence

Family and Sexual Violence Peak

Current as at: **22-October-2025**

Talking Points

- The Tasmanian Government recognises the vital role that community sector organisations play in supporting victim-survivors of family and sexual violence.
- Strong coordination and collaboration between government and the sector are essential to delivering effective, trauma-informed responses for those affected.
- Under the Third Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan 2022-2027, Action 14 commits to investigating and establishing a dedicated Family and Sexual Violence Peak body in Tasmania.
- This action ensures the voices of survivors remain central with a peak body drawing on insights from member organisations connected to those with lived experience, to guide service design, policy, and strategic advice.
- Funding was provided to the **Tasmanian Family and Sexual Violence Alliance** (the Alliance) in April 2025, from both the Tasmanian and Commonwealth Governments to support the continued establishment of a new Peak Body.
- Initially this investment focussed on standing up the operations of the peak to enable it to operate as an independent entity, and gauging sector readiness and support for a peak body in Tasmania.

- The Alliance has appointed a Chief Executive Officer and, during July and August 2025, led statewide consultation to understand sector expectations and identify priority issues.
- In the long term – if sustainable, the peak will strengthen the capacity of the community sector by improving coordination, supporting policy development, and allowing service providers to focus on what they do best – delivering high-quality services to Tasmanians.

Role of the Peak Body

- The Peak is acting as a central point of engagement between government and the family and sexual violence sector.
- It will provide expert advice on service design and policy development to ensure consistent and evidence-based approach to preventing and responding to violence.
- Importantly, the establishment of a Tasmanian Family and Sexual Violence Peak will support a more joined up, collaborative system across government and the community sector.
- Joined-up systems are critical to ensuring that victim-survivors don't fall through the cracks – that services talk to each other, coordinate responses, and wrap around people when they need support most.

Funding Caveats:

- The Alliance is funded through the current Tasmanian Government Action Plan – Survivors at the Centre.
- Further funding for the Alliance beyond the current funding timeframe for the Action Plan (2027), will be considered through the development of the new Tasmanian Government Family and Sexual violence Action Plan.

Background

- Action 14 of Tasmania's Third Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan 2022-2027: Survivors at the Centre provides:
- Investigate the establishment of a Tasmanian Family and Sexual Violence Peak to improve coordination of family and sexual violence services and advice on policy development and service design. This Action will provide funding to TasCOSS to establish a Family and Sexual Violence Peak to streamline engagement between Government and the community sector, and support the sector in policy development, enabling it to focus on service delivery to the Tasmanian community.

Timeline:

- August 2023 - one-year deed executed with TasCOSS to investigate the establishment of a new peak body, with \$170,000 from Tasmanian Government provided.
- July 2024 - deed extended until December 2024 with additional funding of \$100,000 from the Commonwealth under Federal Funding Agreement on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses (FFA) funding.
- November to December 2024 - Constitution finalised and submitted to Consumer, Building and Occupational Services in the Department of Justice to register as an Incorporated Association.
- January 2025 - Alliance CEO advertised.
- March 2025 - Deed with Alliance executed with \$640,000 committed over 16 months (to June 2026). Funding is from Tasmanian Government and FFA.
- Late March 2025 - New Chief Executive Officer, Bree Klerck commenced in the role.
- July 2025 - Statewide consultation sessions on role, function, and membership of the Peak.
- September 2025 - Government roundtables and sector briefings to consolidate findings.
- October 2025 - Release of consultation summary report.
- From November 2025 - Implementation of findings and operational refinement.

Transitional Board

- The Alliance have a Transitional Board in place until formal governance arrangements are put in place via their agreed constitution. Current Transitional Board members include:
 - Alina Thomas - Interim Chair and representative of Engender Equality
 - Kathryn Fordyce - Secretary and representative of Laurel House
 - Yvette Cehtel - Public Officer and representative of Women's Legal Service Tasmania

- Fiona Barrett - Representative of Huon Domestic Violence Service
- Denise Tilley - Representative of Yemaya Women's Support Service
- Nicole McBride - Victim-survivor representative
- Rachael Dunn – Principal Cultural Advisor, Jenname

TFSVA Priorities

- In April 2025, the Tasmanian Family and Sexual Violence Alliance released its **Strategic Plan 2025-2028** which outlines Alliance's **vision, mission and goals**.
- The Alliance **website** sets out its **2025 priorities, which include:**
 - **developing TFSVA's membership base and governance framework**
 - **engaging broadly and directly with the family and sexual violence sector**
 - **seeking partnerships of respect and understanding with Tasmanian Aboriginal people**
 - **gaining deeper lived experience perspectives on service demand and innovative service approaches**
 - **identifying ways to meet current and projected need and demand for family and sexual violence services in Tasmania**
 - **responding to requests from government for whole-of-sector policy submissions relating to family violence, sexual violence and child sexual abuse**
 - **collecting and disseminating relevant state and national information to Tasmania's family and sexual violence services sector.**
- On **27 June 2025**, the Alliance released its Shared Policy Platform, **in summary, the Alliance is calling on** the next Government to:
 1. Prioritise long-term investment in primary prevention in the next Tasmanian Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan
 2. Work in genuine partnership with the FSV sector and lived experience advocates to review and reform the community-based FSV funding system
 3. Commit to a comprehensive FSV Workforce Development Strategy
- On 2 July 2025 the Alliance joined with 15 other community service peaks as part of the Tasmanian Coalition of Community Services Peaks, and released a joint statement to 'Prioritise All Tasmanians' focused on 2025 election priorities. The statement highlights that addressing family and sexual violence requires a well-resourced, stable, and respected community services sector, underpinned by:
 - fast-tracking of five-year funding contracts,
 - fair indexation,

- early contract reviews, and a reset of the government-sector relationship through a formal Partnership Agreement.
- The Tasmanian Coalition of Community Services Peaks 2025 Election Priorities include:
 1. Fast-track the implementation of five-year funding contracts across the industry.
 2. Implement funding review processes, at least six months before the end date of a contract.
 3. Commit to an indexation figure that reflects the true cost of doing business.
 4. Provide a commitment to reset the relationship with the community services industry through a Partnership Agreement with the Tasmanian Coalition of Community Services Peaks and the Tasmanian Government, based on respect and collaboration.

Next steps:

- The Government will continue to work closely with the Tasmanian Family and Sexual Violence Alliance and the broader community sector to ensure the Peak is responsive, inclusive, and effective.
- Together, we are taking meaningful action to improve safety, support, and outcomes for Tasmanians impacted by family and sexual violence.

Budget Information

- A total of \$1.25 million has been committed over five years to support the establishment of a Peak Body for Tasmania's family and sexual violence sector under Action 14 of the *Third Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan 2022–2027*. This comprises:
 - Tasmanian Government funding of \$850,000 (\$170,000 per annum for five years); and
 - Commonwealth funding under the Federation Funding Agreement on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses (FFA) of \$400,000 (\$200,000 per annum for two years).
- Breakdown of Allocated Funding:
 - 2022-23: \$170,000 (Tasmanian Government) was available however this was not allocated as the funding agreement with TasCOSS did not commence until 2023-24.

Any unallocated funding in 2022-23 was returned to Treasury.

- July 2023 - December 2025: TasCOSS: \$270,000
To lead the initial investigative and establishment phase, including sector engagement and design work
Funding sources:
\$170,000 (Tasmanian Government)
\$100,000 (Commonwealth Government / FFA)
- March 2025 - June 2027: The Alliance: \$640,000
To support operational setup and delivery as the Peak Body
Funding sources:
\$340,000 (Tasmanian Government)
\$300,000 (Commonwealth Government / FFA)
- Remaining funds available for 2026-27: \$170,000
Unallocated at this stage; intended to support ongoing work under Action 14 from July 2026 through to June 2027.
Funding source:
\$170,000 (Tasmanian Government)

s.27

Prepared by	Name Marni Benton	Position Senior Policy Analyst
Cleared by	Courtney Hurworth	Chief Reform Lead, Keeping Children Safe Reform Group

	Name	Contact number
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Output Group 1 - Policy, Reform and Government Priorities

Output – 1.4 Women and the Prevention of Family Violence

National Plans

Current as at: **16-October-2025**

Talking Points

- The Tasmanian Government continues to reaffirm its commitment to ending violence against women and children.
- Our efforts are guided by the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032, a shared framework to drive change and create safer futures.
- The 2024 Rapid Review of Prevention Approaches provided critical insights into what works to prevent gender-based violence, guiding both immediate and long-term actions in Tasmania and across Australia.
- Governments are progressively responding to the Review's recommendations, with coordination and accountability overseen through the Women and Women's Safety Ministerial Council.
- A new component of the Federation Funding Agreement on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses commenced on 1 July 2025, which will provide matched Commonwealth and state funding of \$15.7 million over five years until June 2030.
- The Commonwealth and states and territories are currently discussing an extension from 1 July 2026 to the 500 Worker initiative under the Federation Funding Agreement.

- The Commonwealth is also providing additional national funding to further support Innovative Perpetrator Responses to target high-risk perpetrators and young people using or at risk of using violence.
 - Tasmania has applied for funding under this program and is awaiting the application outcome expected in November 2025.
- The **Our Ways – Strong Ways – Our Voices: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Safety Plan** is also nearing completion following extensive consultation.
- This Plan seeks to deliver a ten-year strategy to strengthen the safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, led by their voices, wisdom and lived experience.

Note: Talking points for each initiative are provided as follows:

National Action Plan and Federation Funding Agreement

- Our Government is committed to working diligently and collaboratively with the community and other levels of government to achieve our shared vision of ending family and sexual violence.
- We continue to work in partnership with the Australian Government, other jurisdictions, and family and sexual violence specialist services with the aim of delivering a significant and sustained reduction in violence against women.
- Our shared objectives are outlined through the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032 (National Plan) and the Federation Funding Agreement on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses (FFA).

- A clear message articulated throughout the National Plan is that governments alone cannot eliminate family and sexual violence. This is a whole of community issue for which we all have a role to play, and we must work together to achieve the shared vision of ending gender-based violence.
- Under the FFA, the Commonwealth has allocated more than \$29 million to Tasmania from 2021 to 2030, which is in addition to our own investment of \$140 million over five years under our own Third Action Plan to address family and sexual violence.
 - The Tasmanian Government investment includes additional funding for the North West Arch set to commence in 2026 and for ongoing support for the three Arch Centres.
- Under the 500 Workers Initiative component of the FFA, Tasmania has met our target of 24.6 FTE workers commenced by June 2025, providing additional front-line and support workers to provide specialist services to victim-survivors.
 - The Commonwealth has committed to extending this program for five years from 1 July 2026 until 30 June 2030.
- Tasmania undertakes regular jurisdictional reporting to the Australian Government with the latest national progress report on actions publicly released in late 2024.

Rapid Review of Prevention Approaches to End Gender-Based Violence

- The Rapid Review of Prevention Approaches has shaped immediate actions and will inform long-term efforts to deliver the National Plan.
- At the 6 September 2024 National Cabinet meeting, First Ministers agreed to a suite of actions to accelerate the end of

gender-based violence, informed by the Rapid Review of Prevention Approaches and its report, *Unlocking the Prevention Potential*.

- The Review aligns with Tasmania's strong support for primary prevention of gender-based violence, ensuring efforts are directed at addressing the root causes rather than just the consequences.
- The recommendations call for enhanced national coordination, which supports Tasmania's efforts to collaborate more effectively with other states, the Commonwealth, and local communities for a unified approach to tackling violence.
- Tasmania supports the focus on prioritising key areas in 2025 including: men's behaviour change, risk assessment and management, and expanding the specialist FDSV workforce, which are critical areas to strengthen services and outcomes in our state.
- The Review's emphasis on evidence-based approaches and improved data collection will help Tasmania make better, more informed decisions and ensure the resources we invest are having the desired impact.

Our Ways – Strong Ways – Our Voices: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Safety Plan

- The Tasmanian Government is committed to working in partnership to address the unacceptably high rates of family, domestic, and sexual violence experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children.
- The development of the Our Ways – Strong Ways – Our Voices plan marks a significant step forward in delivering culturally responsive, community-led solutions.

- This ten-year, evidence-based national framework is a key initiative under the *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032*.
- The Plan aligns with our shared Closing the Gap commitments, particularly Target 13, which seeks a 50 per cent reduction in family violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children by 2031.
- I'm pleased to note Tasmania's active role, with representation on the National Steering Committee shaping this important work.
- The Plan is expected to be released later this year.
- Tasmania stands ready to consider endorsement through our Cabinet processes.

Disability Lens on the First Action Plan 2023-2027

- The Commonwealth is leading the development of a Disability Lens on the First Action Plan 2023-2027 under the National Plan, with all jurisdictions, including Tasmania, contributing to this national effort.
- Tasmania has provided coordinated feedback from relevant community sector and government agencies to ensure that our jurisdiction's priorities and innovative practices, including regional and community-led service responses, are reflected.
- The Disability Lens, developed as part of the First Action Plan, is the first national framework created by and for women and children with disability impacted by family, domestic and sexual violence.
- Tasmania strongly supports this rights-based, intersectional, and trauma-informed approach, which recognises the unique challenges faced by women and children with disability.

- The Disability Lens will guide national, state, and territory policy implementation, helping to align and strengthen the work already underway across jurisdictions, including here in Tasmania.
- The Disability Lens is anticipated for release in late-2025.

Budget Information

Table 1

Total Expenses by Portfolio and Output

Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Output Budget	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
	'000	'000	'000	'000
Appropriation				
Tasmania's Third Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan: Survivors at the Centre 2022-2027	12,503	12,503	12,503	12,503
Family Violence Recurrent Grant Funding Programs	4,643	4,643	4,643	4,643
International Women's Day Small Grant Program	40	40	40	40
Women in Leadership Scholarship Program	100	100	100	100
Women's Portfolio Base funding	192	-	-	-
Budget Efficiency Dividend and Savings	(10)	(14)	(14)	(14)
National Partnership Agreements				
2023-25 FDSV Responses	3,471	-	-	-
Innovative Perpetrator Responses	656	656	-	-
500 Community Sector and Frontline Workers	2,703	-	-	-
2025-30 FDSV Responses	1,505	1,541	1,570	1,606
Total	25,803	19,469	18,842	18,878

Name

Position

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Cleared by	Courtney Hurworth	Chief Reform Lead, Keeping Children Safe Reform Group

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Output Group 1 - Policy, Reform and Government Priorities

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Primary Prevention (incl Our Watch and Primary Prevention)

Current as at: **20-October-2025**

Talking Points

- The Tasmanian Government is firmly committed to the primary prevention of violence against women and children and recognises the critical role of Our Watch in advancing this work.
- Primary prevention is a foundational pillar of our national and state level strategies to end violence against women and children.
- We are committed to evidence -informed; whole -of -population approaches that deliver measurable, long -term impacts.

Partnership with Our Watch

- Tasmania is a proud partner in a five -year agreement with Our Watch from 23 June 2022, which marked a significant milestone in our ongoing commitment to prevention.
- Through this unique partnership, a dedicated Our Watch Senior Advisor position is based in Tasmania, providing expert advice to the Department of Premier and Cabinet on family and sexual violence policy and women's policy.
- The 2025--26 work plan includes activities that contribute to the ongoing implementation of Survivors at the Centre actions and informs priorities related to the Our Watch partnership.

Tasmania's Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan

- The Government continues to work in partnership with Our Watch to deliver on the commitments under Tasmania's Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan, which includes primary prevention across the key initiatives.
- This collaboration is central to progressing current activities such as workplace equality, respectful relationships education, and community-based prevention.
- Through this sustained partnership, we are not only addressing immediate priorities but also laying the foundations for lasting change to stop violence before it starts.
- Key initiatives funded through the action plan are:
 - Respectful Relationships and Consent Education – early intervention program delivered in Tasmanian schools by the Department for Education, Children and Young People.
 - Men's behaviour change programs:
 - Men Engaging New Strategies (MENS) Program for men who have hurt or abused their partners/ex-partners and are ready to take responsibility, delivered by Relationships Australia.
 - Perpetrator programs operated through referral from Magistrates as a condition of a Family Violence Order, and mandated behaviour change programs delivered through Community Corrections.

Tasmanian Women's Strategy 2022-2027

- The Government acknowledges that gender inequality is a key driver of family violence and considers the Women's Strategy to be a key part of the prevention approach for Tasmania.

Background

Our Watch

- Our Watch is an independent, not for profit organisation established in 2013 by the Australian and Victorian Governments. Since then, all state and territory governments have become members.
- Establishing Our Watch was an initiative under the previous 2010-2022 National Plan and complemented the establishment of Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS).
- Our Watch compiles evidence, develops advice, tools and resources, and works in partnership with governments, corporate organisations, civil society and communities to drive shared efforts to address the drivers of violence against women.
- It works across key settings such as education, media, workplaces, and communities to support systemic and cultural change.

Primary prevention and Survivors at the Centre

- Prevention and Early Intervention is a key principle of Tasmania's Third Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan: Survivors at the Centre. The actions contributing toward prevention activities within the Action Plan include:

Action Number	Prevention and early intervention actions Survivors at the Centre
24	Embed Respectful Relationships and Consent Education in Tasmanian schools (DECYP)
25	Expand the Step Up Adolescent Early Intervention Program to be delivered statewide (DECYP)
26	Continue the partnership with Our Watch (DPAC): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • annual membership; and • Our Watch Senior Advisor position.
27	Continue the embedding of Workplace Equality and Respect Standards in all agencies (DPAC)
28	Continue to deliver the Harmful Sexual Behaviours program for children and young people (DECYP)
29	Strengthen the Defendant Health Liaison Service to provide early intervention assessment and management services to respondents (DoH)
30	Continue to deliver the Men's Referral Service (DoJ)

- The Department has recently sought advice from Our Watch to inform on the development of outcomes frameworks. This collaboration was valuable, due to Our

Watch's specific expertise in measuring progress in prevention, and knowledge of national family and sexual violence population level datasets.

- The Our Watch Senior Advisor position based in and, accessible to the Department's Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence team is a beneficial arrangement to both parties, providing engagement and value adding opportunities and a greater understanding of the Tasmanian context.

Alignment with National Cabinet Priorities and the Rapid Review

- The National Cabinet's focus on addressing violence against women and children reflects the urgency of this national crisis.
- In 2024, National Cabinet endorsed gender based violence as a national priority and committed to joint, immediate actions across all jurisdictions.

Rapid Review of Prevention Approaches to End Gender-based Violence (August 2024)

- Commissioned by National Cabinet, the Rapid Review of Prevention Approaches reinforced that prevention must be central to national efforts.
- The Review identified the need for:
 - Coordinated, whole-of-system responses, including education, media, health and justice.
 - Stronger investment in primary prevention, not just crisis responses.
 - Greater community engagement to challenge harmful social norms and drive cultural change.
- The Rapid Review highlighted the need to scale up evidence based national infrastructure such as Our Watch, recognising its unique capabilities to deliver prevention tools, training, and frameworks at scale.
- Our Watch work in Tasmania aligns to this by supporting:
 - Respectful Relationships Education in schools.
 - Equality and Respect in workplaces and sports.
 - State -level capability -building across government and community sectors.

Alignment with the National Plan

- Tasmania's partnership with Our Watch and focus on primary prevention delivers directly against the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022--2032.
- This includes alignment with the National Outcomes Framework and National Agreement on Closing the Gap, particularly in centring First Nations voices and community -led solutions.

Accountability and progress tracking

- National Cabinet emphasised the importance of clear indicators and transparency in tracking progress.
- The Women and Women's Safety Ministerial Council was assigned by National Cabinet as the governance mechanism to implement the recommendations of the Rapid Review.
- The Ministerial Council plays a central role in coordinating national action, aligning state and territory efforts, and ensuring that recommendations are embedded across jurisdictions.

Primary Prevention in Tasmanian – Data Snapshot

- The development of a *Primary Prevention in Tasmanian – Data Snapshot* -by Our Watch aligns to this approach by providing an evidence-based tool that demonstrates local progress in prevention – that mirrors national -level accountability mechanisms.
- The partnership with Our Watch provides opportunity to broaden how we are capturing prevention activity and, importantly, to collaborate on measuring and evaluating impacts in Tasmania and nationally.
- Once finalised, this report will be published on the Our Watch website alongside other jurisdictional reports. It will include publicly available data from sources such as the *National Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women Survey* (NCAS), the *Personal Safety Survey* (PSS), as well as information from *Survivors at the Centre* and other related strategies.
- The report is anticipated for release in October 2025.

Budget Information

Action Number	Survivors at the Centre actions	2025-26 funding
24	Embed Respectful Relationships and Consent Education in Tasmanian schools (DECYP)	Nil Tasmanian Government \$545,404.61 Consent and Respectful Relationships Education - Federation Funding Agreement 2023-2028
25	Expand the Step Up Adolescent Early Intervention Program to be delivered statewide (DECYP)	\$712,500 Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses - Federation Funding Agreement 2021-2030
26	Continue the partnership with Our Watch (DPAC): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual membership; and Our Watch Senior Advisor position. 	Tasmanian Government \$32,000 \$135,000
27	Continue the embedding of Workplace Equality and Respect Standards in all agencies (DPAC)	Nil Tasmanian Government
28	Continue to deliver the Harmful Sexual Behaviours program for children and young people (DECYP)	\$623,000 Tasmanian Government
29	Strengthen the Defendant Health Liaison Service to provide early intervention assessment and management services to respondents (DoH)	\$150,000 Tasmanian Government
30	Continue to deliver the Men's Referral Service (DoJ)	\$180,850 Tasmanian Government

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Cleared by	Courtney Hurworth	Chief Reform Lead, Keeping Children Safe Reform Group

	Name	Contact number
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Parliamentary Briefing 2025

Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family Violence

Output Group 1 - Policy, Reform and Government Priorities

Output – 1.4 Women and the Prevention of Family Violence

Tasmania's Third Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan (including funding, initiatives incl TARRA)

Current as at: **20-October-2025**

Talking Points

- Our vision is that all Tasmanians are safe, equal and respected, and our homes, families and communities are free from all forms of family and sexual violence.
- Tasmania's Third Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan 2022-27: Survivors at the Centre was informed by extensive consultations and reaffirms the Government's commitment to eliminating family and sexual violence in the Tasmanian community.
- Survivors at the Centre builds on what we know works and includes actions to refine and target our efforts towards preventing and responding to family and sexual violence, while putting the voices of victim survivors at the centre of our approach.
- Our Government has committed more than **\$140 million over the five-year life of Survivors at the Centre** to implement 38 Actions under four key principles:
 - Partnership and Transformation
 - Capacity Building
 - Prevention and Early Intervention

- Voice and Diversity.
- We are on target to achieve each Action by 2027, with 29 completed actions (including continuing actions) as at 30 June 2025.

Key initiatives actioned since 2022

- Some of the Actions under Survivors at the Centre are:
 - establishing **Multi-Disciplinary Centres (Arch Centres)** in the North and South to provide survivor-centred, integrated responses – now expanding to include the North-West in early 2026;
 - establishing the **Tasmanian Family and Sexual Violence Alliance** (Alliance) as the **peak body** for the sector to improve coordination of services and support policy development;
 - establishing Tasmania's first **Victim-Survivor Advisory Council (VSAC)** to provide an ongoing voice to Government;
 - develop and trial the **Tasmania and Rural Risk Assessment Tool (TARRA)**;
 - Increasing **core funding** to Tasmania's specialist family and sexual violence services.
- We know that addressing the prevalence of family and sexual violence needs a long-term approach. In the short to medium -term, reporting rates increase as responses and support for victim -survivors are trusted, and our understanding increases of what constitutes violence.

Background

- In 2021, the Tasmanian Government's Supporting Women and Girls election policy committed to developing a third family and sexual violence action plan with fully funded, evidence-based initiatives, in consultation with the Family and Sexual Violence Consultative Group and people with lived experience.
- The Tasmanian Government Agencies listed in the Third Action Plan are responsible for individual actions.
- The Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) coordinates all actions and works collaboratively with all Agencies.

Consultation

- Survivors at the Centre was informed by voices of victim survivors and an eight-week campaign was held to promote a public consultation phase and included newspaper, social media, radio and posters.
- The consultation process included:
 - Public consultation
 - The 2022 Hearing Lived Experiences Survey
 - The Tasmanian Government engaged consultants EMRS to conduct a Hearing Lived Experience Survey to inform development and evolution of the Third Action Plan.
 - The 2022 survey was open for 12 months from early 2022, and a total of 716 responses were received.
 - Very high-level findings from the 2022 survey showed that general awareness of what constitutes family violence and that support services/programs are available has increased, however, there were some continuing traditional attitudes towards family violence prevailing, indicating there is room for improvement.
- Workshops with key stakeholders from government and non-government partners and leading public victim survivors, including Grace Tame and Mary Knowles OAM, Mayor of the Northern Midlands Council; and
- Partnering with the Aboriginal community through existing consultation mechanisms.

Performance Information

- The State Budget includes Survivors at the Centre Performance Information with a performance measure reported as a percentage of 'Actions completed'.
- From 2022--23 onwards, this is reported as a cumulative percentage of actions implemented over the five-year period of the Action Plan.

Evaluation of Tasmania's Family and Sexual Violence Action Plans

- An evaluation of Tasmania's Family and Sexual Violence Action Plans is being considered to review and assess the impact and effectiveness of the Action Plan.

Outcomes Framework

- Tasmania is considering the development of an Outcomes Framework to guide implementation and measure progress of the Action Plan. Our Watch and other expert partners have been engaged with to provide information about best practice approaches.

Tasmanian and Rural Risk Assessment (TARRA)

- Tasmania is progressing the development of a Risk Assessment and Management Framework (RAMF) and the TARRA tool to strengthen responses to family and sexual violence.
- This work is funded under the Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses National Partnership Agreement.
- Tasmania is currently the only jurisdiction without an overarching family violence risk assessment framework.
- TARRA reflects the unique rural and remote challenges in Tasmania and incorporates local expertise and current research.
- Sector feedback has been positive, valuing the shared processes, language, and tools to improve safety and reduce harm.
- Broad sector interest continues, with input offered on future development and participation.

Action 10 – Survivors at the Centre

- The RAMF and TARRA respond to Action 36 of Safe Homes Families Communities (2019-22) and continue under Action 10 of Tasmania's Third Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan 2022-27: Survivors at the Centre.
- Engender Equality was engaged to develop the framework and training package, with a first edition produced and partially delivered. Further consultation and refinement are required before full implementation.

Tasmania operating context

- **s.27** [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- DPAC is in discussions with DPFEM and DoJ to explore how to progress this work.

National Family Domestic Violence (FDV) Risk Assessment Principles and Model Framework

- The Commonwealth is developing national FDV risk assessment principles, led by Allen and Clarke Consulting, following a May 2024 National Cabinet tasking.
- This national work presents an opportunity for Tasmania to finalise its model, improve service consistency, inform and align with national approaches.

Budget Information

2025-26 State Budget:

Output 1.4 Women and the Prevention of Family Violence

	2024-25 \$'000	2025-26 \$'000	2026-27 \$'000	2027-28 \$'000	2028-29 \$'000
Survivors at the Centre ¹	12,813	12,503	12,503		
New strategy or action plan	-	-	-	12,503	12,503
Women's Policy ²	-	192	-	-	-
International Women's Day Small Grant Program	-	40	40	40	40
Women in Leadership Scholarship Program	-	100	100	100	100
Core funding for specialist services ³	-	4,643	4,643	4,643	4,643
FDSV Responses NPA – Commonwealth	7,098	8,335	2,197	1,570	1,606
Budget efficiency dividend	(199)	(10)	(14)	(14)	(14)
Women's Workforce Participation Rollover	350	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	20,062	25,803	19,469	18,842	18,878

Notes:

- Survivors at the Centre 2024-25 includes base funding which was fully exhausted in 2024-25.
- Women's Policy was Output 7.6 up to 2024-25.
- Core funding for specialist services was included in Output 7.2, Community Services in 2024-25.

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Cleared by	Courtney Hurworth	Chief Reform Lead, Keeping Children Safe Reform Group

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Parliamentary Briefing 2025

Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family Violence

Output Group 1 - Policy, Reform and Government Priorities

Output – 1.4 Women and the Prevention of Family Violence

Tasmanian Honour Roll of Women

Current as at: **16-October-2025**

Talking Points

- The Tasmanian Government is committed to recognising and celebrating the achievements of women in all aspects of Tasmanian life.
- The Honour Roll recognises and celebrates significant achievements of Tasmanian women and women's organisations locally, nationally, and internationally.
- In March, we celebrated our 2025 inductees at our Honour Roll ceremony.
- The induction of Tasmanian women onto the Honour Roll takes place every second year, to coincide with International Women's Day on 8 March.
- Since it began, the Honour Roll has recognised 405 women and 16 organisations for their lasting impact in Tasmania and beyond.
- More than an award, the Honour Roll inspires young women and ensures Tasmanian women's contributions are valued and remembered.
- The Honour Roll selection criteria focus on the nature and significance of the nominees' achievements:
 - The personal, academic, professional and community achievements of the nominee and the contribution made

to their particular Tasmanian community, field of work or endeavour

- How the achievements of the nominee have generated or will generate long-term benefits for the local, state or national community
 - Nature and length of involvement or actions in their chosen field.
- 26 women and three women's organisations were inducted onto the Honour Roll in this year's ceremony, all of whom have an inspirational story to tell.
 - At the Honour Roll event, I also launched a new award for Inspiring Young Women.
 - This new award will recognise the next generation of young Tasmanian women who are already stepping up, taking action, and shaping Tasmania's tomorrow.
 - We have so many inspiring young women across our State.
 - I would encourage Members from this House to promote the call for nominations across their communities.

Background

Honour Roll Selection Process and Ministerial Involvement

- The selection process is managed by the Department of Premier and Cabinet.
- Public nominations were invited between 31 March 2024 and 30 September 2024, with a total of 67 nominations received.
- This year's community assessment panel was selected by the Department of Premier and Cabinet following an Expression of Interest process. The panel comprised:
 - Jane Bovill - 2023 Tasmanian Honour Role of Women inductee and award-winning educator
 - Dr Katrena Stephenson – former Chief Executive Officer of the Local Government Association of Tasmania
 - Aimen Jafri – Chair, Multicultural Council of Tasmania

- Lucie Cutting – ABC Radio Presenter
 - Sarah Thomson (ex-officio chair) – A/Director, Policy and Reform, Department of Premier and Cabinet.
- Following the assessment process, the Panel made recommendations to the Deputy Secretary, Policy and Reform, Department of Premier and Cabinet, for a final decision on the successful inductees to the 2025 Honour Roll of Women.
 - The Minister for Women does not receive copies of nominations and does not participate in the selection process.
 - The independent selection process ensures fairness and community representation, aligning with other government awards such as the Sporting Hall of Fame and Tasmanian Athlete of the Year.

Personal Information Protection Act 2004 Exemption

- The Honour Roll has been granted an exemption from the *Personal Information Protection Act 2004* (PIP Act) to allow for the collection of information as part of the nomination process.
- The *Personal Information Protection Act 2004* exemption is ongoing for the life of the project and allows biographical information about nominees to be submitted by third parties without the requirement to seek permission.
- Following the assessment process, successful nominees will be contacted to confirm whether they wish to accept a place on the Honour Roll.
- In calling for nominations for the 2023 Honour Roll there was originally a requirement for the nominee's consent to be provided. This was a temporary measure while the *Personal Information Protection Act 2004* exemption was confirmed following machinery-of-government changes.

Government policy, election or budget commitment:

- Tasmanian Women's Strategy 2022-2027

2025 Inductees:

Name	Awarded for Service to	Region
Wafa Ballard	Community, Advocacy and Inclusion; Multicultural Affairs	North
Rees Campbell	Environment; Education; Community, Advocacy and Inclusion	North West
Melissa Paula Carlton, OAM	Sport and Recreation; Community, Advocacy and Inclusion	South
Heather Chong, FAICD	Government Public Services and Politics; Volunteering	South
Kelly Drummond Cawthon	Arts and Media; Community, Advocacy and Inclusion	South
Girl Guides Tasmania	Community, Advocacy and Inclusion; Education and Training	Statewide
Simone Haigh	Emergency Services; Workplace Relations	North West
Dorothy Hallam (posthumous)	Arts and Media; Cultural Heritage	South
Hobart Women's Shelter	Community, Advocacy and Inclusion; Prevention of Family Violence	South
Judy Huett	Human Rights, Justice and Corrections; Community, Advocacy and Inclusion	North West
Dr Mary Lindsay Kille, AM	Health; Human Rights and Justice	North West
Dr Lila Landowski	Science and Education; Community, Advocacy and Inclusion	South
Professor Elizabeth (Libby) Lester	Education and Training; Arts and Media	North West
Mary Ann (Anni) McCuaig (posthumous)	Environment and Government; Community, Advocacy and Inclusion	South
Christine Milne, AO	Environment; Government, Public Services and Politics	North
Deb Morice	Agriculture and Primary Industries; Community, Advocacy and Inclusion	North
Katrina Munting	Community, Advocacy and Inclusion; Justice	South
Dr Jocelyn Nettlefold (nee Madden)	Arts and Media; Government, Public Services and Politics	South
Professor Gretta Pecl, AM	Science, Technology and Mathematics; Environment	South
Kim Petrina Polley, OAM	Government, Public Services and Politics; Community, Advocacy and Inclusion	North

Name	Awarded for Service to	Region
Vicki May Purnell, OAM	Health; Community, Advocacy and Inclusion; Volunteering	North West
Maria Raake (posthumous)	Health; Community, Advocacy and Inclusion	North
Katherine Scholes	Arts and Media; Literature	South
Cate Sumner	Human Rights and Justice; Prevention of Family Violence	South
Elizabeth Jean Swain, AM	Engineering; Community, Advocacy and Inclusion	North
Grace Lauren Tame	Human Rights, Justice and Corrections; Community, Advocacy and Inclusion	South
Kate Julia Weindorfer (nee Cowle) (posthumous)	Environment; Tourism	North West
Sally Wise, OAM	Tourism; Volunteering	South
Women's Legal Service Tasmania	Community, Advocacy and Inclusion; Prevention of Family Violence	Statewide

Prepared by	Name Pip Hankin	Position Assistant Director, Policy and Engagement, Keeping Children Safe Reform Group
Cleared by	Courtney Hurworth	Chief Reform Lead, Keeping Children Safe Reform Group

	Name	Contact number
DPAC contact for more information:	Pip Hankin	Out of scope, s.36

Parliamentary Briefing 2025

Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family Violence

Output Group 1 - Policy, Reform and Government Priorities

Output – 1.4 Women and the Prevention of Family Violence

Tasmanian Women's Council

Current as at: **16-October-2025**

Talking Points

- Achieving gender equality requires a joint effort by government and community.
- The Tasmanian Women's Council, appointed to advise me, plays a key role in guiding women's policy and advancing gender equality across Tasmania.
- This includes driving the Equal means Equal Strategy, offering guidance, expertise, and championing gender equality across Tasmania.
- The Council have contributed to the Women of Boards Strategy 2020-2025 and provided advice about employment pathways for women, particularly young women, in areas of economic importance to Tasmania and in sectors where women are underrepresented.
- The Council continues to support the Department of Premier and Cabinet in delivering key priorities under the women's portfolio, including the inaugural Inspiring Young Women's Award.
- I am grateful to the Council members for generously sharing their time and expertise, and I am committed to ensuring they have a strong platform to advise Government on issues that matter to Tasmanian women.

IF ASKED: Louise Clark resignation

- I received correspondence from Lou Clark on 13 December 2024 advising of her resignation from the Council.
- Ms Clark, who joined the Council in 2023, has been an invaluable source of advice in relation to women's policy.
- While I was disappointed to receive Lou's resignation, I respect her decision.

Background

Tasmanian Women's Council membership - regional and sector representation

- In September, the Council elected Jo Flannagan as its new independent Chair and Liz Swain as Deputy Chair.
- An Expression of Interest for five new Council members opened on Monday, 29 September, on the Women in Tasmania website and will remain open until Friday, 17 October.
- In the 2024/25 FY the Council comprised six members (and an ex-officio Chair from the Department of Premier and Cabinet).
- Council members are selected for their expertise across a range of different areas, with a focus on gender equality to improve women's economic security, safety, health and wellbeing and opportunities for leadership and participation.
- The Council assists in the development and delivery of informed, effective and evidenced-based policy and practical programs and projects for women, including leadership and participation pathways.
- In 2023, the Council welcomed six new members – Deb Hunter, Jo Flanagan, Liz Swain, Lou Clark, Sarah Leary and Trudy Witbreuk.
- These appointments were made pursuant to a public Expression of Interest process, including advertising on the Women in Tasmania website and Facebook page, and circulation of the opportunity to all subscribers of the Tasmanian Women's Register.

Name	Region	Term Expiry	Sector
Deb Hunter	North	s.27	
Vacant*			
Trudy Witbreuk	North		
Jo Flanagan	South		
Sarah Leary	North-West		
Vacant *			
Sue Daly**	South		
Liz Swain AM	North-East		

s.36, s.27

Government policy, election or budget commitment:

- Tasmanian Women's Strategy 2022 – 2027

Prepared by	Name Pip Hankin	Position Assistant Director, Policy and Engagement, Keeping Children Safe
Cleared by	Courtney Hurworth	Chief Reform Lead, Keeping Children Safe

DPAC contact for more information:	Name Pip Hankin	Contact number Out of scope, s.36
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Parliamentary Briefing 2025

Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family Violence

Output Group 1 - Policy, Reform and Government Priorities

Output – 1.4 Women and the Prevention of Family Violence

Tasmanian Women's Strategy 2022 – 2027 - Equal means Equal

Current as at: **20-October-2025**

Talking Points

- Our Government's vision is for a gender equal Tasmania.
- We continue to drive this vision through our Equal Means Equal Strategy.
- Equal Means Equal: outlines a vision for a Tasmania where women and girls have access to equal choice, opportunity, and resources to participate in economic, social, political, and community life.
- I am committed to delivering the right programs, supports and opportunity for women to be the best they can be and fulfil their ambitions – whatever these ambitions are.
- Through the strategy, we strive to embed gender equality in our culture, attitudes and practices, recognising the diversity of Tasmanian women and girls.
- The 2022-23 State Budget allocated \$800,000 over four years (\$200,000 per year) to support the implementation of Equal Means Equal.
- In the last year, our key achievements have included:
 - Supporting 15 organisations to host International Women's Day events across Tasmania. These events hear from inspiring, capable women from a range of

industries and backgrounds, and provided valuable networking opportunities statewide.

- Completing trials of our Gender Impact Assessment Toolkit. The Toolkit provides Tasmanian Government agencies with practical resources and examples to assess policies and programs for gender impact.
- Funding the delivery of the Women's Leadership Program which will support 40 women to develop leadership skills, access mentors and establish networks.
- Supporting women's workforce participation through partnerships to development of the Modern Workforce Framework, Tasmanian Leaders I-Lead Program and the Change Makers Program.
- Supporting the Women's Council, Women on Boards Strategy.

Background

International Women's Day Small Grants Program

- The Tasmanian Government is a proud supporter of International Women's Day.
- The Program supports events and projects that celebrate women's achievements, strengthen connections between women, and educate the broader community about the contributions of women.
- As announced on 8 February 2025, 15 organisations received funding through this year's grant program to help deliver International Women's Day events right across the State (see attachment 1).

Women's Leadership Program Scholarships

- DPAC is working with a provider to deliver the 2025 Women's Leadership Program, aimed at strengthening the leadership capacity of Tasmanian women. A minimum of 40 fully funded scholarships will be available.
- In 2024, Healthy Tasmania Pty Ltd was selected as the preferred provider following an open Expression of Interest (EOI) process.

- The 2024 Program was delivered over three days in Launceston, from 27 to 29 November, and supported nearly 50 participants.

Gender Impact Assessment Toolkit

- Shifting social and cultural attitudes about the roles and rights of women, men, and gender diverse Tasmanians is essential to achieving gender equality.
- The Gender Impact Assessment Toolkit (the Toolkit) is a component of work under Equal Means Equal and has been trialled by seven Tasmanian Government agencies to assess how policies, legislation, programs, and services affect people differently based on gender.
- The Toolkit helps agencies identify gender bias and structural discrimination, and supports the development of more inclusive policies, programs, and budget initiatives.

Gender Budget Statement

- The development and publication of an annual Gender Budget Statement is another key body of ongoing work identified through Equal Means Equal.
- The Gender Budget Statement allows the Government to track progress over time and demonstrate its commitment to advancing gender equality.
- The Gender Budget Statement provides opportunity to look closely at government funded initiatives to assess how these have benefitted women and to highlight where government can focus its attention in relation to data gathering and what the data tells us on how women compare with males across a range of indicators.
- **s.27** [REDACTED]

Supporting Women's Workforce Participation

- In 2024–25, the Tasmanian Government invested \$350,000 to support women's workforce participation, with a focus on creating opportunities for women in growth areas of the economy.
- This included \$100,000 to the Tasmanian Minerals, Manufacturing and Energy Council (TMEC) to develop a Modern Workplaces Framework that supports industry to create safe, respectful workplaces for women and embed lasting cultural change.
 - The Framework is expected to expand over time to include other sectors, such as construction and transport.
 - The grant will deliver a Respectful Workplaces Blueprint and an online training module to support gender equality and improve safety for women working in Tasmania's mining industry.
- \$153,860 to Tasmanian Leaders to deliver the I-LEAD Women in Community program, addressing a significant gap in leadership and governance development for women working or volunteering in Tasmania's community sector.

- \$96,140 to TasCOSS to deliver the Changemakers Program, supporting emerging leaders in the Tasmanian community services sector to deepen their industry knowledge and strengthen their ability to lead and drive social change.

Budget Information

- The Women's portfolio received funding in the 2025-26 Budget for initiatives to continue delivery over the next four years including the International Women's Day small grants program and the Women's Leadership Program.
- In 2024-25 Equal Means Equal funding has been used to support payments of sitting fees for the Tasmanian Women's Council, the Tasmanian Women's Honour Roll, social media sharing of Women's stories, development of the Gender Impact Assessment Toolkit and the Gender Budget Statement.
- Due to a \$10,000 shortfall in budget allocation, the Equal Means Equal budget also subsidised the International Women's Day grant program.
- The budget allocation for 2025-25 and forward estimates and 2024-25 Expenditure is provided at Table 1.

Table 1 Equal Means Equal funding

Output 1.4 Women and the Prevention of Family Violence	2024-25 \$'000	2025-26 \$'000	2026-27 \$'000	2027-28 \$'000	2028-29 \$'000
Revenue - Women's Portfolio	190	-	-	-	-
Initiatives: Women's Workforce Participation Program	350	-	-	-	-
International Women's Day Grants	20	40	40	40	40
Women's Leadership Program	100	100	100	100	100
Total	660	140	140	140	140

2024-2025 State Budget Women's Portfolio Expenditure	
Women's Workforce Participation Program: <i>Modern Workplaces Framework (TEMC) (\$100,000)</i> <i>Tasmanian Leaders I-Lead Women in Community (\$153,860)</i> <i>TasCOSS Changemakers Program (\$96,140)</i>	\$350,000*
International Women's Day Grants	\$40,000
Women's Leadership Program	\$100,000
Equal Means Equal	\$190,000
Total	\$660,000

*\$350,000 was rolled forward from the 2023-2024 budget for Women's Workforce Participation Initiatives.

Attachment 1

- The International Women's Day Small Grants Program has grown steadily in demand and impact over recent years. The program has been heavily oversubscribed from a budget perspective.
- In 2024, the total amount requested was nearly four times the available budget. In 2025, this increased to over 4.5 times. The funding shortfall in 2025 exceeded \$70,000, with only 22 per cent of requested funding able to be met.
- In 2025, the program received 52 applications, seeking a total of \$90,537. With a budget of \$20,000, 15 events were funded (30 per cent).
- In 2024, 43 applications were received, requesting \$76,384. With the same \$20,000 budget, 13 organisations were funded (29 per cent).

List of successful applicants to the International Women's Day Small Grants Program 2025

Organisation	Project	Grant Amount
Business and Employment Southeast Tasmania Inc.	Empowered – Empowering Women on International Women's Day	\$1,500
Clifford Craig Foundation	International Women's Day Luncheon	\$1,500
Circular Head Council	International Women's Day Breakfast	\$1,200
Council on the Ageing	Celebrating women's stories from connections – A COTA TAS and RAW collaboration	\$2,000
Devonport Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Accelerate Action with DCCI and the Tasmanian Jack Jumpers	\$1,500
Fingal Neighbourhood House	International Women's Day – Break O'Day Big Day Out	\$1,750

Greek Orthodox Community of Launceston and Northern Tasmania Inc.	International Greek Women's Day: Empowering Women, Celebrating Heritage	\$1,000
Ignite North West Women Inc.	Ignite Women Accelerate Action in 2025	\$1,500
Kingborough and Huon Business Enterprise Centre Inc	2025 International Women's Day Gala Dinner	\$500
Narryna Heritage Museum Inc.	Knowing Her Place	\$770
Print Radio Tasmania	Women's Voices Project - International Women's Day Launch	\$1,600
Tasman Council	International Women's Day – Accelerating Self-Care Actions	\$1,600
The Hive Community Inc.	Hive International Women's Day Event 2025	\$1,500
Tunnack Community Club Inc.	Farm Girl to Lavender Woman	\$1,000
Zonta Club of Hobart Inc.	Celebrating Migrant Women's Community Engagement	\$1,500
	Total	\$20,420

Prepared by	Name Pip Hankin	Position Assistant Director, Policy and Engagement Keeping Children Safe Reform
Cleared by	Courtney Hurworth	Chief Reform Lead, Keeping Children Safe Reform Group

	Name	Contact number
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Parliamentary Briefing 2025

Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family Violence

Output Group 1 - Policy, Reform and Government Priorities

Output – 1.4 Women and the Prevention of Family Violence

Women on Boards

Current as at: **11-November-2025**

Talking Points

- Data for our most recent reporting period (31 March 2025) shows that women hold 50.05 per cent of positions on Tasmanian Government boards and committees.
- This is a significant and proud moment for the Tasmanian Government and for Tasmania more broadly.
- There are 428 individual women and 422 individual males on Tasmanian Government boards and committees as at 31 March 2025.
- We have made meaningful progress since we came to Government when the percentage of women on boards was sitting at just over 30 per cent.
- The Tasmanian Government first introduced the target of 50 per cent women on its boards and committees in 2015.
- Another target is to increase representation of women in Chairperson positions on Tasmanian Government boards and committees to 40 per cent by July 2025.
- As of 31 March 2025, 36.9 per cent (38 of 103) of Chairperson positions were occupied by women. This was a 3 per cent increase from 30 September 2024.

- The Tasmanian Government has funded women's leadership and board diversity scholarships since 2015 to upskill Tasmanian women to apply for board positions, and to enhance their skills when working on government, commercial and not-for-profit boards.
- \$250,000 was awarded to Tasmanian Leaders Inc (\$153,860) and TasCOSS (\$96,140) as our 2030 Strong Plan Election Commitment to develop and deliver leadership training for women in the community sector in 2024-25.
- As of 31 March 2025, the majority (14 of 17) of Tasmanian Government agencies and state authorities have also achieved 50 per cent or greater representation of women within their workforce.
- We will continue to monitor progress and work towards equity.
- It is important to ensure that we continue to enable our women and girls to access opportunities that are available to them in all industries and levels of representation.

Background

- As the Tasmanian Government has moved closer to achieving the 50 percent gender parity target, there has been little change in the overall numbers from quarter to quarter. In 2024, the Minister for Women approved changing the frequency of Women on Boards reporting from quarterly to biannually.
- This change has reduced the reporting burden on Tasmanian Government agencies and assisted in ensuring resources can be focused on delivering of other activities detailed in the Women on Boards Strategy 2020-25, in January 2024.
- s.27
- The State Service Management Office (SSMO) coordinates quarterly data on Tasmanian Government Agencies and state authorities' representation of women within their workforce.

Women on Boards Strategy – next iteration

- The current Women on Boards Strategy expires at the end of the year.
- DPAC is preparing advice for the Minister on next steps given that the target has been met.

Changes in percentage of women on Boards and Committees - June 2015 to March 2025

Date	Percent of Women on Boards
June 2015	33.8%
June 2021	48.25%
September 2021	47.4%
December 2021	47.2%
March 2022	47.8%
June 2022	47.2%
September 2022	47%
December 2022	46.5%
March 2023	46.9%
June 2023	47.9%
March 2024	48.3%
September 2024	49.95%
March 2025	50.05%

Regional Representation

- The regional representation of all persons (men and women) on Tasmanian Government boards and committees shows that (as of 31 March 2025):
 - 63.8 per cent resided in the South;
 - 17.6 per cent resided in the North;
 - 9.0 per cent resided in the North-west; and

- 9.5 per cent resided interstate.
- It is recognised that most Tasmanian Government board and committee members (both men and women) are from the south of the state.
- Tasmanian Government Boards and Committees are encouraged to offer flexible meeting arrangements to support the full participation of women, including those from regional areas.
- s.27 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Government policy, election or budget commitment:

Supporting Women and Girls

- Increased investment of \$100 000 per year to 2025 for Women's Leadership Scholarships.
- 2030 Strong Plan Election Commitment: provide \$250,000 over 3 years to develop and deliver practical leadership training for women in the community sector (working with TASCOS, community sector and Tasmanian Leaders).
- Women on Boards Strategy 2020-2025: Continuing our progress.

	Name	Position
Prepared by	Pip Hankin	Assistant Director, Policy and Engagement, Keeping Children Safe Reform
Cleared by	Courtney Hurworth	Chief Reform Lead, Keeping Children Safe Reform Group

	Name	Contact number
DPAC contact for more information:	Pip Hankin	Out of scope, s.36



**Tasmanian
Government**

DPAC Budget Estimates 2025-26

**Minister for Community and Multicultural
Affairs**

17 November 2025 – 20 November 2025

Minister for Community and Multicultural Affairs

Output Group 3 - Community and Government Service Delivery
Output – 3.3 Community Services

Opening Statement - Community and Multicultural Affairs

Current as at: **14-October-2025**

Talking Points

- The Tasmanian Government acknowledges the invaluable role the community services industry plays in keeping Tasmanians supported, connected and healthy.
- Our 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future aims to develop stronger communities and enhance regions by ensuring we have a well-resourced community services industry that can meet the needs of local communities.
- Our 2025-2026 Budget continues our commitment to Supporting Stronger Communities and includes a focus on the needs of Tasmanians here and now, as well as supporting longer-term improvements.

Cost of living

- Cost of living pressures are being felt across Australia, and we know household budgets are stretched.
- Our 2025-2026 State Budget confirms our commitment to addressing cost-of-living pressures.
- We are focused on making life more affordable for Tasmanians by implementing measures that support those most in need.

Energy Hardship Fund

- In 2025-2026, and across the forward estimates, we are increasing available funding for the Energy Hardship Fund by providing an additional \$150,000 per year for four years (until 2028-2029), to provide support to more Tasmanians in need.
- This funding is in addition to the \$350,000 already committed on an annual basis for the Energy Hardship Fund, which is administered by the Salvation Army, and directly helps Tasmanians in need to pay their energy bills.

Food Security

- To further address the cost of living, we are committing \$7.1 million over four years (2025-2026 to 2028-2029) to support the:
 - Implementation of a new Food Resilience Strategy.
 - Continuation of programs and services that support the delivery of food relief to Tasmanians.
 - Delivery of initiatives that focus on building food resilience in local communities.
 - Development and delivery of community-led solutions to address long-term food insecurity and build food resilience in local communities.
- These commitments are in addition to the 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future, which provided over \$6 million in funding for food relief providers and the broader Tasmanian community, and \$14.6 million to double the Healthy School Lunch program to 60 schools by 2026.

Family Assistance Program

- The Family Assistance Program provides direct emergency relief to families experiencing financial hardship, and through our Government's support, we are providing a pathway for Tasmanians in need to access supports that help them overcome the difficulties they are experiencing.
- Funding is provided to the Salvation Army, St Vincent de Paul Society Tasmania, Anglicare, Hobart City Mission and Launceston City Mission who assist Tasmanians in need to access supports, including financial assistance.
- In 2025-2026, the Family Assistance Program will provide total funding of \$330,000 across the five organisations.
- Demonstrating our ongoing support for Tasmanian families, through the 2025-2026 State Budget, we are committing \$85,000 in additional funding to Glenhaven Family Care to continue to support vital, centre-based support services through Kentish House.

Financial Support

- Our ongoing support of No Interest Loan Scheme (NILS) is another example of our significant work to relieve the cost-of-living pressures for Tasmanians.
- NILS makes a real difference in helping Tasmanians manage cost of living pressures, and we are providing support so that NILS can provide low-income Tasmanians with options to assist with purchasing essential household supplies and services.
- NILS also reports that 97 percent of loans are fully repaid, and, through our Government's support, we are helping Tasmanians to avoid the debt spiral often associated with accessing payday lenders, 'rent to buy' and other high-risk options.

- Our Government is also a key advocate of improving the financial literacy of Tasmanians.
- Anglicare's Financial Counselling service is offered free, statewide, and can directly assist people who are struggling with the cost of living.

Neighbourhood Houses

- Our Government recognises that Neighbourhood Houses are key pillars of healthy, supportive, and inclusive communities.
- Since 2021, our Government has provided the Neighbourhood House network with funding support of over \$40 million.
- Through our 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future, our Government has further supported Neighbourhood Houses by:
 - Boosting funding to the 34 Neighbourhood Houses by \$50,000 a year for three years.
 - Supporting the continuation and expansion of the Community Connector Program.
 - Providing \$6 million in new capital funding over three years, including investigating needs for East Devonport Neighbourhood House.
 - Providing \$150,000 for the Hood in the Hub Community Garden initiative at the Warrane Mornington Neighbourhood Centre.
 - Providing Phoenix Neighbourhood House with additional funding of \$74,000 per annum for four years.
 - Providing \$16,000 to Jordan River Service for upgrades to the Waterbridge Food Co-op kitchen.

LGBTIQA+ Tasmanians

- Our Government is continuing our commitment to progressing equality in Tasmania.

- Working closely with our key stakeholders, Working It Out and Equality Tasmania, our Government will soon be releasing Our *Rainbow Island: Tasmania's LGBTIQ+ Strategy 2025-2030*.
- Through the 2025-2026 State Budget, we are providing ongoing support of the Tasmanian LGBTIQ+ community by providing:
 - \$192,000 for the delivery of the Strategy and subsequent Action Plan; and
 - \$10,000 to oversee the Strategy and Action Plan through the Reference Group.
- This additional investment will enable us to recommission the *Telling Us the Story Report*, the largest ever survey of LGBTIQ+ Tasmanians, guiding the implementation of our Strategy and Action Plan, and enabling tracking of our progress toward greater equality.

Carers

- Through the 2025-2026 Budget, our Government is demonstrating ongoing support and recognition of the important contribution of the over 87,000 unpaid Tasmanian carers by providing:
 - \$110,000 in 2025-2026 to develop a new Carer Action Plan following the conclusion of the current plan in December 2025; and
 - \$10,000 for four years (2025-26 to 2028-2029) to oversee the implementation of the Action Plan through the Minister's Carer's Advisory Council.
- The new Action Plan, to be released in early 2026, will reflect what we have learned and heard from Tasmanian carers about what's important for them.

Volunteers

- Volunteering is vital for the Tasmanian community and our economy.
- In 2024-2025, we invested \$150,000 to develop Tasmania's first Volunteering Strategy and Action Plan in collaboration with Volunteering Tasmania.
- I look forward to releasing the five-year Strategy shortly.
- As part of the 2025-2026 State Budget, we are further supporting our volunteers by making the Registration to Work with Vulnerable People free for volunteers for the next two years.
- We have committed \$300,000 each year (2025-2026 and 2026-2027) to pilot making the Registration to Work with Vulnerable People free for volunteers.
- Rollout of the pilot initiative is expected to occur by early next year.

Multicultural Tasmanians

- Delivering on our 2024-2025 commitment, our Government released *Embracing Diversity, Fostering Belonging: Tasmania's Multicultural Action Plan 2025-2029* in March this year.
- The Action Plan has been informed by over 1,000 Tasmanians from culturally and linguistically diverse families.
- Our Government has invested more than \$2 million over two years (2024-2025 and 2025-2026) to support multicultural Tasmanians and implement key actions in the Plan.
- Reflecting our ongoing commitment to support culturally and linguistically diverse Tasmanians, through the 2025-2026 State Budget we are providing:
 - \$190,000 to implement the Plan during 2025-2026.
 - \$10,000 to establish an advisory group to oversee the implementation of the Plan.

- Uplifted funding to our multicultural festivals to \$15,000 per year for four years (2025-2026 to 2028-2029), with this funding being provided to Festa Italia; Estia Greek Festival and the Chinese Lunar New Year Festival.
- Additional funding of \$30,000 for two years (2025-2026 and 2026-27) for the Diwali Festival, and \$15,000 for the following two years (2027-2028 and 2028-2029).
- Funding of \$15,000 per year for four years (2025-2026 to 2028-2029) for the Nepalese community for a cultural event.

Men's Sheds

- Men's Sheds are ideally placed to support the health and wellbeing of Tasmanian men by providing a safe place for members to connect and share information, while working on community projects.
- Tasmania has the highest density of Men's Sheds per capita in Australia, with more than 10 sheds per 80,000 people.
- Our 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future continued our significant support of the 73 Men's Sheds across the State, as a place to meet, share and connect, through a range of initiatives, including:
 - Delivery of a \$1 million capital investment program.
- Continuation of the \$175,000 Tasmanian Men's Shed Association grants program for two years (2024-2025 and 2025-2026) to fund tools, equipment and training.
 - Increasing annual peak body funding to the TMSA with an additional \$400,000 over three years (2024-2025 to 2026-2027).

- One off funding for the Dorset, Lilydale, Sorell and Westbury Men's Sheds.

Indexation and Longer-Term Agreements

- We are aware of the importance of indexation for community service organisations and that is why we have guaranteed indexation of 12 per cent over four years from 2024-2025.
- For the first time ever, community service organisations are confident in the rate of indexation being provided to them to deliver integral work within the Tasmanian community.
- In 2024-2025, organisations received indexation of 3.5 per cent and will receive 3 per cent per year for the next three years (2025-2026 to 2027-2028).
- We are continuing our commitment under our 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future to transition community service organisations to longer-term funding arrangements.
- The Department of Premier and Cabinet is leading work across Tasmanian Government Agencies to progress a whole-of-government model to implement this commitment.
- The model utilises a multi-staged approach and seeks to support this complex project, taking into consideration the significance of implementing a project of this size and complexity across Tasmanian Government Agencies.
- Stage One focuses on recurrent funding for community service Peak Bodies, and has included the development of a consistent framework of definitions and criteria that are being utilised to assist with the delivery of the project.
- Stage One is nearing completion with Tasmanian Government Agencies working with relevant peak bodies to enact longer term funding agreements.

- Throughout stage two and beyond, there will be a focus on broader recurrent funding across the community services sector, and cross-agency considerations that must be addressed to effectively implement longer term arrangements.
- In addition, scoping to progress the delivery of an Outcomes Framework has begun and will form part of Stage Two delivery.

Community Services Industry Plan

- Our Government acknowledges the invaluable role the community services industry plays in keeping Tasmanians supported, connected and healthy.
- The *Community Services Industry Plan 2021-2031* (the Industry Plan) represents the Tasmanian Government's collaboration with Industry Peaks to deliver a stronger future workforce and community services industry.
- The Industry Plan provides an overarching framework to guide strategic industry development and planning, and highlights the benefits of collaborative work across the sector.
- To ensure that the governance structure overseeing the Industry Plan remains relevant, a governance review has been completed.
- This review will provide assurance that there is an efficient, effective and strong governance structure in place to oversee the delivery of the Industry Plan moving forward.
- As a reflection of our ongoing commitment to the sector, our Government will provide funding of \$150,000 through the 2025-2026 State Budget to support sector sustainability and efficiency, as well as addressing key recommendations from the governance review.

Summary remarks

- Our Government is working hard for Tasmanian communities.

- In addition to funding committed through the 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future, we have allocated new funding for 2025-2026 to priority areas, to ensure that the important work being delivered by community service organisations across Tasmania continues.
- We have also delivered on our commitments, and I am pleased to table *Embracing Diversity, Fostering Belonging: Tasmania's Multicultural Action Plan 2025-2029*.
- I can also confirm that the LGBTIQ+ Strategy, Tasmania's first Volunteering Strategy and our Food Resilience Strategy will be released in the coming weeks.
- In closing, I thank our hard-working community services sector for their tireless commitment to Tasmanians.

Minister for Community and Multicultural Affairs

Output Group 3 Community and Government Service Delivery
Output – 3.3 Community Services

Overview – Community and Multicultural Affairs

Current as at: **16-October-2025**

Talking Points

- This output supports capacity building of community services and the Tasmanian community through the oversight of programs and services, the provision of policy advice to Government and the administration of a diverse range of grant programs.
- The aim of the Community Services output is to deliver community priorities, support Tasmanians and address cost of living.
- Priority focus areas include:
 - Community service organisations
 - Carers (including informal kinship care)
 - Financial counselling services
 - Food insecure Tasmanians
 - Gambling harm minimisation
 - LGBTIQ+ Tasmanians
 - Mens Sheds
 - Multicultural Tasmanians
 - Neighbourhood Houses
 - Personal and family counselling
 - Volunteers

- Support is also provided through this output to the Tasmanian Community Fund.
- Full time equivalent (FTE) staffing levels, Budget and Performance Information data reflects the consolidation of the former Outputs *7.2 Community Services* and *7.3 Community Development – Policy Advice and Ongoing Community Development*.
- These have now been combined under Output *3.3 Community Services*.

FTE Information

- Paid FTE decreased by 7 FTE, from 30.3 at 30 June 2024 to 23.3 at 30 June 2025.
- The decrease primarily reflects the transfer of Community Grants team functions to *Output 3.2 Management and Ongoing Development of Service Tasmania*, during the past year.
- The FTE data includes 2.8 FTE for the Tasmanian Community Fund.

Table 1 – Paid FTE comparison – June 2023 to June 2025

	<i>30 June 2023</i>	<i>30 June 2024</i>	<i>30 June 2025</i>
Paid FTE	29.4	30.3	23.3

Budget Information

- The output expense budget is \$42.3 million for 2025-26 reflecting a \$12 million decrease from 2024-25 (\$54.3 million).
- The overall decrease from 2024-25 reflects the profile of funding for 2024 election commitments, provided as part of the 2024-25 budget, that were funded for one year only.

- The 2025-26 Budget builds on commitments from the 2024-25 Budget and includes new funding in 2025-26 and the forward estimates, including:
 - \$239,000 for four years from 2025-26 to 2028-29 to support carers in Tasmania (\$209,000 allocation in 2025-26).
 - \$350,000 per annum over four years from 2025-26 to 2028-29 for the Community Participation and Appeals Fund to provide support to significant community events and charitable appeals (\$1.4 million total funding).
 - An additional \$150,000 per annum for four years from 2025-26 to 2028-29 for the Energy Hardship Fund to help Tasmanians in need pay their energy bills.
 - Food Resilience Strategy implementation and programs and services: \$7.1 million ending in 2028-29 (\$2 million allocation in 2025-26).
 - \$202,000 in 2025-26 for implementation of the LGBTIQ+ Strategy.
 - \$200,000 for the implementation of the Multicultural Action Plan in 2025-26.
 - An additional \$30,000 each year in 2025-26 and 2026-27 for Deepavali Tasmania Inc for the annual Diwali Festival.
 - Funding for the Neighbourhood Houses Community Connector Program of \$324,000 for 2025-26 and the Forward Estimates to continue the Program to increase engagement through place-based connection. This is in addition to funding provided for the program in the 2024-25 budget.
 - \$85,000 in 2025-26 for Glenhaven Family Care to continue to deliver family support services at Kentish House in Sheffield.

- \$853,000 over four years for the Older Tasmanians Action Plan (\$10,000 allocation in 2025-26), noting the Minister for Ageing has portfolio responsibility for Older Tasmanians.
- \$300,000 per annum in 2025-26 and 2026-27 for implementation of the Volunteering Strategy.

Table 2	Allocation to Output 3.3 Community Services (Total Expenses by Portfolio and Output)			
Minister for Community Services and Multicultural Affairs	2025-26 \$'000	2026-27 \$'000	2027-28 \$'000	2028-29 \$'000
Output Group 3 – Community and Government Service Delivery				
3.3 Community Services	42,304	31,271	28,788	25,152

Performance Information

Performance Measure	Unit of Measure	2022-23 Actual	2023-24 Target	2023-24 Actual	2024-25 Target
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Community Services

Number of targeted funding agreement meetings with contracted service providers annually¹

% 192 100 100 100

Percentage of applicants satisfied with public grants program administration

% 97 96 95 95

1. The 2022-23 Actual reflects that some services had more than one visit per year.

	Name	Position
Prepared by	Alicia Van Zyl	Senior Business Support Officer
Cleared by	Kristy Broomhall	A/Director, Community Services
	Noelene Kelly	Deputy Secretary, Community and Government Services

	Name	Contact number
DPAC contact for more information:	Corrina Smith	Out of scope, s.38

Parliamentary Briefing 2025

Minister for Community and Multicultural Affairs

Output Group 3 – Community and Government Service Delivery
Output – 3.3 – Community Services

Carers

Current as at: **14-October-2025**

Talking Points

- Our Government recognises and celebrates the important contributions over 87,000 unpaid Tasmanian carers make to our communities, our state and our economy.
- The *2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future* commits to supporting Tasmanian carers by doubling the funding for Carers Week to \$40,000 a year for three years (from 2024-2025 until 2026-2027) and boosting peak-body funding to Carers Tasmania to \$220,000 a year for two years (2024-2025 and 2025-2026).

Supporting Tasmanian Carers: Tasmanian Carer Action Plan 2021-2025

- *Supporting Tasmanian Carers: Tasmanian Carer Action Plan 2021-2025* (Action Plan) focuses on supporting access, encouraging participation and enhancing recognition of carers in our community.
- Action 2.3 commits the Tasmanian Government to participate in the Carers + Employers workplace accreditation program.
- Accreditation was successfully achieved across the Tasmanian State Service in October 2025.

- This is the first time in Australia an entire state service has been accredited under the Carers + Employers program and is an important step in ensuring carers in the workforce and community are recognised, valued and supported.
- With the Action Plan concluding shortly, we have demonstrated our ongoing commitment to carers in the 2025-2026 State Budget by providing:
 - \$100,000 in 2025-2026 to develop a new Carer Action Plan.
 - \$10,000 for four years (2025-2026 to 2028-2029) to ensure that lived experience is at the centre of monitoring the Action Plan and setting future priorities for our carers.
- The new Action Plan, to be released in 2026, will reflect what we have heard from Tasmanian carers about what's important for them, and align with the *National Carer Strategy 2024-2034*.
- We are proud to have delivered on the 2021 Election commitment to formally recognise carers in legislation.
- The Carer Recognition Act 2023 (Tas) includes a Carers Charter, an expanded definition to include informal kinship carers, the establishment of a Minister's Carer Advisory Council, and monitoring and reporting obligations for Tasmanian Government Agencies.

Carers Small Grants Program

- The 2025 Carer Small Grants Program provided:
 - \$20,000 for grants of up to \$2,500 for events and activities during National Carers Week 2025, or for projects that support the health and wellbeing of carers, with 10 organisations receiving funding in 2025.
 - \$20,000 to Carers Tasmania to deliver activities for carers during National Carers Week 2025.

Background

Carer Recognition Act 2023

- The *Carer Recognition Act 2023* (the Act) received Royal Assent on 20 April 2023.
- In May 2023, to support the Act's implementation, the Tasmanian Government provided additional funding of \$250,000 to Carers Tasmania to undertake a research report and provide advice about the experiences and needs of informal kinship carers.
- The report was released in November 2023 and the findings were considered in the refreshed Action Plan.

Minister's Carer Advisory Council

- The Minister's Carer Advisory Council (MCAC) provides a reference point on issues affecting unpaid carers.
- It assists in the development and delivery of informed, effective and evidenced-based policy, programs and projects to support and recognise unpaid carers.
- The Minister for Community and Multicultural Affairs is the Chair and there are five lived experience carers on MCAC.
- Other members of MCAC include the CEOs of Carers Tasmania and Mental Health Families and Friends Tasmania, and senior officials from relevant Tasmanian and Australian Government agencies.
- A total of three MCAC meetings will be held during 2025 with one meeting remaining for 2025.

Supporting Tasmanian Carers: Tasmanian Carer Action Plan 2021-2025

- The Action Plan includes 19 actions for Tasmanian Government Agencies to deliver.
- Six actions have been completed and 13 are ongoing, with any outstanding actions at the conclusion of the plan to be reviewed and considered for inclusion in the new Carer Action Plan.
- The National Carer Strategy 2024-2034 (National Strategy) was released in December 2024 and is supported by a three-year action plan.
- In developing the next Tasmanian Carer Action Plan, the Tasmanian Government will consider and align with the National Strategy as appropriate while ensuring we listen and incorporate the needs of Tasmanian carers.
- This will include consultation and input from the Minister's Carer Advisory Council.
- The new Tasmanian Carer Action Plan is planned for release in the first half of 2026.

Carers Tasmania

- The Tasmanian Government's *2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future* commits to increasing Carers Tasmania peak body funding to \$220,000 a year for two years (2024-2025 and 2025-2026).
- The Australian Government is the primary provider of funding and services for carers.

- These services are accessible through the Carer Gateway which is delivered in Tasmania by Carers Tasmania through Care2Serve.
- This includes the provision of a state-wide free-call information and advisory telephone line, as well as counselling services, therapeutic groups, education and training to assist carers in their caring role.
- Carers Tasmania has also developed resources that address key issues for carers and raise awareness and recognition of the role played by carers in our community.
- Carers Tasmania is included as a peak body under stage one of the DPAC led project to transition community service organisations to longer term funding agreements.

National Carers Week

- National Carers Week celebrates the 2.65 million Australians, including over 87,000 Tasmanians, that provide unpaid care and support to a family member or friend.
- National Carer's Week 2025 was held from 12 to 18 October 2025.

Budget Information

Table 1 Carers Tasmania Funding

Activity	2013-2014	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Peak Body Funding	\$50,000	\$122,520	\$129,259	\$122,945	\$127,248^
Indexation	-	-	\$2,105	\$4,303	\$3,817^
Uplift				\$97,055*	\$97,055*^
Informal Kinship Care Report	-	\$250,000	-	-	-
Total	\$50,000	\$372,520	\$131,365	\$224,303	\$228,120^

^ Funding for 2025-26 is to be paid in 50 per cent instalments as per the *Supply Act (No.1) 2025*

* Uplift to peak body funding of \$220,000 in 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 committed through the 2024 State Election. Required funding allocation for each financial year was not provided for in the 2024-2025 State Budget. In 2024-2025, DPAC sourced funding through the Agency's Community Support Fund allocation for the Gambling Support Program to address this shortfall. In 2025-2026, the \$97,055 shortfall in funding is being provided through the 2025-2026 State Budget (referenced in Table 3, below).

Table 2 Carers Week Funding

Activity	2013-2014	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027
Carers Week Small Grants Program	-	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	-
Carers Tasmania – Carers Week	-	-	-	\$20,000*	\$20,000*	-
Carers Week Funding^	-	-	-	-	-	\$40,000^
Total	\$0	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000

* In 2024-2025, the Tasmanian Government committed to doubling the funding for Carers Week to \$40,000 a year for three years (2024-2025 until 2026-27). In 2024-2025 and 2025-2026, \$20,000 was allocated to Carers Week Small Grants Program and \$20,000 allocated to Carers Tasmania to deliver activities during National Carers Week.

^The allocation of Carers Week funding for 2026 has not been determined.

Table 3**2025-2026 Interim State Budget Funding - Carers**

Activity	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029
Carer Action Plan development and implementation	\$101,945	-	-	-
Minister's Carer Advisory Council	\$10,000*	10,000*	10,000*	\$10,000*
Carers Tasmania Peak Body uplift shortfall	\$97,055	-	-	-
Total	\$209,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000

*\$10,000 is being provided for four years (2025-2026 to 2028-2029) to oversee the implementation of the Action Plan through the Minister's Carer's Advisory Council.

	Name	Position
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Through	Sarah Jacobs	Senior Policy Analyst
Cleared by	Kristy Broomhall	A/Director, Community Services
	Noelene Kelly	Deputy Secretary, Community and Government Services

	Name	Contact number
DPAC contact for more information:	Corrina Smith	Out of scope, s.38

Parliamentary Briefing 2025

Minister for Community and Multicultural Affairs

Output Group – Community and Government Services

Output – 3.3 – Community Services

Community Services Funding Review

Current as at: **10-October-2025**

Talking Points

- The Tasmanian Government, through its *2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future* is committed to delivering increased financial certainty for community service organisations.
- The Community Services Funding Review (the Review) was established in 2023 to address three key government priorities aimed at supporting the sustainability of the community services sector, these being:
 - Reviewing Indexation
 - Progressing longer-term funding provision
 - Delivering an Outcomes Framework.
- The breadth of work to be delivered across government through the Review is considerable, and the key areas of work are intrinsically linked.
- In 2025 the Review has focused on longer-term funding arrangements for community sector organisations which will provide funding certainty, enabling organisations to operate with increased confidence, and engage in longer-term sustainable planning practices.
- The Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) is leading work across Tasmanian Government Agencies to progress a whole-of-

government Model to implement longer term funding arrangements.

- The Model uses a multi-staged approach and seeks to support this complex project, taking into consideration the significance of implementing a project of this size and complexity across Tasmanian Government Agencies.
- Stage One focuses on recurrent funding for community service Peak Bodies and has included the development of a consistent framework of definitions and criteria that are being used to assist with the delivery of the project.
- Stage One is nearing completion with Tasmanian Government Agencies working with relevant peak bodies to enact longer-term funding agreements.
- Throughout stage two and beyond, there will be a focus on broader recurrent funding across the community services sector, and cross-agency considerations that must be addressed to effectively implement longer-term arrangements.
- In addition, scoping to progress the delivery of an Outcomes Framework has begun and will form part of Stage Two delivery.

Background

Review Indexation

- The work undertaken through the Review to address indexation informed the Tasmanian Government's 2024 commitment to provide 12.5 per cent indexation over four years:
 - 2024-25: 3.5 per cent.
 - 2025-26: 3 per cent.
 - 2026-27: 3 per cent.
 - 2027-28: 3 per cent.
- This work considered wage costs (including the superannuation increase percentage and the Fairwork Commission Annual Wage Decision percentage) and the Hobart Consumer Price Index (CPI) percentage.
- At the time the commitment was delivered, the Tasmanian Government provided an indexation rate above the Department of Treasury and Finance (Treasury) CPI forecast level and in line with public sector wages across the period.
- Although an increased rate of indexation has been delivered through the 2024 commitment, community service organisations continue to campaign for increases in indexation, stemming from concerns that indexation rates have not kept up with sector wage increases and rising costs of living.
- The important link between indexation and the Review is a key consideration for the delivery of the broader project and will remain as an important consideration throughout the project's entirety.
- During the 2025 State Election, the Tasmanian Government committed to reviewing the level of indexation for community service organisations to provide ongoing certainty before the conclusion of the 2024-25 indexation commitment in 2027-28.

Longer-term Funding Arrangements

- The Review is currently focused on progressing longer-term arrangements for community service organisations.
- Currently, there is no consistent approach across Tasmanian Government agencies to the administration of funding commitments, either through grants or procurement.
- This has been a key consideration for DPAC in developing the Model.
- The Model has been developed using a multi-staged approach, which considers the significance and complexity of implementing a project of this size across Tasmanian Government agencies, noting resource implications across agencies, as the broader Review project is unfunded.

Stage One

- Stage One of the work to progress to longer-term funding arrangements focuses on recurrent funding for community services peak bodies.

- Through cross-agency collaboration, a consistent framework and key definitions were identified to drive the rollout of longer-term arrangements across the project.
- Stage One of this work was considered by Cabinet on 29 April 2025, and at this meeting, Cabinet endorsed the list of Peak Bodies and funding lines to transition to longer-term arrangements.
- Prior to progressing with longer-term arrangements, Cabinet required agencies to confirm with the Department of Treasury and Finance that the proposed core/peak funding line was budgeted and recurrent.
- This review was completed by DPAC on behalf of agencies, however work to progress the endorsed list of organisations to longer-term arrangements was delayed due to the 2025 State Election and the caretaker period.
- In early October 2025, Agencies were notified of the outcome of endorsement and the progress of Stage One, marking the functional completion of this stage of the work.
 - Agencies will now work with their respective Peak Bodies identified through Stage One in relation to the transition to a longer-term agreement.

Stage Two

- To ensure momentum is maintained, Stage Two will be implemented in tranches.
- There will be a focus on broader recurrent funding across the community services sector, and cross-agency considerations that must be addressed to effectively implement longer-term arrangements.
- These considerations include:
 - Work being completed by the Department of Treasury and Finance to provide clearer guidance in relation to procurement versus grant agreement mechanisms.
 - The impact of transitioning to procurement-based funding mechanisms on Tasmanian Government agencies and the community services sector, particularly if advice from the Office of the Crown Solicitor (yet to be sought as part of the Review) is that many traditionally funded community services are to be subject to full procurement processes.
- Noting the complexity of the project and that it will not be a 'one size fits all' approach, an initial step to progress Stage Two will be for agencies to complete an audit to assist with identifying which funding commitments are to be considered under this stage. This audit is currently underway across Agencies.

2025 Election Commitments

- Through the 2025 State Election, the Tasmanian Government committed to:
 - Accelerate the completion of the transition to longer-term commitments in consultation with the sector and organisations, and direct DPAC to undertake this work as a priority.
 - Review the community budget submission process to provide funding certainty earlier in the budget cycle.

- Work to streamline multi-deed arrangements across government.
- Review the level of indexation for community service organisations to provide ongoing certainty before the conclusion of the 2024-25 indexation commitment in 2027-28.

Implementation Challenges

- There are several challenges regarding the ability of Tasmanian Government agencies to deliver longer-term agreements to community service organisations, including:
 - Authority to enter into funding agreements that extend beyond the annual appropriation provided to agencies through the budget.
 - The financial risk for agencies in committing funding outside the four-year budget and forward estimates cycle.
 - The differing agency approaches to managing the financial risk associated with longer-term agreements.
 - Challenges associated with the varied approaches to grants management and procurement practices across agencies.
 - Lack of consistent interpretation of the Treasurers Instructions in relation to what should be considered a grant and what is procurement, and no whole-of-government approach to the testing of this advice through the Solicitor General.
 - The impact on the Community Services sector of undertaking procurement processes in place of previously used grant processes.
 - The lack of a coordinated approach or oversight of whole-of-government grant management.
 - In some areas the need to address whether services offered under long standing grant arrangements are still fit-for-purpose and required by the Tasmanian community.
- To address a Commission of Inquiry recommendation to develop a customised contract for Out of Home Care services, the Department for Education, Children and Young People (DECYP) sought advice from Crown Law.
- Crown Law's advice to DECYP outlined that a significant proportion of the services being commissioned by the Agency more appropriately fit under the definition and requirements of the procurement Treasurers Instructions (TIs) rather than grants.
- Although DECYP are addressing these concerns regarding Out of Home Care services, this advice is yet to be evaluated more broadly, with many agencies concerned about the implications that testing such advice will have on current resources and the community services sector more broadly.

Auditor General's Report – Department of Health Funding

- Critically, the Review must consider the recent *Tasmanian Audit Office report into the Department of Health's funding of community service organisations*, including the:

- Need to ensure that appropriate processes are used in administering public funds.
- Development of a whole-of-government outcomes framework, designed to provide consistency in the development of domains, outcomes, and indicators, leveraging work already undertaken with the Tasmanian Wellbeing Framework.
- The report also noted there was a lack of clarity in the Department of Health (DoH) and at the whole-of-government level about when to use a procurement or grant process.
- The report identifies challenges in DoH's interpretation of the Treasurer's Instructions relating to when a grant should be pursued rather than providing funding through a procurement process.
- The report also details that Treasury currently provides insufficient clarity or guidance on funding methods, leaving interpretation up to agencies on a case-by-case basis, with no consistent approach across agencies.
- A key consideration for the Community Services Funding Review will be the interpretation of the Treasurer's Instruction as to when a grant should be pursued rather than providing funding through a procurement process.
- As part of cross-agency discussions instigated through the Review, Treasury has indicated that it is developing additional guidance materials for the application of Treasurers Instructions FC-12 and PF-6 related to grant management and procurement processes.
- The whole-of-government Community Services Funding Review Steering Committee will consult with Treasury regarding this work to ensure any changes are incorporated into practices relating to longer term commitments.
- This work will be integral to driving sustained progress in relation to the Review, and consistency in approach to the provision of funding to community services organisations across Government.

Delivery of an Outcomes framework

- DPAC is also leading the development of an Outcomes Framework to guide purchasing for outcomes.
 - It is proposed that the Outcomes Framework use Tasmania's Wellbeing Framework (if finalised) for population level outcomes with individual Government agencies defining program level outcomes.
- The Outcomes Framework will support a whole-of-government and community services sector approach to service delivery, and ensure that funded services interacting with the Tasmanian Government have consistent expectations that uphold the rights and wellbeing of Tasmanians.
- It is integral that the Outcomes Framework not only aligns with other approaches, such as the Wellbeing Framework and the Community Services Industry Plan, but

also considers the linkages with secondary mechanisms such as quality and safeguarding, and governance frameworks.

- In a letter to the Tasmanian Council of Social Services (TasCOSS) dated 7 July 2025, the Tasmanian Liberal Party outlined the journey that is underway to implement longer-term funding agreements and an outcomes framework.

Timing of Funding

- There are concerns within the community services sector relating to the timing of State Budgets and the implications for the outcomes of community budget submissions, particularly where funding is provided on a time-limited basis.
- The impact of the timing of funding on an organisation's ability to sustain the contracts of fixed-term employees has been acknowledged, and addressing such challenges will form part of stage two of the work to implement longer-term funding arrangements.
- This work will likely focus on working with Agencies and the community services sector to reframe the process in relation to community budget submissions to ensure certainty can be provided earlier and to assist staffing retention and working within the boundaries of the budget cycle.
- Consultation with Treasury will be critical to this work.

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Out of scope, s.36

Minister for Community and Multicultural Affairs

Output Group – Community and Government Services**Output – 3.3 – Community Services**

Community Services Industry Plan

Current as at: **11-November-2025****Talking Points**

- Our Government acknowledges the invaluable role the community services industry plays in keeping Tasmanians supported, connected and healthy.
- We also acknowledge that the community services sector is a growth industry for Tasmania.
- The *Community Services Industry Plan 2021-2031* (Industry Plan) represents the Tasmanian Government's collaboration with TasCOSS to deliver a stronger future workforce and Community Services Industry.
- The Industry Plan provides an overarching framework to guide strategic industry development and transition planning, including addressing barriers to employment and driving local jobs.
- The Industry Plan also showcases the benefits of collaborative work across the sector, and is assisting to grow the community sector industry workforce to enrich our state's social, cultural and economic wellbeing.

Industry Plan Governance

- A governance structure was established to oversee the Industry Plan consisting of a cross-sector Advisory Council, an Industry Development Steering Committee, and a Workforce Coalition.

- The Workforce Coalition, established to oversee the Workforce Coordination Project, ceased in late 2024, with the conclusion of this project.
- With the conclusion of the Workforce Coordination Project, the Advisory Council and Steering Committee also paused to allow an Industry Plan Review, including a review of the overall governance model.

Industry Plan Governance Review

- The Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) worked in collaboration with TasCOSS to develop the parameters for a governance review to ensure there is an efficient, effective, and strong governance structure in place to oversee the delivery of the Industry Plan.
- The governance review involved consultation with key stakeholders with the report:
 - Outlining the intrinsic relationship that exists between the governance of the Industry Plan and overarching sector leadership and cohesion, and how the two are distinct but interconnected.
 - Providing seven recommendations that aim to address existing challenges and enhance the effectiveness of collaboration between government agencies, community services industry peaks, and other stakeholders.
- I was pleased to recently meet with TasCOSS and DPAC to collaboratively discuss work that is underway to consider the recommendations from the Review, and more broadly, our Government's ongoing support of the community services industry.

- I look forward to continued engagement in these discussions, including meeting with the Coalition of Community Services Peaks in the coming weeks.
- As a reflection of our ongoing commitment to the sector, our Government will provide funding of \$150,000 through the 2025-2026 State Budget to support sector sustainability and efficiency, as well as addressing key recommendations from the governance review.

Background

- The Community sector is one of the State's fastest growing sectors, with more than 28,000 paid workers supported by about 46,900 formal volunteers.
- The Industry Plan is a long-term strategy to deliver strong outcomes across this vital sector, including driving local jobs and addressing barriers to employment.
- In establishing the Industry Plan in 2021, projections indicated that an additional 4,000 Industry staff were required to meet growing community need.
- The 10-year Industry Plan was funded through a 2021-2022 State Budget commitment of \$3.1 million over three years to assist in meeting industry projections requiring an additional 4,000 staff.
- This funding was supplemented by DPAC, that provided:
 - \$50,000 per year for three years (2021-2022, 2022-2023 and 2023-2024) to TasCOSS for the Strengthening Governance Project.
 - With this funding, TasCOSS administered a scholarship program to strengthen governance and develop leaders in Industry organisations.
 - \$57,302 in one off funding to TasCOSS in 2022-2023 to support the implementation of the Industry Plan.
- These additional allocations increased the Tasmanian Government's total allocation of funding for the Industry Plan to \$3.3 million.
- The Industry Plan provides an overarching framework to guide strategic industry development and transition planning.
- The Industry Plan is comprised of three strategic priorities:
 - Local Solutions for Tasmanians.
 - Workforce Development (Workforce Coordination Project detailed below).
 - Training and Leading for Impact.

Workforce Coordination Project

- The Workforce Coordination Project (the Project) was funded through a 2021-2022 State Budget commitment of \$3.3 million over three years as the first tranche of the Industry Plan (as detailed above).
- The Project's aim was to ensure that the industry has the skilled and diverse workforce necessary for the delivery of flexible and responsive services that achieve positive client outcomes.
- The Project clustered the community services industry into the following Peak Bodies; Aged Care, Disability, Education and Care (children) and the Social Services sector.
- The Grant Deeds with Industry Peak Bodies for the Project were administered by the Department of State Growth and concluded in November 2024.
- During the three-year period, the Project achieved the following milestones:
 - An industry career website.
 - A targeted workforce review tool.
 - Research on Worker Recruitment and Retention in the Care Economy.
 - Successful employment outcomes for new trainers and assessors.
 - Strong engagement of industry in co-design processes.
 - Strong collaboration with industry stakeholders.
 - Research on the Care Workforce Archetype Report.
- TasCOSS, in consultation with the other Industry Peak Bodies, commissioned an evaluation of the Project, with an evaluation report released in December 2023.
- The evaluation found that an overly complex governance structure was a key barrier to the implementation of the Project.

Industry Plan Governance – Advisory Council

- The Industry Plan is overseen by a cross-sector Advisory Council, an Industry Development Steering Committee and the Workforce Coalition.
- TasCOSS provided secretariat support and convenes the governance for the Industry Plan.
- The Advisory Council and the Steering Committee were established for the life of the Industry Plan.
- The Workforce Coalition, which oversees the Workforce Coordination Project, ceased when the project concluded at the end of 2024.
- The Advisory Council and Steering Committee meetings are paused to enable the review of the Industry Plan and consideration of the overall governance model.
- Under the existing governance arrangements, the Advisory Council is to be informed by the Industry Development Steering Committee which comprises industry representatives and peak bodies, Tasmanian Government representatives and other key partners:
 - The Minister for Community Services (now Community and Multicultural Affairs) co-chairs the Advisory Council with the Chair of the TasCOSS Board.

- Further membership comprises of appointed members, four selected members, and the Secretariat (provided by TasCOSS).
- The term of appointed members is ten years, and three years for selected members.
- Appointed members are:
 - Vice Chancellor - University of Tasmania
 - CEO – TasTAFE
 - Chair – Local Government Association of Tasmania
 - CEO – TasCOSS (ex-officio)
 - Tasmanian Government agency representatives with responsibility for the Plan.
- The four selected members were appointed through an expression of interest process, with representatives from Lady Gowrie, Anglicare, Nexus, and Lifeline Tasmania selected through this process.
- The Advisory Council last met in October 2023.

Industry Plan Governance - Workforce Coalition

- Under the existing governance arrangements, the role of the Workforce Coalition was to position Tasmania as a national leader in best practice of strategic workforce planning and was responsible for Strategic Priority Two, Workforce Development and Training.
- The Workforce Coalition comprised of representatives from peak bodies, non-government and government sectors and brought together industry expertise and workforce planning knowledge in a partnership approach.
- Following the conclusion of the Workforce Coordination Project at the end of 2024, the Workforce Coalition ceased operation.

Industry Plan Governance Review

- DPAC engaged consultants, 3P Advisory to complete the governance review.
- Seven key findings were identified, including:
 - Re-establishing the Tasmanian community sector partnership agreement.
 - Developing a sector-wide governance charter.
 - Transitioning to a streamlined governance model.
 - Considering a co-governance fund allocation mechanism for any future investment.
 - Establishing an industry outcomes framework.
 - Implementing a governance and decision-making framework.
 - Strengthening knowledge retention strategies.
- DPAC, TasCOSS and 3P Advisory met in May 2025 to discuss the Governance Review findings and the path ahead.
- Following this, DPAC and TasCOSS scheduled two planning sessions (one in late July 2025 and one in mid-September 2025) to discuss a pathway forward and to work through the recommendations.

- DPAC and TasCOSS jointly briefed the Minister for Community and Multicultural Affairs on 30 October 2025 regarding the proposed direction which includes a collaborative approach to the Industry Plan Governance Review.
- It is noted that there will be work required to consider how the recommendations can be implemented, including allocation of responsibility across the community sector and Tasmanian Government agencies (including DPAC and DSG).

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Minister for Community and Multicultural Affairs

Output Group – Community and Government Services
Output – 3.3 – Community Services

Cost of Living Pressures

Current as at: **07-October-2025**

Talking Points

- Cost of living pressures are being felt across Australia, including in Tasmania, where we know household budgets are stretched.
- Our Government is focused on making life more affordable for Tasmanians by implementing measures to support those who are most in need.
- We are continuing to support a range of programs to assist Tasmanians, including through the Family Assistance Program, the Energy Hardship Fund, and the delivery of food relief and financial support programs and services.
- During the 2025 State Election our Government committed to a range of initiatives aimed at reducing cost of living pressures for Tasmanians, including:
 - Providing \$356.7 million in concessions for eligible Tasmanians including across rates, water, transport and energy.
 - Expanding the healthy school lunch program, saving families up to \$950 a year (administered by the Department for Education, Children and Young People).
 - Continuing the Ticket to Play and Ticket to Wellbeing voucher programs for students and seniors, targeting those who genuinely need support.

- Continuing support for Neighbourhood Houses.
- Funding of \$7.1 million for *Tasmania's Food Resilience Strategy 2025-2031* and continuing emergency food relief.
- Providing \$300,000 per year over two years (2025-26 and 2026-27) to remove the Registration to Work with Vulnerable People fee for volunteers.
- Reviewing the level of indexation for community service organisations, to provide ongoing certainty before the conclusion of current indexation commitments in 2027-28.
- Expanding the role of the Motor Accidents Insurance Board (MAIB) to create TasInsure, a new Tasmanian State Insurer, aimed at providing cost of living support for Tasmanians.

Family Assistance Program

- The Family Assistance Program provides direct emergency relief to families experiencing financial hardship.
- Funding is provided to the Salvation Army, St Vincent de Paul Society Tasmania, Anglicare, Hobart City Mission and Launceston City Mission who assist Tasmanians in need to access supports, including financial assistance.
- In 2025-26, the Family Assistance Program will provide total funding of \$330,000 across the five organisations.

Energy Hardship Fund

- In 2025-26, and across the forward estimates, we are increasing funding to the Energy Hardship Fund, by providing an additional \$150,000 per year for four years to assist the Salvation Army to provide support to more Tasmanians in need.
- This funding is in addition to the \$350,000 already committed by the Tasmania Government on an annual basis for the Energy Hardship Fund, and will directly help Tasmanians in need to pay their energy bills.

Concessions and Discount Guide

- The Tasmanian Government Concessions and Discount Guide is available online at www.concessions.tas.gov.au and from a range of distribution outlets such as Service Tasmania service centres, libraries, and neighbourhood houses.
- The Concessions and Discount Guide offers help with essential services including water, electricity, local council rates, water and sewerage bills, and transport.

Food Security

- Our Government funds emergency food relief through Loaves and Fishes Tasmania, and Foodbank Tasmania, and delivers the Healthy School Lunch program through the Department for Education, Children and Young People.
- In demonstrating just how important addressing the cost of living is to our Government, we are committing \$7.1 million over four years between 2025-26 and 2028-29 to support the:
 - Implementation of a new food resilience strategy.
 - Continuation of programs and services that support the delivery of food relief to Tasmanians.
 - Delivery of initiatives that focus on building food resilience in local communities.
 - Development and delivery of community-led solutions to address long-term food insecurity and build food resilience in local communities.
- As part of the *2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future*, we have committed to strengthening food security for Tasmanians by maintaining increased levels of funding to food relief providers, including access to capital infrastructure funding, doubling the Healthy School Lunches program to 60 schools, and developing a new whole-of-government strategy to continue the shift from emergency food relief to food resilience.

- Recent consultation on *Tasmania's Food Resilience Strategy 2025-2031* reflected the growing consensus that food security is about dignity, equity, and the ability of individuals, families, and communities to thrive.
- The development of the Strategy represents an opportunity to tackle food insecurity in a more systemic and sustainable way.
- The new Strategy will be released in November 2025 and will guide and shape Tasmania's approach to food resilience now and into the future.

Financial Support

- Our Government provides financial support for Tasmanians through the No Interest Loan Scheme (NILS) Tasmania and free statewide financial counselling services.
- Both services make a real difference in helping Tasmanians manage cost of living pressures.

Background

- The Tasmanian Government provides funding for a range of programs and services aimed at building community capacity and assisting Tasmanians seeking cost of living support.
- Key current actions include:
 - Delivering a whole-of-government food resilience strategy to support the shift from emergency food relief to food resilience. The new Strategy will be underpinned by a new Action Plan from 2026.
 - Supporting Tasmanian Men's Sheds towards better health and wellbeing outcomes for Shed members, through the Peak Body (Tasmania Men's Shed Association – TMSA) that support 73 Sheds, and competitive grants programs that provide tools and equipment for Sheds, and capital investment to upgrade Sheds statewide.
 - Assisting Tasmanians on low incomes through access to the No Interest Loan Scheme (NILS) and supporting the delivery of financial support services including financial counselling and the Energy Hardship Fund.
 - Delivering support to non-statutory family support services that provide assistance to individuals and families, including the Family Assistance Program and community kinship care.
 - Delivery of funding arrangements that support communities through food relief organisations as they work towards food resilience outcomes, as well as competitive grants programs for community food relief, and capital investment for food relief organisations.

Government previous policy, election or budget commitment – still current

- The Tasmanian Government, through the 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future committed to:
 - Providing guaranteed indexation to the community sector of 3.5 per cent in 2024-2025 and 3 per cent per annum in 2025-26, 2026-27 and 2027-28.
 - Boosting operational funding for Neighbourhood Houses, including continuing the Community Connector Program and investing in a new House upgrade program.
 - Investing in Men's Sheds with new funding for upgrades, a competitive grants program and funding for the Tasmanian Men's Shed Association.
 - Delivering a nation-first Ticket to Wellbeing program for seniors, with extra funding for digital inclusion and Council on the Ageing Tasmania (COTA Tas).
 - Increasing funding for volunteers and delivering Tasmania's first Volunteering Strategy.
 - Helping Tasmanians on low incomes access additional No Interest Loan Scheme (NILS) loans available each year, and providing funding to the Energy Hardship Fund.

- Delivering a whole-of-government strategy to start the shift from emergency food relief to food resilience, with increased funding, capital investment and support, including funding of our food vans.
- Delivering a whole-of-government LGBTIQA+ Framework and Action Plan and continuing to support community initiatives to foster inclusion and participation of LGBTIQA+ Tasmanians.
- Delivering a new practical leadership program for women in the community sector.
- **NOTE:** For more information regarding Financial Support Programs see *Parliamentary Brief – Financial Support (No Interest Loan Scheme and Financial Counselling)*.
- **NOTE:** For more information regarding Food Security Programs see *Parliamentary Brief – Food Insecure Tasmanians*.
- **NOTE:** For more information regarding Family Support Programs see *Parliamentary Brief – Family Support Program (Informal Kinship Care, Personal and Family Counselling)*.

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Out of scope, s.38

Parliamentary Briefing 2025

Minister for Community and Multicultural Affairs

Output Group – Community and Government Services
Output – 3.3 – Community Services

Family Support (including Community Kinship Care and Personal and Family Counselling)

Current as at: **10-November-2025**

Talking Points

- Our Government is committed to supporting delivery of non-statutory family support services, providing assistance to both individuals and families.
- Family support services assist Tasmanians at times of need to help them overcome the difficulties they are experiencing.
- Family support services can help Tasmanians avoid entering statutory systems, and support those exiting statutory systems.
- Services range from direct emergency relief and preventative support programs, to personal and family counselling services that deliver community-based preventative and early intervention counselling and support.
- Our Government also provides services to help Tasmanian parents with parenting information, advice, mentoring and support.

Community Kinship Care

- In 2021-2022, we committed \$2.25 million over four years to implement key recommendations from the Informal Kinship

Care Review (Ogle Report) and extend support for kinship carers.

- Key initiatives delivered through this funding include:
 - Increased brokerage and respite services.
 - Community-based training opportunities for carers.
 - An online portal to coordinate information and support.
 - A pilot program for a liaison officer in the North-West.
- Core support services continue to be funded through 2025-2026, and the Department of Premier and Cabinet is actively working with Community Kinship Care providers to explore options for extended support for community kinship carers in our community that address barriers to the delivery of flexible respite and brokerage services.

Family Assistance Program

- The Family Assistance Program funds community organisations to increase provision of direct emergency relief and preventative support programs for Tasmanian families suffering financial hardship.

Personal and Family Counselling Services

- Personal and family counselling services deliver community-based preventative and early intervention counselling and support.
- These services aim to prevent, intervene and mitigate risk to the safety or wellbeing of individuals and families.

Early Childhood and Parenting Information and Advice

- Our Government funds early support for parents providing Tasmanians with parenting information, advice, mentoring and support through volunteers who work with families.

Glenhaven Family Care (Kentish Family Support)

- The 2023-2024 State Budget provided funding of \$145,000 per year for three years to Glenhaven Family Care to deliver services through Kentish House.
- The Interim 2025-2026 State Budget has provided a further \$85,000 in 2025-2026 for Kentish House to continue to deliver important services within the Kentish Community.
- The Tasmanian Government has also committed to consideration of Kentish House joining the Neighbourhood House Network prior to the conclusion of their current funding arrangement of 30 June 2026.
- The service provides centre-based support in collaboration with visiting service providers and assists families and individuals to access relevant family support.

Background

Community Kinship Care

- Informal Kinship Care is now referred to as Community Kinship Care.
- Community Kinship Care is a private family care arrangement which is not covered by a court order.
- As arrangements are informal, they often lead to gaps in eligibility when seeking support services or providing consent, as the day-to-day caregivers are not the legal guardians.
- The *Carer Recognition Act 2023* specifically recognised informal, unpaid carers.
- Community Kinship Carers are included as part of the refreshed Carers Action Plan, released in November 2023.
- In 2021-22, the Tasmanian Government committed funding of \$2.25 million to extend support for community kinship carers in line with the recommendations of the Ogle Report.

Ogle Report

- In late 2020, as part of the Government's commitment to deliver improved support to informal kinship carers, and to avoid children unnecessarily entering Out of Home Care, the Tasmanian Government commissioned Frank Ogle to conduct an independent review of informal kinship care arrangements in Tasmania.
- The Ogle Report delivered eight recommendations, all of which were accepted by the Tasmanian Government.
- Responsibility for addressing the recommendations was split between two divisions in the former Department of Communities – Community Services and Children and Youth Services.
- These responsibilities transitioned to the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) and the Department for Education, Children and Young People (DECYP) respectively.
- The recommendations allocated to DPAC have been addressed.
- DPAC and DECYP are currently working together to prepare a summary addressing the status of each recommendation.

Funding Commitment for Ogle Report Recommendations

- The 2021 State Election and subsequent 2021-2022 State Budget committed funding of \$2.25 million to extend support for community kinship carers in line with the recommendations of the Ogle Report.
- This commitment provided funding of \$500,000 towards implementation of the outcomes of the Ogle Review in 2021-2022, whilst providing \$437,000 per year for

four years (2021-2022 to 2024-2025) for the extension of community kinship care support.

- Funding arrangements with Baptcare, Mission Australia, Kennerly Children's Home (Kennerley) and the Foster and Kinship Carers Association of Tasmania (FKAT) for the time-limited commitments concluded on 30 June 2025.
- This included:
 - An increase in service provision with Baptcare and Mission Australia providing between \$148,000 and \$156,000 per year to each organisation for additional flexible respite and brokerage services.
 - Funding FKAT \$70,000 per year to provide training and awareness.
 - Funding Glenhaven Family Care (Glenhaven) and Kennerley Children's Home in 2022-2023 to provide community-based respite services.
 - Funding Mission Australia to deliver a Community Kinship Care Liaison Officer Pilot in the North West.
- Funding was provided to TasCOSS in 2022-2023 to work with FindHelp TAS to deliver an Informal Kinship Care portal, with the project completed and funding acquitted.

Current Status

- In 2024-2025, the Tasmanian Government, through DPAC, provided \$913,000 (including indexation) for the delivery of Community Kinship Care services.
- This funding is a combination of 2021 Election Commitment (2021-2022 State Budget) funding and base funding.
- Funding was provided to Baptcare, Mission Australia and the Foster and Kinship Carers Association of Tasmania.
- At the end of June 2025, DPAC identified surpluses across funded services:
 - Baptcare and Mission Australia reported significant underspends against funding, arising mostly from the inability to expend all flexible respite and brokerage funding.
 - Glenhaven had returned most of the additional funding for community-based respite, advising it was unable to expend the funds in line with the approved purpose.
 - Kennerley have also advised DPAC that they intend to do the same and DPAC are working with them to facilitate this process.
- Providers all acknowledged that a range of barriers to the delivery of flexible respite and brokerage services, including issues around consent and trust, prevented the additional funds provided in 2021-2022 from being expended.
- With funding provided in 2021-2022 having concluded on 30 June 2025, DPAC has worked with services to ensure that support is being provided over a further period

for revised purposes that still align with the original 2021-2022 commitment of funds.

- DPAC has worked with providers Baptcare and Mission Australia to ensure current underspends can be utilised over the next two years (ending 30 June 2027), to provide a mixture of brokerage and flexible respite and additional staffing, including in the North-West where an additional pilot program was conducted.
- DPAC provided additional funding of \$70,000 from internal resources to FKAT for 2025-2026 to continue services for a further year, noting that this funding is time limited and ends on 30 June 2026.

Family Assistance Program

- The Family Assistance Program is designed to increase the provision of direct emergency relief to Tasmanian families suffering financial hardship and to increase the provision of preventative support programs that are ancillary to the provision of emergency relief.
- The Tasmanian Government provides ongoing funding of \$330,000 per year (no indexation) for the Family Assistance Program. This funding is distributed across five organisations:
 - Anglicare Tasmania – \$80,000
 - Hobart City Mission – \$25,000
 - Launceston City Mission – \$25,000
 - St Vincent de Paul Society (Tasmania) - \$100,000
 - Salvation Army (Tasmania) - \$100,000
- In August 2022, the Tasmanian Government delivered a \$5 million cost of living booster package to support Tasmanians in need.
- As part of this package, Family Assistance Program Providers received a combined total of \$1 million in additional funding to provide immediate financial and practical help to Tasmanian families (refer to table 2, below).

Family Support – Kentish House

- Through the 2023-2024 State Budget, the Tasmanian Government committed funding of \$145,000 per year for three years to Glenhaven Family to provide the Kentish Family Support service from Kentish House.
- Kentish House:
 - Provides centre-based support in collaboration with visiting service providers;
 - Assists families and individuals to access relevant support; and
 - Is part of the Glenhaven Family Care family support service suite that complements and works alongside Strong Families, Safe Kids.

- Glenhaven submitted a 2025-2026 State Budget submission requesting an increase in funding to cover current funding deficits, as well as a request to join the Neighbourhood House Network.
- Glenhaven received a letter from the Premier, the Hon Jeremy Rockliff during the 2025 State Election campaign reaffirming this commitment and confirming consideration as part of the neighbourhood house network.
- Glenhaven will receive an additional \$85,000 through the Interim 2025-2026 State Budget to ensure continued delivery of services at Kentish House.
- This additional funding aligns with that of equivalent Neighbourhood Houses.
- The service opened in January 2015, following the allocation of funding through a 2014 Tasmanian Government election commitment.

Personal and Family Counselling Services

- Personal and family counselling services deliver community-based preventative and early intervention counselling and support.
- Three of these services are delivered in regional Tasmania, providing support to the East Coast, George Town and Circular Head.
- Counselling is the key service provided and other initiatives include the delivery of information, advice and referrals.
- The services are voluntary, client centred, strength-based and focus on individuals and families, capacity and risk reduction.
- In 2024-2025, the Tasmanian Government provided \$1,065,000 to Anglicare Tasmania, CatholicCare Tasmania, Hobart City Mission, Lifeline Tasmania and Wyndarra Centre for the delivery of personal and family counselling services.

Early Childhood and Parenting

- In 2024-2025, the Tasmanian Government provided funding of \$108,000 to Early Support for Parents.
- The organisation delivers parenting information and support predominantly with volunteers in Southern Tasmania including through home visits for families in the South consistent with the goals outlined in the Tasmanian Child and Youth Wellbeing Framework.
- DPAC is working with Early Support for Parents as the organisation would like to expand their service delivery model following a pilot involving community dinners.

Families Tasmania

- Families Tasmania was funded to provide support, advice and information for parents, but entered voluntary administration in October 2023.

- Families Tasmania has been liquidated and DPAC received a return of \$272,128 in grant funding.
- DPAC has utilised the returned funding to address current budget risks.

Budget Information

Table 1		Community Kinship Care			
Organisation	Program	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Baptcare	Community Kinship Core funding (recurrent)	\$191,320	\$195,624	\$199,536	\$206,520
	Respite (2021 EC time limited)	\$95,000	\$97,138	\$99,323	-
	Brokerage (2021 EC time limited)	\$53,777	\$54,987	\$56,225	-
	Indexation	\$4,305	\$6,955**	\$6,984*	\$6,196
	Cost of Living Uplift Payment^	\$1,435	-	-	-
	Community Sector Uplift Payment^^	-	\$6,954**	-	-
Foster and Kinship Carers Association of Tasmanian	Training and Awareness Support (2021 EC time limited until 30 June 2025) (2025-26 one off \$70,000)	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$70,000##
Tasmanian Council of Social Services	Informal Kinship Care Portal with FindHelp TAS (2021 EC time limited)	\$7,055	-	-	-
Kennerley Children's Home	Respite (2021 EC time limited)	\$60,000#			
Glenhaven Family Care	Respite (2021 EC time limited)	\$60,000#			

Table 1		Community Kinship Care			
Organisation	Program	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Mission Australia	Community Kinship Core funding (recurrent)	\$198,758	\$203,230	\$207,294	\$214,549
	Respite (2021 EC time limited)	\$95,000	\$97,138	\$99,323	-
	Brokerage (2021 EC time limited)	\$53,777	\$54,987	\$56,225	-
	Indexation	\$4,472	\$7,107**	\$7,255*	\$6,436
	Cost of Living Uplift Payment^	\$1,491	-	-	-
	Community Sector Uplift Payment^^	-	\$7,107**	-	-
	Community Kinship – Pilot (2021 EC time limited)	\$99,000	\$101,000	\$103,000	-
	TOTAL	\$995,390	\$902,227	\$905,165	\$503,701

NOTE: Currently 50 per cent funding in 2025-2026 paid in line with Supply Act (No.1) 2025.

* Indexation for 2024-2025 paid in 2025-2026

** Indexation and uplift applied on all funding lines including time limited respite and brokerage.

Indexation has been paid incorrectly on a rolling base for the respite and brokerage lines to the value of \$3,423. Indexation should only have been applied to core funding which would total an increase of \$7,246. This figure has been adjusted to cover payment on other lines.

^ Cost of Living Uplift Payment refers to the difference between base indexation paid on an agreement by Department of Communities (2.25 per cent) for 2022-2023 and the Government's Indexation commitment for the year (3 per cent).

^^ Community Sector Uplift Payment refers to the difference between base indexation paid on an agreement by Department of Premier and Cabinet (2 per cent) for 2023-2024 and the Government's Indexation commitment for the year (4 per cent).

Funding of \$60,000 was provided to Glenhaven and Kennerley. Glenhaven returned their funding and Grant Deed terminated in 2024-2025, as the organisation was unable to expend funds, Kennerley have flagged intentions to return funding also for the same reasons.

Funding provided in 2024-25 for service delivery in 2025-2026.

Table 2		Family Assistance Program			
Organisation	Program	July 2022-June 2023	July 2023-June 2024	July 2024-June 2025	July 2025-June 2026
Anglicare Tasmania	Core Funding	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000
	One-off Cost of Living Booster	\$242,424	-	-	-
Hobart City Mission	Core Funding	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
	One-off Cost of Living Booster	\$75,757	-	-	-
Launceston City Mission	Core Funding	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
	One-off Cost of Living Booster	\$75,757	-	-	-
St Vincent de Paul Society (Tasmania)	Core Funding	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
	One-off Cost of Living Booster	\$303,030	-	-	-
Salvation Army (Tasmania)	Core Funding	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
	One-off Cost of Living Booster	\$303,030	-	-	-
TOTAL		\$1,329,634	\$330,000	\$330,000	\$330,000

NOTE: Currently 50 per cent funding in 2025-2026 paid in line with Supply Act (No.1) 2025.

Table 3		Personal and Family Counselling			
Organisation	Program	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Anglicare Tasmania	Personal and Family Counselling - East Coast	\$206,420	\$211,064	\$215,285	\$222,821
	Indexation	\$4,644	\$4,221	\$7,535	\$6,685
	Cost of Living Uplift Payment^	\$1,548	-	-	-
	Community Sector Uplift Payment^^	-	\$4,222	-	-
Hobart City Mission	Personal and Family Counselling	\$134,518	\$137,545	\$140,296	\$145,206
	Indexation	\$3,027	\$2,751	\$4,910	\$4,356
	Cost of Living Uplift Payment^	\$1,009	-	-	-
	Community Sector Uplift Payment^^	-	\$2,751	-	-
Lifeline Tasmania	Telephone counselling	\$388,302	\$397,039	\$404,980	\$419,154
	Indexation	\$8,737	\$7,941	\$14,174	\$12,575
	Cost of Living Uplift Payment^	\$2,912	-	-	-
	Community Sector Uplift Payment^^	-	\$7,941	-	-
CatholicCare Tasmania	Personal and Family Counselling – George Town	\$108,991	\$111,444	\$113,672	\$117,651
	Indexation	\$2,452	\$2,229	\$3,979	\$3,530
	Cost of Living Uplift Payment^	\$817	-	-	-
	Community Sector Uplift Payment^^	-	\$2,229	-	-
Wyndarra Centre	Personal and Family Counselling – Circular Head	\$150,597	\$153,985	\$157,065	\$162,562
	Indexation	\$3,388	\$3,080	\$5,497	\$4,877
	Cost of Living Uplift Payment^	\$1,129	-	-	-
	Community Sector Uplift Payment^^	-	\$3,079	-	-
TOTAL		\$1,018,419	\$1,051,521	\$1,067,393	\$1,099,417

NOTE: Currently 50 per cent funding in 2025-2026 paid in line with Supply Act (No.1) 2025.

^ Cost of Living Uplift Payment refers to the difference between base indexation paid on an agreement by Department of Communities (2.25 per cent) for 2022-2023 and the Government's Indexation commitment for the year (3 per cent).

^^ Community Sector Uplift Payment refers to the difference between base indexation paid on an agreement by Department of Premier and Cabinet (2 per cent) for 2023-2024 and the Government's Indexation commitment for the year (4 per cent).

Table 4		Other Family Support Services			
Organisation	Program	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Early Support for Parents	Family Support – Information, Advice and Referral	\$84,072	\$106,064	\$108,185	\$111,971
	Indexation	\$1,892	\$2,121	\$3,786	\$3,359
	Cost of Living Uplift Payment^	\$631	-	-	-
	Community Sector Uplift Payment^^	-	\$2,122	-	-
Glenhaven Family Care	Kentish Family Support Service	\$145,000	\$145,000	\$145,000	\$145,000
	2025-26 State Budget Commitment	-	-	-	\$85,000
Families Tasmania*	Family Support – Information, advice and referrals	\$135,046	\$154,631	-	-
	Indexation	\$3,039	-	-	-
	Cost of Living Uplift Payment^	\$1,013	-	-	-
	Accessible Parenting Programs**	\$95,000	\$95,000	-	-
TOTAL		\$465,693	\$504,938	\$256,971	\$345,330

NOTE: Currently 50 per cent funding in 2025-2026 paid in line with Supply Act (No.1) 2025.

* Families Tasmania has been liquidated and permanently closed.

** Children and Youth portfolio - Not Community Services

^ Cost of Living Uplift Payment refers to the difference between base indexation paid on an agreement by Department of Communities (2.25 per cent) for 2022-2023 and the Governments Indexation commitment for the year (3 per cent).

^^ Community Sector Uplift Payment refers to the difference between base indexation paid on an agreement by Department of Premier and Cabinet (2 per cent) for 2023-2024 and the Governments Indexation commitment for the year (4 per cent).

Minister for Community Services

Output Group – Community and Government Services

Output – 3.3 – Community Services

Financial Support including No Interest Loan Scheme (NILS) and Financial Counselling

Current as at: **10-October-2025**

Talking Points

- Our Government is working to relieve the cost of living pressures through a range of initiatives, including providing financial support to the No Interest Loans Scheme Tasmania (NILS) as well as funding Anglicare to provide a free financial counselling service throughout Tasmania.

No Interest Loan Scheme (NILS)

- Our Government is a long-term supporter of NILS, providing operational funding to the organisation to provide low-income Tasmanians with options to assist with purchasing essential household supplies and services.
- NILS makes a real difference in helping Tasmanians to manage cost of living pressures, along with supporting Tasmanians to avoid the debt spiral often associated with accessing payday lenders, 'rent to buy' and other high-risk options.
- Through our *2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future*, we reconfirmed our commitment to NILS, providing:
 - An additional \$2.1 million as part of a new, three-year Partnership Investment Plan to help NILS operate at a higher capacity, ramping up over a three-year period (2024-2025 to 2026-2027) to reach up to 2,000 more loans each year.

- An additional \$2 million over four years to extend the highly successful Energy Saver Loan Subsidy Program.
- NILS increased capacity is being enhanced by a new more efficient loans system which was launched by the organisation earlier this year.
- As at June 2025, NILS loans are issued through 524 NILS volunteer loans officers, who volunteer across 77 delivery partners, located at 110 access points, including Neighbourhood Houses.

Financial Counselling

- Anglicare's Financial Counselling Service can directly assist people concerned about the cost of living.
- The service offers counselling and support to improve financial literacy and wellbeing, while reducing escalation of pressures due to financial difficulties.
- The service aims to help Tasmanians to organise budgets, suggest ways to manage debt, refer to more specialised services, and provides advice on law enforcement practices, bankruptcy, hardship policies and government concessions.

Background

No Interest Loans Scheme Tasmania

- Since 2002, NILS has issued over 46,000 loans, worth over \$55 million, with 97 per cent of all NILS loans being paid back over the last 20 years.
- This includes micro-finance, micro-business and NILS4Cars.
- People are eligible for a NILS loan if they have a Centrelink health care concession card, a Department of Veteran's Affairs (DVA) pension or have a working income of \$60,000 (gross) or less.
- Loans available include:
 - No interest micro-finance loans of up to \$2,000 for essential household costs.
 - No interest micro-business loans of up to \$3,000 to start or expand small businesses.
 - Subsidies to reduce the cost of buying energy efficient appliances and equipment (the Energy Saver Subsidy Program).
- In 2024-25 NILS issued 3,941 no-interest loans worth nearly \$6 million and has subsidised 1,056 appliances, totalling \$728,000 through Energy Efficiency Subsidised Loans.
- NILS has also issued 493 NILS4Vehicles loans worth \$2,305,000.
- NILS loans make a difference to Tasmanians including helping clients 'get into' stable accommodation, pay for 12 months car registration, helping with dental, and for one older Tasmanian, installation of a heat pump to enable them to have winter warmth which is affordable and ongoing.

NILS Data - Loans Issued

Loan type	2022-2023		2023-2024		2024-2025	
	Loans	Value	Loans	Value	Loans	Value
Micro-finance	4,281	\$6,223,292	3,762	\$5,624,790	3,941	\$5,981,708
Micro-business	96	\$273,200	127	\$361,710	114	\$334,080
TOTAL	4,377	\$6,496,492	3,889	\$5,986,500	4,055	\$6,315,788

NILS new loan management system

- NILS introduced a new Loan Management System to assist with streamlining processes on 7 February 2025.
- For migration to the new system, NILS was closed to new applicants between 23 January 2025 and 7 February 2025.
- This was timed to align with the lowest period of demand for the organisation.
- The aim of the new system is for more efficient processing of loans and further capacity for organisational growth into the future.

- The benefits of the new system are:
 - From enquiry to purchase, the loan processing time is 8.8 days which is 20 percent quicker than the same time last year.
 - From loan interview (application) to approval, the timeframe is now 1.8 days which is 55 percent quicker than the same time last year.
- In alignment with the 2024 Election commitment, NILS is working hard to increase its reach to 2,000 additional loans per year.
- With the efficiency of the new system, the introduction of electronic signatures from August 2025, and the direct application portal currently being tested (for repeat customers), NILS is confident it will surpass targets moving forward, while importantly, not increasing the burden on delivery partners.

Tasmanian Government Funding to NILS

- In 2024-2025, NILS received Tasmanian Government funding totalling \$2,051,637 (excluding GST, including indexation where applicable).
- This funding is administered by DPAC and comprises:
 - \$777,000 in base funding.
 - \$700,000 for the Partnership Investment Plan (2024 Election Commitment).
 - \$75,000 to support the micro-business loan scheme (2021 Election Commitment).
 - \$500,000 for the *Energy Saver Subsidy (2024 Election Commitment).

*The Department of State Growth (DSG) has responsibility for the oversight of the program, and from 2025-2026, funding for the Energy Save Subsidy is also being administered by State Growth.
- In addition, DPAC has also worked with NILS to extend its Micro Business Loan Scheme agreement, to allow NILS to utilise surplus funding to extend the program for a further five years.
- This extension allows NILS to continue to offer Micro Business Loans of up to \$3,000 to start new businesses or boost existing businesses in Tasmania through to 2030.
- NILS is supported with capital and in the delivery of services by Aurora Energy, Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand, the Australian Government, National Australia Bank, Bank of Us, and Enterprise Centres in Tasmania.

Anglicare Tasmania – Financial Counselling

- In 2024-2025, the Tasmanian Government provided Anglicare with funding of \$697,000 (excluding GST, including indexation) for the state-wide delivery of the Financial Counselling Service (the service).
- The service aims to help Tasmanians to organise budgets, suggest ways to manage debt, refer to more specialised services, and provides advice on law enforcement practices, bankruptcy, hardship policies and government concessions.
- Anglicare reported that between 1 January 2025 and 30 June 2025, it had 459 active clients engaged with the service.

- During this period, the number of new referrals, active clients and exited clients remains high, with cost-of-living pressures still impacting many clients.

Australian Government Financial Reform Program

- The Australian Government is leading an interjurisdictional financial reform program based on the nine recommendations of the Sylvan Review, undertaken as a recommendation of the Royal Commission into Misconduct in the Banking, Superannuation and Financial Services Industry.
- In April 2024, the Australian Government Minister for Social Services, Hon. Amanda Rishworth, MP announced an independent body to oversee the Industry Funding Model for Financial Counselling.
- This body, the Financial Counselling Industry Fund (FCIF), has developed a 2025-2028 Grants Strategy to enable more Australians to get more timely access to financial counselling services.
- The strategy is split across expansion, innovation and workforce programs.
- FCIF's first Innovation Grants Program was delivered in 2025 with no Tasmanian organisations funded.
- The first Expansion Grants Round closed on 29 September 2025. Outcomes of this round will be shared on 21 January 2026. DPAC is assisting in the review process for this program as an expert external advisor.
- The Department of Social Services delivers a separate Financial Wellbeing Capability Activity Grants Program:
 - This program will distribute up to \$150 million per year for five years from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2030.
 - Six Tasmanian organisations were funded through this grants program in 2025 across the Emergency Relief, Financial Counselling and Financial Capability, Financial Counselling for Gambling programs.
- DPAC continues to engage in interjurisdictional discussions, including the data strategy and the exploration of national data standards.

Budget Information

Table 1

No Interest Loan Scheme – Funding

Activity	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027
Micro-finance Loan and Energy Efficiency Subsidy Program Administration (Recurrent and includes indexation)	\$719,473	\$735,661	\$750,374	\$776,637 [#]	\$799,936
Indexation	\$11,043	\$14,713	\$26,263	\$23,299 [#]	\$23,998
Cost of Living Indexation Uplift	\$5,145	-	-	-	-
Community Support Indexation Uplift	-	\$14,713	-	-	-
2024 Election Commitment (\$700,000 per year for three years: 2024-25 to 2026-27)	-	-	\$700,000	\$700,000 [#]	\$700,000
Cost of Living Booster Funding	\$150,000	-	-	-	-
One-off Increased Demand Funding	\$200,000	-	-	-	-
Micro-business Loan Administration (2021 Election Commitment: \$75,000 for four years until 2024-25)	Funded through State Growth	\$161,318 [*]	\$75,000 ^{**}	-	-
Energy Saver Subsidy (includes 2024 Election Commitment - \$2 million over four years: 2024-25 to 2027-28)	Funded through State Growth	Funded through State Growth	\$500,000 ^{^^}	Funded through State Growth ^{^^}	Funded through State Growth ^{^^}
COVID-19 Response (2020 to 2023)	See below [^]	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	\$1,085,661	\$926,405	\$2,051,637	\$1,499,936	\$1,523,934

[#] \$799,936 provided under Supply Act (No.1) 2025, with \$700,000 to be provided in early 2026.

^{*} Included \$25,000 for administration and \$136,318 for loan write off.

^{**} Included \$25,000 for administration and \$50,000 for loan write off. DOV issued to allow NILS to utilise underspend for further five years (ending 30 June 2030).

[^] In 2020, NILS received \$1,000,000 as part of the COVID-19 Response, for utilisation to 30 June 2023.

^{^^} Funding administered by DPAC in 2024-2025. Transferred to the Department of State Growth from 2025-2026.

Table 2 Financial Counselling (Anglicare Tasmania) – Funding

Activity	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Base funding	\$645,814	\$660,345	\$673,551	\$697,126^
Indexation	\$14,531	\$13,207	\$23,574	\$20,914^
Cost of Living Indexation Uplift	\$4,844	-	-	-
Community Support Indexation Uplift	-	\$13,207	-	-
TOTAL	\$665,189	\$686,748	\$697,125	\$718,040^

^ Currently 50 per cent of funding provided to organisation under *Supply Act (No.1) 2025*.

	Name	Position
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Out of scope, s.35

Minister for Community and Multicultural Affairs

Output Group – Community and Government Services**Output – 3.3 – Community Services**

Food Insecure Tasmanians

Current as at: **11-November-2025****Talking Points**

- Recognising the challenges faced by many Tasmanians due to the rising cost of living, the Tasmanian Government committed to increased support for the food relief sector through our *2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future*.
- Our Government's goal is an integrated food relief sector that supports Tasmanians in need to access sufficient, safe, nutritious, quality food, and access services that support long -term food resilience.
- Demonstrating just how important addressing the cost of living is to our Government, through the 2025-2026 State Budget we are committing \$7.1 million over four years between 2025-2026 and 2028-2029 to support the:
 - Implementation of a new Food Resilience Strategy.
 - Continuation of programs and services that support the delivery of food relief to Tasmanians.
 - Delivery of initiatives that focus on building food resilience in local communities.
 - Development and delivery of community-led solutions to address long-term food insecurity and build food resilience in local communities.

- We recently provided more than \$2.5 million to 24 community organisations through the Tasmanian Food Relief Capital Investment Grants Program, to upgrade capital investment projects to maximise cold storage, logistics and commercial kitchen facilities to support food relief in Tasmania.
- These commitments are in addition to those made by our Government through the *2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future*, which provided:
 - \$14.6 million over two years to School Food Matters to double the Healthy School Lunch Program, from 30 schools to 60 schools by 2026.
 - \$1 million to food relief providers to maintain increased food relief funding levels for 2024-2025, including \$500,000 for the Tasmanian Community Food Relief Grants Program.
 - \$5 million for a capital upgrade fund for food relief providers, including \$2.5 million for Loaves and Fishes for cold storage and to begin its shift to become a food procurement and social wholesaler organisation.
- Our *Food Relief to Food Resilience Action Plan 2023-2025* has also delivered increased funding for major food relief providers, grant funding for community food relief providers and Neighbourhood House gardens, nutritional programs for Neighbourhood Houses, and improved food relief information through FindHelpTAS.

Budget Information

Table 1 2025-2026 Interim State Budget

Commitment	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029
Food Resilience Strategy and Services*	\$2,034,000	\$1,550,000	\$1,550,000	\$1,550,000
Place Based Pilots* (auspiced through Eat Well Tasmania)	\$400,000	-	-	-
Total	\$2,434,000	\$1,550,000	\$1,550,000	\$1,550,000

* Interim 2025-2026 State Budget funding breakdown is outlined in in Table 2 below.

Background

New Food Relief to Food Resilience Strategy

- Through the 2024-2025 State Budget, the Tasmanian Government committed \$200,000 to a new whole-of-government food relief to food resilience strategy.
- The release of the new *Building Food Resilient Communities: Tasmania's Food Resilience Strategy 2025-2031* (the strategy) forms part of the Tasmanian Government's First 100 Days Plan.
- In developing the strategy, the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) appointed consultants:
 - Leah Galvin Consulting completed a review and analysis of the Tasmanian food relief and food resilience environment including reviews of the previous Food Relief to Food Resilience Strategy, and Action Plan and an analysis of relevant research and contemporary practice.
 - 3P Advisory were engaged to draft the new strategy.
- The strategy has been informed by the outcomes of extensive consultation and includes four key focus areas:
 - collaboration
 - a right to food
 - locally informed and community driven solutions
 - planning for long-term resilience.
- It includes a vision for a coordinated, inclusive and sustainable food system that ensures all Tasmanians have dignified access to nutritious food and builds community food capability and resilience.
- The strategy identifies four key enablers for action:
 - governance, partnerships and collaboration
 - effective food relief and resilience approaches
 - sustainable, community-led solutions

- data and measurement.
- The strategy will be underpinned by a new action plan to be developed and released in 2026, following the conclusion of the current Action Plan in 2025.

Food Relief to Food Resilience Action Plan 2023-2025

- The Tasmanian Government committed \$2 million to implement the actions identified through the *Food Relief to Food Resilience Action Plan 2023-2025*, including:
 - \$300,000 to 35 local food relief organisations through the 2023-2024 Community Food Relief Grants Program.
 - \$100,000 to Eat Well Tasmania for the development of nutritional resources for delivery in Neighbourhood Houses.
 - \$91,000 to fund 21 projects through the Tasmanian Neighbourhood Houses Community Garden Grants Program.
 - \$200,000 additional funding to Loaves and Fishes Tasmania (LFT) and \$100,000 to Foodbank Tasmania (Foodbank) to continue to support established food relief organisations.
 - \$800,000 committed to a Place-Based Pilots initiative, detailed below.

Place-Based Pilots

- The Action Plan committed to providing \$800,000 to deliver three place-based food resilience pilots.
- DPAC has worked with Food Secure Tasmania (formerly Tasmanian Food Security Coalition) to design the project, including the allocation of funding and the project milestones.
- Food Secure Tasmania developed a project framework and nominated Eat Well Tasmania as its auspicing body (as Food Secure Tasmania is not an incorporated organisation).
- A Grant Deed between DPAC and Eat Well Tasmania providing \$300,000 to commence the delivery of three pilot projects was executed in 2024-25.
- The project will include delivery of:
 - A Social Supermarket and Café model called 'Make it Fresh'.
 - A hybrid mobile and place-based food hub in Launceston called 'LIFE – Launceston Independent Food Enterprise'.
 - A mobile food bus to focus on regional and remote areas of Tasmania.
- Additional funding of \$500,000 is required in 2025-26 to fulfil the commitment and achieve the project outcome:
 - \$400,000 funding for the Place-Based Pilot program is committed through the Interim 2025-26 State Budget,
 - The remaining \$100,000 will be provided from DPAC identified internal resources.

Emergency Food Relief Funding Providers

- The Tasmanian Government funds LFT and Foodbank to provide emergency food relief.

- Food relief vans including Gran's Van, City Mission's 'SnagChat', and St Vincent de Paul Society's Loui's Van each receive Tasmanian Government funding, with this funding uplifted as part of the 2024-25 State Budget.
- Gran's Van is proposing to transition to a social supermarket model that shifts away from the delivery of a food relief van.
- Gran's Van have commenced community messaging and the realignment of their service and client support options.

2024 Election Commitments

- Of the \$1 million to retain all increased emergency food relief funding for a further year:
 - \$500,000 was released to LFT in November 2024.
 - \$500,000 has been distributed to the broader emergency food sector through the Tasmanian Community Food Relief Grants Program 2025.
- Of the \$5 million capital upgrade fund for maximising cold storage, logistics and commercial kitchen facilities:
 - A Grant Deed for \$2.5 million was provided to LFT in December 2024, to assist the organisation to upgrade cold storage facilities as they shift to primarily function as a food procurement and social wholesaler.
 - \$2.5 million in capital upgrades will be distributed to the broader emergency food relief sector through a small and large competitive grants round, through the Tasmanian Food Relief Capital Investment Grants Program 2025.
- Eat Well Tasmania received funding of \$75,000 for the purchase of two vehicles, to enable the organisation to continue its statewide delivery of programs.
- The three Food Vans (Grans Van, SnagChat, and Loui's Van) each received a funding uplift of an additional \$60,000 per year for two years, taking each organisation's funding allocation to \$120,000 per year.
- The Tasmanian Government has also provided funding of \$20,000 to the Kingborough Community Missions to deliver a Food Aid Program.

Tasmanian Community Food Relief Grants Program 2025

- The Tasmanian Community Food Relief Grants Program funded not-for-profit organisations that provide food relief directly to members of their local community, to increase the provision of direct food relief for people in need.
- Organisations were able to apply for up to \$10,000 from a total funding pool of \$500,000, for food relief, including ready-to-eat meals and/or food hampers.
- Successful applicants under the Grants Program were announced in April 2025 with 55 organisations receiving funding totalling \$486,837.
 - Refer to attached – *List of Successful Applicants Tasmanian Community Food Relief Grants Program 2025* for more information.

Tasmanian Food Relief Capital Investment Grants Program 2025

- The Tasmanian Food Relief Capital Investment Grants Program 2025 was developed to fund food relief providers for projects to maximise cold storage, logistics and commercial kitchen facilities, including contributions toward:
 - Capital works to food relief premises including infrastructure upgrades, renovations, construction, or building improvements.
 - Outright (freehold) purchase of a food relief premises, and/or
 - Purchase and installation of inbuilt commercial cooking or storage solutions.
- Funding of \$2.5 million was available through two categories:
 - Small Grants of up to \$25,000 for community organisations that currently or intend to provide food relief.
 - Large Grants of up to \$250,000 for community organisations that have been operating as a food relief organisation in Australia for at least five years.
- The Grants Program closed on 6 May 2025 and the assessment panel met to determine recipients in late May 2025:
 - Announcement of the grants program recipients was paused due to the 2025 State Election.
 - Successful applicants were notified of the outcome in early October 2025, with \$2,500,618 provided to 24 applicants.
 - Refer to attached – *List of Successful Applicants Tasmanian Food Relief Capital Investment Grants Program 2025* for more information.

s.27

- SecondBite was successful in receiving a grant to the value of \$206,265 for collaboration and capital investment to bolster food relief for Tasmania.
- Competitive Grant programs are assessed by an independent panel made up of government and community representatives with knowledge of the sector.
- An independent panel reviewed all applications against the published guidelines and considered that SecondBite's project demonstrated strong alignment with the assessment criteria.
- Applicants were also required to demonstrate how the organisation would work with the community and/or other providers to deliver the project, including with relevant local community organisations, businesses, local governments, sports clubs, community associations or other community groups.
- SecondBite's project will purchase a large food vehicle (truck) to allow for significant volumes of food to be collected, with nutritional food to be distributed into Tasmania's food relief supply chain.
 - In addition, SecondBite will employ a dedicated food sourcing specialist for Tasmania who will be employed to support sector relationships and collaboration, including with FoodBank Tasmania.

- The Grants Program funded similar projects such as OzHarvest's application for the purchase of a purpose-built refrigerated food rescue truck.
- SecondBite met all eligibility requirements of the Tasmanian Food Relief Capital Investments Grants Program 2025.

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Healthy School Lunch Program and Variety Breakfast Program

- Responsibility for these Programs is allocated to the Minister for Education.

	Name	Position
Prepared by	Brad Kelly	Senior Program Officer
Through	Cass Wise	Team Leader
Cleared by	Corrina Smith	Director, Community Services
	Noelene Kelly	Deputy Secretary, Community and Government Services

	Name	Contact number
DPAC contact for more information:	Corrina Smith	Out of scope, s.36

Table 2	Food Relief Funding							
Organisation	Service / Commitment	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029
Food Resilience Strategy	New Strategy Development	-	-	\$200,000	-	-	-	-
Food Resilience Strategy Implementation	2025-2026 State Budget – Proposed activity Community Grants Program yet to be confirmed	-	-	-	\$500,000	-	-	-
	2025-2026 State Budget – Food Resilience Strategy Implementation	-	-	-	\$201,930	\$217,930	\$417,930	\$417,930
Loaves and Fishes Tasmania	Core Funding	\$750,000	\$250,000	\$500,000	-	-	-	-
	Interim 2025-2026 State Budget – Food Resilience Strategy - Core Funding	-	-	-	\$500,000^	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
	Cost of Living Booster	\$284,100	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Vehicle Purchase (two vehicles)	\$190,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Additional Funding	-	\$500,000	\$500,000 ¹	-	-	-	-
	Interim 2025-2026 State Budget – Food Resilience Strategy - Uplift booster	-	-	-	\$500,000^	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
	Interim 2025-2026 State Budget – Food Resilience Strategy – Strategy Implementation	-	-	-	\$200,000	\$200,000	-	-
	Business Plan and Procurement Strategy	-	\$20,000	-	-	-	-	-
	Warehouse Purchase	-	\$1,300,000 ²	-	-	-	-	-
	Fuel Relief Program	\$2,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Action Plan Funding	\$200,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Capital investment	-	-	\$2,500,000 ¹	-	-	-	-
	2024 Flood Relief	-	-	\$50,000	-	-	-	-
Foodbank Tasmania	Core Funding	\$380,000	\$380,000	\$380,000	\$247,930^	\$247,930	\$247,930	\$247,930
	Interim 2025-2026 State Budget – Food Resilience Strategy – Core Funding uplift	-	-	-	\$132,070	\$132,070	\$132,070	\$132,070
	Cost of Living Booster	\$215,900	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Vehicle Purchase (three vehicles)	\$250,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2024 Flood Relief	-	-	\$50,000	-	-	-	-
	Core funding	\$760,000	-	\$859,349 ³	-	-	-	-

Table 2	Food Relief Funding								[^] To be funded through budget commitment. DPAC has provided 50 per cent funding from internal resources in line with the Supply Act (No.1) 2025 to support continuation of services whilst the Interim 2025-2026 State Budget is determined. ¹ Funding provided through the 2024-2025 State Budget. ² Funding provided by the Australian Government to DPAC, with DPAC administering the Grant Deed with LFT. ³ Funding of \$14.6 million provided through the 2024-2025 State Budget and allocated
Organisation	Service / Commitment	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	
School Food Matters (Core Funding transitioned to DECYP)	Cost of Living Booster	\$350,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Action Plan Funding	-	\$400,000	-	-	-	-	-	
	Vehicle Purchase (one vehicle)	-	-	\$24,000	-	-	-	-	
	Project Extension	-	\$253,000	-	-	-	-	-	
Eat Well Tasmania	Action Plan Funding	-	\$100,000	-	-	-	-	-	
	Better Together Project	-	-	\$60,000 ⁴	-	-	-	-	
	Place Based Pilot Initiative	-	-	\$300,000 ⁴	-	-	-	-	
	Interim 2025-2026 State Budget - Place Based Pilots (auspiced through Eat Well Tasmania)	-	-	-	\$400,000	-	-	-	
	New Vehicle Funding	-	-	\$75,000 ¹	-	-	-	-	
Other	Kingborough Community Missions	-	-	\$20,000 ¹	-	-	-	-	³ Funding of \$14.6 million provided through the 2024-2025 State Budget and allocated
	Food Relief Grants Program	-	-	\$500,000 ¹	-	-	-	-	
	Capital Investment Grants Program	-	-	\$2,500,000 ¹	-	-	-	-	
TasCOSS	Action Plan Funding	-	-	\$7,000	-	-	-	-	
Neighbourhood Houses	2024 Flood Relief	-	-	\$255,000	-	-	-	-	
Gran's Van Association	Food Van Core Funding	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	
	Food Van Funding uplift	-	-	\$60,000 ¹	\$60,000 ¹	-	-	-	
Launceston City Mission	Food Van Core Funding	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	
	Food Van Funding uplift	-	-	\$60,000 ¹	\$60,000 ¹	-	-	-	
St Vincent de Paul	Food Van Core Funding	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	
	Food Van Funding uplift	-	-	\$60,000 ¹	\$60,000 ¹	-	-	-	
Total		\$3,562,000	\$3,383,000	\$9,140,349	\$3,041,930	\$1,977,930	\$1,977,930	\$1,977,930	

to DECYP. As DPAC was the responsible Agency for the original pilot program, with a funding relationship in place, DPAC administered a Grant Deed with School Food Matters for the provision of the 2024-2025 State Budget funds for the period 1 July to 30 September 2024. From 1 October 2024, funding was administered by DECYP.

⁴ Funding provided in 2024-2025 for delivery in 2025-2026.

Tasmanian Community Food Relief Grants Program 2025

Successful Applicants

Organisation	Grant Amount
Acts Community Care Network	\$10,000
Bayview Secondary College Association	\$10,000
Beaconsfield Neighbourhood House	\$10,000
Brighton Community Food Hub	\$10,000
Burnie Community House	\$10,000
Clarendon Vale Neighbourhood Centre	\$10,000
Country Womens Association in Tasmania	\$7,000
Deloraine House	\$10,000
Devonport Community House	\$10,000
Door of Hope Christian Church	\$5,000
Dorset Community Association	\$10,000
Dover and South Action Group	\$2,000
Dunalley Tasman Neighbourhood House	\$4,000
Eastern Shore Community Connections	\$9,600
Fingal Valley Neighbourhood House	\$8,800
Food & Friendship Cafe	\$8,000
Gateway Life Solutions	\$10,000
Geeveston Community Centre	\$7,934
George Town Neighbourhood House	\$5,597
Glenhaven Family Care	\$10,000
Glenorchy Community Care	\$10,000
Goodwood Community Centre	\$10,000
GroWaverley	\$10,000
Health Action Team Central Highlands (HATCH)	\$10,000

Organisation	Grant Amount
Hobart City Mission	\$10,000
Italian Australian Pensioners Welfare Association of Tasmania	\$2,503
It's Our Community - Pantry	\$10,000
Jordan River Service	\$10,000
Karadi Aboriginal Corporation	\$10,000
Karinya Young Women's Service	\$10,000
Kingborough Community Missions	\$10,000
Kingborough Helping Hands	\$10,000
Launceston Benevolent Society	\$10,000
Launceston City Mission	\$10,000
Northern Suburbs Family Care	\$5,000
Oatlands Community Association	\$7,732
Okines Community House	\$9,667
Oz Harvest	\$10,000
Parish of Ulverstone	\$7,700
Parklands High School Association	\$10,000
Phoenix Community House	\$10,000
Risdon Vale Neighbourhood Centre	\$10,000
Rokeby Neighbourhood Centre	\$9,800
Shekinah House	\$10,000
Spring Bay Community Food Hub	\$10,000
St Vincent de Paul Society (Tasmania)	\$10,000
Starting Point Neighbourhood House	\$7,970
Strike It Out	\$10,000
Tasmanian University Union	\$10,000
Under One Rainbow	\$5,000
Warrane Mornington Neighbourhood Centre	\$10,000
West Moonah Community Action Group	\$9,600

Organisation	Grant Amount
West Winds Community Centre	\$4,071
Wyndarra Centre	\$10,000
Wynyard Baptist Church	\$9,863

Contact information:

Community Grants and Program, Department of Premier and Cabinet

GPO Box 123, Hobart, Tas 7001

Email: grants@dpac.tas.gov.au

List of Successful Applicants

Tasmanian Food Relief Capital Investment Grants Program 2025

	Organisation	Project	Grant Amount
1.	Acts Global Churches Limited – Copping Community Care	CCC Food Forward Project	\$199,760
2.	Big hART Inc	Artisan Enterprise Kitchen, First Foods	\$24,000
3.	Brighton Community Food Hub Inc	Infrastructure upgrades	\$5,285
4.	Devonport Chaplaincy Inc/ Loaves and Fishes Tasmania	Tasmanian Social Wholesaler Infrastructure	\$200,000
5.	Door Of Hope Christian Church Inc	Food Fridge and Freezer	\$10,300
6.	Foodbank of Tasmania Incorporated	Enhancing Fresh Produce Life and Warehouse Efficiency	\$25,500
7.	Fusion Australia Ltd	Fusion Kitchen Renovation Project	\$249,645
8.	Geeveston Community Centre Inc	Cold Storage & Cabinetry Improvement Initiative	\$4,651
9.	George Town Neighbourhood House Inc	Nourish and Nurture: Expanding Community Food Futures	\$145,294
10.	Glenorchy Community Care Inc	Glenorchy Community Care new external shed and new concrete path to freezer room	\$7,528
11.	Gran's Van Association Inc	Make it Fresh - Social Enterprise Supermarket	\$250,000
12.	It's Our Community - Pantry Inc.	Keeping Food Fresh, Feeding More	\$19,680
13.	Jordan River Service Inc.	The Waterbridge Cafe Project: Good food. Real connection. Local change	\$117,422
14.	Karadi Aboriginal Corporation	Upgrade of Karadi's community kitchen facilities	\$219,015
15.	Kingborough Community Missions	Food Relief for People in Need - Logistics	\$7,174
16.	Kingston Neighbourhood House	Capital Investment Kingston Neighbourhood House	\$18,553
17.	Launceston City Mission Inc.	Cool Room Upgrade for Improved Delivery of Food Relief	\$21,835
18.	Okines Community House Inc	From Seed to Plate - Food Relief to Resilience	\$90,861
19.	Oz Harvest Limited	Growing Food Security Across Tasmania	\$190,176

	Organisation	Project	Grant Amount
20.	Parish of Ulverstone	Cup of Kindness - supporting the community	\$7,531
21.	SecondBite	Collaboration and capital investment to bolster food relief for Tasmania	\$206,265
22.	St Vincent de Paul Society (Tasmania) Ltd.	Statewide Food Relief Project	\$210,554
23.	Tasmania University Union Inc	TUSA Social Supermarket and TUSA Café	\$248,089
24.	The Launceston Benevolent Society Inc	The Choice Pantry	\$21,500
Total			2,500,618

Community Grants, Department of Premier and Cabinet

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Minister for Community and Multicultural Affairs

Output Group – Community and Government Services**Output – 3.3 – Community Services**

**Gambling Harm Minimisation (including
Community Support Fund)**

Current as at: **06-October-2025**

Talking Points

- The Tasmanian Government remains committed to preventing and reducing gambling harm.
- In 2024-2025, funding of \$5,145,000 was provided through the Community Support Fund for the Gambling Support Program (GSP) to deliver non-regulatory gambling harm reduction, prevention and support initiatives.
- Key GSP initiatives include:
 - Support services for people impacted by gambling.
 - Community education campaigns that provide Tasmanians with information about how gambling works and support options.
 - Research projects that explore Tasmanian gambling issues and inform support services and community education campaigns.
 - Grant Programs to support Tasmanian community organisations to prevent or reduce gambling harm through innovative local initiatives.
- The GSP submitted a proposal for 2025-2026 Community Support Fund funding on 2 October 2025.

Gambling Harm Minimisation Package

- The Tasmanian Government is exploring a range of regulation-based harm minimisation strategies.
- Strategies may include facial recognition technology and other emerging technologies which are now in use in other states and may improve outcomes for Tasmanians.

Background

Gambling Support Program and Community Support Fund

- The Gambling Support Program (GSP) delivers the Tasmanian Government's non-regulatory response to gambling harms and is funded through the Community Support Fund (CSF).
- The CSF is primarily collected through a levy on electronic gaming machines (EGMs or pokies) in casinos, hotels and clubs.
- In addition to EGM receipts, the Government provides "top-up" funding to ensure CSF funding consistency and certainty.
- The 2024-2025 State Budget Forward Estimates projected that \$8,361,000 per annum will be available through the CSF until 2027-2028.
- Under the *Gaming Control (Community Support Fund) Regulations 2023*, Active Tasmania receives 25 per cent of the pre-top up funding.
- The Department of Treasury and Finance (Treasury) retains a portion of CSF funding for reviews, gambling prevalence studies, the Tasmanian Gambling Exclusion Scheme (TGES) and regulation-based harm-minimisation initiatives.
- The remainder of CSF funding is available to Tasmanian Government agencies through an annual application process.
- DPAC is required to apply for CSF funding annually to support the programs, activities and initiatives delivered through the GSP.
- CSF funding requests are assessed by the Tasmanian Liquor and Gaming Commission (the Commission) to confirm alignment with the *Gambling Control Act 1993* and CSF Regulations, and approved by the Minister for Finance.

2025-2026 CSF Process

- DPAC provided a 2025-2026 CSF funding submission on 2 October 2025 and is awaiting advice from Treasury on the outcome.
- DPAC was allocated CSF funding of \$5,348,000 in 2024-2025, comprising:
 - \$5,248,000 to support the delivery of specialist support services, community education campaigns, research projects and community grants programs through the GSP.
 - \$100,000 to support the delivery of a TGES awareness campaign in line with a 2024 Election Commitment.
- Treasury did not provide DPAC with the allocated 2024-2025 CSF funding until 30 May 2025, at which time DPAC received only \$5,145,000 representative of funding already committed as at the beginning May 2025.
- DPAC is keen to explore changes to the process and timing of CSF allocations, to ensure that funding is received in a timely manner to enable effective service delivery.

Gambling Support Program Strategic Framework

- The GSP Strategic Framework (the Framework) provides a roadmap for how the GSP will prevent and reduce gambling harms.
- The Framework was to be refreshed by the end of 2024 to cover the 2025-2026 period.
- However, the development of the refreshed Framework was paused while the Tasmanian Government considered a gambling harm-minimisation package (detailed below), as the package will likely influence the strategic direction, focus and priorities of the GSP moving forward.
- The existing Framework remains relevant and is being utilised to strategically guide the development and implementation of initiatives delivered through the GSP.
- A refreshed Framework will ensure the GSP can respond to significant changes expected in the gambling environment in the coming years, including potential Australian government and inter-jurisdictional online gambling reforms.

Mandatory card-based gaming and Gambling Harm Minimisation Package

- In 2022, the Treasurer issued a Ministerial Direction to the Commission to implement a mandatory card-based gaming system, including statewide cashless gaming, a common statewide player account for all EGM play, default pre-commitment limits, and a comprehensive process to increase pre-commitment above the set limit.
- The development of the system was managed by Treasury.
- On 2 July 2024, the Tasmanian Government announced an 18-month delay to the introduction of the system.
- In November 2024, an indefinite hold was placed on the system's introduction, due to the complexities of developing the new technology required to administer the system.
- At this time, the Tasmanian Government also announced that Treasury had been tasked with developing a Gambling Harm Minimisation Package (the Package).
- Given the likely impacts on GSP priorities and direction, the GSP paused development of a refreshed GSP Strategic Framework pending the details of the Package.
- In February 2025, DPAC provided advice to Treasury in relation to the development of the Package, including potential options for wrap-around services for Tasmanians experiencing gambling harm.
- While the Package was not finalised prior to the 2025 State Election, DPAC understands that it included a suite of measures such as facial recognition technology and an improved database and application system for TGES.
- In June 2025 the Tasmanian Government announced that a cashless gaming card would not be introduced in Tasmania unless there is a national approach on the issue.
- Other states and territories have progressed work within this space including:
 - Victoria committed to a three-month trial of a pre-commitment card scheme across 43 venues from September to November 2025.
 - New South Wales conducted a card-based gaming trial for six months across 14 venues in 2024.

- The NSW government is yet to respond to recommendations from an Independent Panel on Gambling Reform, which includes recommending a phased introduction of a mandatory statewide account-based gaming system.

Gambling Harm Support Services

- The Tasmanian Government provides support for those impacted by gambling through:
 - Gambling Help Online (www.gamblinghelponline.org.au): 24 hours a day, 7 days a week access to online counselling, information and referrals. This service is provided by Eastern Health Turning Point.
 - Gamblers Helpline Tasmania (1800 858 858): 24 hours a day, 7 days a week access to telephone counselling, information, and referrals. This service is provided by Eastern Health Turning Point.
 - Gamblers Help In-Person Support (1800 243 232): State-wide personal and family support, support groups and access to self-exclusions through the Tasmanian Gambling Exclusion Scheme. This service is provided by Anglicare Tasmania.
- *BetStop*, delivered by the Australian Communications and Media Authority is the National Self-Exclusion Register and is a free service that allows Australians to self-exclude from all Australian licensed interactive wagering providers in a single process.

Key Activity Data

Table 1	Gamblers Help Services Key Activity Data			
Contact Type	2014-2015	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
In-Person Support – New Clients	206	316	292	399
In-Person Support – Individual Support Sessions	727	775	1329	1066
Phone Support – Clinical Calls	240	171	191	126*
Online Support – Clinical Contacts	29	68	74	75

* Clinical calls are for the 6 months June-December 2024 only as updated reporting is pending.

- Treasury data shows 2024-25 EGM losses increased by 4 per cent (around \$7.6 million) from 2023-24 to \$193,908,000.
 - 2024-2025 losses were the highest annual EGM losses since 2014-2015.
- Total EGM losses for July-August 2025 were \$36,394,000 which is an increase of 8.5 per cent (around \$2.9 million) from the same period in 2024-2025.

Table 2	EGM Loss Data			
EGM Losses	2014-2015	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Hotels & Clubs	-	\$114,489,588	\$109,822,778	\$112,415,380
Casinos	-	\$75,106,576	\$76,478,033	\$81,475,932
Total	\$193,987,908	\$189,596,164	\$186,300,811	\$193,891,312

Community Education

- Key Community Education initiatives that were commenced by the GSP in 2024-2025 to be delivered in 2025-2026 include:
 - A procurement process has been undertaken for a new phase of the Know Your Odds campaign focussing on early signs of harm caused by gambling.
 - The Know Your Odds procurement will include a new exclusions campaign promoting the Tasmanian Gambling Exclusion Scheme, funded through a 2024 Election Commitment of \$100,000.

CSF Grants Program

- The CSF Grants Program provides funding opportunities for grassroots community sector organisations to deliver initiatives that support preventing and reducing gambling harm.
- \$1 million was allocated to the 2024-2025 CSF Grants Programs, which closed on 20 February 2025.
 - Grants of up to \$125,000 (plus GST) were available through the Large Grants and up to \$25,000 (plus GST) were available through Small Grants.
- A total of 19 applications were received under the 2024-2025 Grants Programs, with 13 organisations receiving funding totalling \$716,000.

Research

- Key Community Education initiatives that were commenced by the GSP in 2024-2025 to be delivered in 2025-2026 include:
 - Central Queensland University was commissioned to undertake qualitative research into sports betting behaviours, including barriers to help-seeking.
 - A procurement process has been undertaken for research exploring gambling harm in lower socio-economic and regional areas, including barriers to accessing support.

Budget Information

Table 1 In Person Gambling Specialist Support Services
(Anglicare Tasmania)

Activity	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Core Funding	\$616,849	\$630,728	\$643,343	\$745,859
Indexation	\$13,879	\$12,615	\$22,517	\$22,376
Innovation Programs	\$109,579	\$99,579	\$99,579	-
Cost of Living uplift (0.75%)	\$4,626	-	-	-
Community Support Uplift (2.0%)	-	\$12,615	-	-
Total	\$744,933	\$755,536	\$765,439	\$768,235*

Table 2 Gambling Helpline Tasmania (Turning Point – Eastern Health)

Activity	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Core Funding	\$156,129	\$159,642	\$162,835	\$168,534
Indexation	\$3,513	\$3,193	\$5,699	\$5,055
Cost of Living uplift (0.75%)	\$1,171	-	-	-
Community Support Uplift (2.0%)	-	\$3,193	-	-
Total	\$160,813	\$166,027	\$168,533	\$173,589

* As a result of the *Supply Act No 1 2025*, Anglicare Tasmania and Eastern Health were initially funded through a new grant deed for the 6 months 1 July to 31 December 2025 representing 50 per cent of scheduled annual expenditure while the outcome of the CSF application was determined.

Table 3 **Community Support Fund Allocation (Previously Community Support Levy)**

Activity	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028
Community Support Fund	-	\$8,360,000	\$8,360,000	\$8,360,000	\$8,360,000	\$8,360,000
Community Support Levy	\$4,605,560	-	-	-	-	-
GSP Allocation	\$3,154,170	\$5,061,000	\$5,347,783	TBC	TBC	TBC

- The full level of available CSF funding to 2027-2028 is detailed in the 2024-2025 State Budget and Forward Estimates.
- The allocation of outyears funding from the CSF for the Gambling Support Program is yet to be determined as it is allocated through an annual CSF funding submission process.

	Name	Position
Prepared by	Jack Leitch	Senior Program Officer
Through	Cass Wise	Team Leader, Community Services
Cleared by	Kristy Broomhall	Acting Director, Community Services
	Noelene Kelly	Deputy Secretary, Community and Government Services

DPAC contact for more information: Corrina Smith

Out of scope, s.36

Support for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer/Questioning, Asexual+ (LGBTIQA+) Tasmanians

Current as at: 07-October-2025

Talking Points

- Our Government is committed to progressing equality in Tasmania.
- The 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future commits to continuing support for equality in Tasmania by providing \$500,000 over two years to support LGBTIQA+ Tasmanians.
- This funding has enabled our Government to continue to work with Equality Tasmania, Working It Out and the Whole-of-Government LGBTIQA+ Reference Group to finalise a new Strategy and Action Plan.
- Drawing on extensive community consultation, the Strategy is due for release in the coming weeks with the development of the Action Plan to follow.
- Through the Interim 2025-2026 State Budget, our Government is demonstrating our ongoing support of the Tasmanian LGBTIQA+ community by providing:
 - \$192,000 for the year one delivery of the Strategy and Action Plan; and
 - \$10,000 to oversee the Strategy and Action Plan through the Reference Group.

- This additional investment will enable us to recommission the Telling Us the Story Report, the largest ever survey of LGBTIQA+ Tasmanians, guiding the implementation of our Strategy and Action Plan and enabling tracking of our progress toward greater equality.
- Our Government's 2025-2026 funding commitments build upon the work underway across Tasmanian Government agencies to support LGBTIQA+ inclusion.
- Our 2030 Strong Plan also committed to the continued delivery of the successful LGBTIQA+ Grants Program for two years (2024-2025 and 2025-2026).
- This program provides \$65,000 per annum to community organisations, tertiary institutions and local government to:
 - Build the capacity of the LGBTIQA+ community;
 - Foster inclusion, respect and dignity for LGBTIQA+ Tasmanians; and
 - Enhance access to services and increase participation for LGBTIQA+ Tasmanians.
- In 2025, four projects were awarded funding:
 - Women's Health Tasmania;
 - Glenorchy City Council;
 - Palliative Care Tasmania; and
 - Women's Legal Service.
- In addition, the Tasmanian Government is providing \$10,000 per year in 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 for the small community grants initiative administered by Working It Out, to support LGBTIQA+ grassroot activities across the state.

Background

The Tasmanian LGBTIQA+ Strategy and Action Plan 2025-2030

- The Tasmanian Government's *2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future* commits to developing a whole-of-government LGBTIQA+ Framework and Action Plan.
- The Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) is working closely with Working It Out, Equality Tasmania, the Whole-of-Government LGBTIQA+ Reference Group (the Reference Group) and all Tasmanian Government agencies to progress this commitment.
- Following extensive consultation, in April 2025, the then Minister for Community Services agreed to separate the Framework and Action Plan into:
 - A Strategy to be released by 30 June 2025, which will set out the direction for the Tasmanian Government to drive LGBTIQA+ inclusion; and
 - An Action Plan to be released by the end of 2025, which will set out the specific steps Tasmanian Government agencies will take to achieve the outcomes in the Strategy.
- The Strategy was delayed due to the 2025 State Election and is due to be released at the end of November 2025.
- DPAC will continue to progress the Action Plan following the release of the Strategy.

Whole-of-Government LGBTIQA+ Reference Group

- The Reference Group provides advice on the development and delivery of effective and evidence-informed policy, programs and projects to address inequality and increase the wellbeing and participation of LGBTIQA+ Tasmanians in all aspects of society.
- The Reference Group includes representatives from each Tasmanian Government agency, community members that represent specialist areas, as well as the following LGBTIQA+ community organisations:
 - Equality Tasmania;
 - Working It Out;
 - TasPride;
 - Twist of Lemons;
 - Tasmanian Council on AIDS, Hepatitis and Related Diseases (TASCHARD);
 - InterAction (formerly Intersex Peer Support Australia); and
 - Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG).
- The Reference Group meets four times per year.

Conversion Practices

- The Tasmanian Government has committed to ban harmful sexual orientation and gender identity conversion practices in Tasmania.
- Questions relating to conversion practices should be directed to the Attorney-General as the responsible Minister.

Equality Tasmania State Election Survey

- Every State election, Equality Tasmania conducts a survey of parties and candidates on issues of concern to the LGBTIQ+ community.
- Responses are published on the Equality Tasmania website.
- The most recent survey included 29 questions related to the progression of previously committed policy and legislative reform, funding commitments and topical issues of concern.
- Survey questions, and the Tasmanian Government's responses, as relevant to the Minister for Community and Multicultural Affairs, are summarised in the table below.

Survey Question	Tasmanian Government Response
Ban on medically unnecessary interventions on children with innate variations of sex characteristics.	The Department of Health's LGBTIQ+ Action Plan 2024-2027 commits to reviewing the clinical definition of medical interventions relating to sex characteristics for people with innate variations. Hon Bridget Archer MP, Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing is the responsible Minister.
Amendments to the Sentencing Act for crime motivated by hate.	The Department of Justice (DoJ) is leading this work and the Attorney General, Hon Guy Barnett MP is the responsible Minister.
Expungement of historical criminal records, including financial redress for people convicted of past criminal offences of homosexuality and cross-dressing.	DoJ is leading this work and the Attorney General, the Hon Guy Barnett MP is the responsible Minister.
Changes to section 192 of the Criminal Code to strengthen stalking provisions.	DoJ is leading this work, and the Tasmanian Government has indicated that it is open to exploring options to strengthen stalking provisions under the Criminal Code. The Attorney General, Hon Guy Barnett MP is the responsible Minister.
An LGBTIQ+ Inclusion Act.	Through the 2025 State Election, the Tasmanian Government indicated that it would be open to discussing this matter with the LGBTIQ+ community.
A Human Rights Act in line with recommendations from the Tasmanian Law Reform Institute.	The Tasmanian Government is committed to protecting and respecting the rights of all Tasmanians, demonstrated through key policies and reforms. The Tasmanian Government has indicated that it does not plan to introduce a Human Rights Act.

Survey Question	Tasmanian Government Response
Amendments to the Anti-Discrimination Act.	<p>Tasmania has some of the nation's strongest protections for LGBTIQA+ people against discrimination.</p> <p>The Tasmanian Government has indicated that it has no plans to amend the Anti-Discrimination Act.</p>
School discrimination.	<p>All schools in Tasmania must comply with the Anti-Discrimination Act.</p> <p>There are exceptions under the Act for religious-based schools in relation to employment of staff and enrolment of students.</p> <p>The specific example raised in the Parliamentary Inquiry into Discrimination and Bullying in Tasmanian Schools is a matter for the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner.</p>
Gender recognition laws.	<p>The Tasmanian Government has indicated that it has no plans to amend the current laws.</p>
Age appropriate LGBTIQA+ books in school and library collections.	<p>The Tasmanian Government supports parental choice and freedom.</p> <p>Library collections should reflect the diversity of the community and respect families right to guide what their children access.</p> <p>Hon Jo Palmer MLC, Minister for Education is the responsible Minister.</p>
A dedicated LGBTIQA+ mental health service.	<p>The Department of Health LGBTIQA+ Action Plan 2024-2026 commits to scoping a pilot for mental health, alcohol and other drug services for LGBTIQA+ Tasmanians.</p> <p>Hon Bridget Archer MP, Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing is the responsible Minister.</p>
Maintaining funding for Working It Out	<p>The Tasmanian Government greatly values its relationship with Working It Out and committed \$175,000 over two years in the 2024-2025 State Budget to partner to deliver the LGBTIQA+ Strategy and Action Plan.</p> <p>This funding is administered by DPAC.</p>

Increasing funding to the Tasmanian Community Fund to \$130,000 per year.	<p>This question didn't relate directly to the Tasmanian Community Fund, rather it referenced the DPAC administered LGBTIQA+ Grants Program. Through this Grants Program, \$65,000 was available in 2024-2025 and 2025-2026.</p> <p>A further \$10,000 per year in 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 has been provided to Working It Out to administer the small community grants initiative, to support LGBTIQA+ grassroots activities across the state.</p> <p>Future funding will be considered as part of State Budget processes.</p>
Funded programs to reduce housing risk for LGBTIQA+ Tasmanians.	Hon Kerry Vincent MLC, Minister for Housing and Planning is the responsible Minister.
Funding for trans and gender diverse health care.	<p>The Department of Health's LGBTIQA+ Action Plan 2024-2027 commits to ensuring the ongoing availability of fit-for-purpose gender affirming care that meets Australian standards and responds to the increased demand for such care.</p> <p>Hon Bridget Archer MP, Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing is the responsible Minister.</p>
Dedicated, multidisciplinary LGBTIQA+ healthcare centre.	Hon Bridget Archer MP, Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing is the responsible Minister.
Dedicated LGBTIQA+ Legal Service.	Hon Guy Barnett MP, Minister for Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation is the responsible Minister.
Professional development for government employees.	The Tasmanian Government supports ongoing professional development for State Servants in a range of areas including inclusivity and child safeguarding.

Continuation of Departmental LGBTIQA+ Reference Groups	<p>The Tasmanian Government supports existing departmental LGBTIQA+ Reference Groups, some of which have been in place for over 20 years and provide invaluable advice and expertise. This includes the whole-of-government LGBTIQA+ Reference Group administered by DPAC on behalf of the Tasmanian Government.</p>
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Budget Information

Table 1 **LGBTIQA+ Funding (administered by DPAC)**

Title	2013-2014	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Equality Tasmania	-	-	\$87,500	\$87,500	\$87,500^
Working It Out	-	-	\$137,500*	\$87,500	\$87,500^
LGBTIQA+ Grants Program	\$50,000	\$70,000	\$60,000	\$65,000	\$65,000
LGBTIQA+ Small Grants Program (Working It Out)	-	-	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000^
Total	\$50,000	\$70,000	\$295,000*	\$250,000	\$250,000

* Includes \$50,000 Commission of Inquiry funding

^ Funding for 2025-2026 is to be paid in 50 per cent instalments due to the *Supply Act (No. 1) 2025*

Table 2 **2025-2026 State Budget Funding – LGBTIQA+**

Activity	2013-2014	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
LGBTIQA+ Strategy and Action Plan – Year One	-	-	-	-	\$192,000*
LGBTIQA+ Reference Group	-	-	-	-	\$10,000*
Total	-	-	-	-	\$202,000

* No funding provided in the forward estimates

	Name	Position
Prepared by	Matilda McGahey	Policy Analyst
Through	Sarah Jacobs	Senior Policy Analyst
Cleared by	Kristy Broomhall	A/Director, Community Services
	Noelene Kelly	Deputy Secretary Community and Government Services

	Name	Contact number
DPAC contact for more information:	Corrina Smith	Out of scope, s.36

Minister for Community and Multicultural Affairs

Output Group – Community and Government Services
Output – 3.3 – Community Services

Men's Sheds

Current as at: **14-October-2025**

Talking Points

- Our Government recognises the important place that Men's Sheds have in communities, and the role of the Tasmanian Men's Sheds Association (TMSA) in advocating for, and supporting, 73 Sheds across Tasmania.
- Men's Sheds are primarily a men's health initiative, designed and developed for men, with some Sheds also offering membership to women.
- As part of our *2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future*, our Government committed ongoing support for Tasmanian Men's Sheds, through a range of initiatives, including:
 - Delivery of a \$1 million capital investment program for Tasmanian Sheds, providing funding of up to \$50,000 per organisation to upgrade, renovate, construct, outright purchase, or permanently improve facilities that house Men's Sheds across Tasmania.
 - Continuation of the \$175,000 TMSA grants program in 2024-2025 and 2025-2026, providing funding for tools, equipment and training.
 - Increasing annual peak body funding to the TMSA with an additional \$400,000 over three years (2024-2025 to 2026-2027).

- Additionally, we committed to fund individual Sheds, including:
 - \$550,000 for a new facility for the Sorell Men's Shed.
(commitment made during the Legislative Council election for Prosser).
 - \$220,000 to relocate the Westbury Men's Shed.
 - \$30,000 as a further contribution for the Lilydale Men's Shed.
 - \$12,000 for new equipment at the Dorset Men's Shed.
- Our Government works closely with the TMSA to support the sustainability and development of Men's Sheds, including good governance, planning and resolving practical issues.
- Tasmania has the highest density of Men's Sheds per capita in Australia, with more than 10 sheds per 80,000 people.
- Men's Sheds are ideally placed to support the health and wellbeing of Tasmanian men by providing a safe place for members to connect and share information, while working on community projects.
- No two Sheds are the same, however all Sheds contribute significantly to and support their local communities.
- We will continue to work with the TMSA and individual Sheds now and into the future to ensure their great work continues.

Background

Tasmanian Men's Shed Association

- The TMSA was formed in 2009 as the peak body representing Men's Sheds (Sheds) across Tasmania.
- The TMSA is a member of the Australian Men's Shed Association, the national peak body that supports over 1,200 Sheds and 50,000 participating men across Australia.
- Sheds are primarily a men's health initiative that provide a space for men's wellbeing, providing somewhere to meet, connect and share, while working on community projects.

TMSA and Shed Funding

- The TMSA receives recurrent funding each year to deliver peak body activities, primarily representing the interests of Men's Sheds in Tasmania.
- Through the 2024 State Election, and subsequent 2024-2025 State Budget, the Tasmanian Government committed to increasing peak body funding to the TMSA for two years (2024-2025 and 2025-2026).
 - DPAC worked with the TMSA to develop a new Grant Deed for the \$400,000 to be expended over a three-year period (2024-2025 to 2026-2027).
 - It was determined that an extension in time frame would be appropriate for the expenditure due to the delay of 2024-2025 State Budget, and to line-up with the TMSA's proposed budget for the expenditure of the funds.
- Recurrent funding is not provided to individual Sheds.
- Individual Sheds can seek funding through Tasmanian Government Grants Programs and may also receive funding through separate commitments to individual Sheds.
- Sheds can access other funding opportunities such as the Australian Government's National Shed Development Programme, and other philanthropic and business grant programs.

New Men's Sheds

- The Wooden Boat Guild, based in Battery Point, has recently joined the TMSA, increasing the number of Tasmanians Sheds to 73.
 - The Wooden Boat Guild members view their role as being one of nurturing and educating in the art of wooden boat building and restoration.
- Poatina has recently acquired a building and have the TMSA's support to establish a new Men's Shed.
 - Poatina are scheduled to open the Shed on 1 January 2026 however will become a member of the TMSA prior.
- Fingal has also expressed interest having lodged an application to the TMSA of the intention to establish a Men's Shed.
 - TMSA are continuing to engage with Fingal as they consider the application.

TMSA Grant Program 2024-2025

- Through the 2024 State Election and 2024-2025 State Budget, the Tasmanian Government committed to continuing funding of \$175,000 per year for the TMSA Grants Program for two years (2024-2025 and 2025-2026).
 - The Grants Program offers funding of up to \$10,000 per applicant for tools, equipment, machinery, training, and health and wellbeing initiatives.
- 28 Sheds were successful through the Grants Program in 2024-2025, receiving a total of \$158,943 for the purchase of a range of tools, training opportunities and safety equipment.
- DPAC worked with TMSA to determine that the remaining funding of \$16,057 would be utilised to support delivery of a prostate cancer awareness campaign across the Sheds.
- The TMSA Grants Program 2025-2026 is anticipated to open in late 2025 or early 2026.

Men's Sheds Capital Investment Grants Program 2024-2025

- Through the 2024-2025 State Budget, the Tasmanian Government committed \$1 million for the delivery of the Men's Sheds Capital Investment Grants Program 2025.
- Sheds were able to apply for a maximum of \$50,000 for:
 - The construction of new Sheds where the remaining required funds have been secured;
 - Capital works to current shed premises including infrastructure upgrades, renovations, construction, or building improvements; and
 - The outright (freehold) purchase of Men's Sheds where the remaining required funds have been secured.
- Eligibility requirements for the Grants Program require Sheds to either:
 - Be a current member of TMSA; or
 - Operate as a 'Men's Shed' in Tasmania that has, as a major function, the provision of hands-on workshop activities aimed at men but not necessarily exclusive of women.
- Applications for the Grants Program closed on 17 April 2025, with 22 applications received requesting funding totalling \$589,169.
- 22 applicants were successful, where majority of the Sheds have received the funding under the Grants Program.
- Since notifying Sheds that they would receive the funds, some Sheds have encountered concerns with providing the required approvals and paperwork to enable receipt of Grants Program funding:
 - Spring Bay Men's Shed were allocated \$50,000 for construction costs. Due to site complications, this allocation will be returned to the funding pool for the second round of the Grants Program.
 - Hobart Community Shed were allocated \$28,024 for a solar project, however due to ongoing construction matters, this allocation will be returned to the funding pool for the second round of the grants program.

- It is DPAC's intention that the remaining Grants Program funding of \$488,855 will be offered through the second round of the Men's Shed Capital Investment Grants Program in 2026, where it is anticipated it will have a higher maximum funding cap.

Shed Membership and Anti-discrimination

- Tasmania's *Anti-Discrimination Act 1998* has exceptions and exemptions, where both 'Men's Sheds' and 'She Sheds' are exceptions:
 - *A person may discriminate against another person on the ground of gender in respect of membership of a club if the membership of the club is available only to persons of one gender.*
- Membership is a matter for individual Sheds, with some specifically for men and others for both men and women.
- Sheds which have at least 30 members may restrict membership to men only if stated in the organisation's constitution or similar instrument.
- Sheds with fewer than 30 members must use other means if they wish to restrict membership to men only.
- In the Huon Region, the Huonville Men's Shed in Franklin, the 'Dog House' in Geeveston, and Port Cygnet Men's Shed open to both men and women.

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Hobart Community Shed

- Hobart Community Shed wrote to the Minister for Community and Multicultural Affairs on 1 September 2025.
- The letter stated that initially, a potential site was identified for the Shed in South Hobart where funding support was obtained from the Australian government (\$260,000), the Tasmanian government (\$260,000) and the Hobart Rotary Club (\$445,000) – plus in-kind corporate support, however the site was not purchased.
- An alternative site was identified immediately north of the Tasmanian Hockey Centre in New Town where a lease was secured, site plans were prepared, and a planning permit was obtained in December 2024.
- Hobart Community Shed outlined that due to the time elapsed since the initial quotation (four years), the total build costs had increased from approximately \$1 million to \$1.6 million.
- Hobart Community Shed are currently seeking alternative funding opportunities in an attempt to proceed with the build.

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Jordan River Men's Shed

- Formerly known as Pete's Shed, the Jordan River Shed has reported financial challenges for a number of years.
- The TMSA has stated that the Shed's running costs are about the same as other Sheds.
- A public meeting was held at Jordan River House earlier in the year, where members of the community and the TMSA were in attendance.
- The TMSA is a member of the working group to reestablish the Shed and has stated that the Shed's current total membership is mostly women members.
- The TMSA also stated that two years ago the Shed was in a similar position and went to the media about their financial situation and potential closure as a result.
- The Shed was recently successful in the TMSA Grants Program 2024-2025, receiving funding of \$4,397 for tools.
- The Shed has also been successful in previous TMSA Grants Programs, receiving \$5,725 for tools in 2023-24 and \$19,169 for a capital upgrades to the Shed in 2022-2023.

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Penguin Men's Shed

- The Shed's current site is located at the Dial Regional Sports Complex (Dial Park).
- The site is shared with the Northwest Axeman's Association; with the areas defined in separate leases with the Central Coast Council.
- The organisation has identified several issues with the Shed's current location, including that there is no longer enough space for Shed members, and that the site may be lost to the Dial Park redevelopment.
- Preliminary discussions have occurred with the Penguin Lions Club regarding sharing a site at Park Avenue.
- The Shed has also identified another potential site at the end of Enterprise Avenue, which is in an industrial area, where Park Avenue is in a residential area.
- The Central Coast Council are in current discussions with the Shed, regarding new site options.
- The Shed requires a new site before plans can be developed, which will be utilised to seek funding.

Lilydale Men's Shed

- In 2021, the Tasmanian Government committed funding of \$70,000 to the Lions Club of Lilydale for the establishment and construction of a new Men's Shed in Lilydale.
- In the 2024 Election a further \$30,000 was committed towards this initiative.
 - At this stage, the \$70,000 and the \$30,000 have not been provided to the Shed.
- The Club has not been able to secure a location to construct a new Shed and the organisation is working closely with the Launceston City Council to identify possible options, including co-location.
- NRE Tas has also reviewed potential Crown Land sites in the area, with nothing suitable for the Shed.

Huon She Shed

- The Huon She Shed is a community-based, non-profit organisation supporting women in the Huon Valley.
- The aim of the Shed is to provide a space for women of all ages, backgrounds, identities, and capabilities to gather, learn woodworking, home repairs and other skills that promote confidence and self-worth.
- The Tasmanian Government acknowledges the many health benefits of the Sheds program and continues to liaise with the Huon She Shed regarding future grant and funding opportunities.
- The Huon She Shed is not eligible for funding through the TMSA Grants Program as it is not a member of TMSA, and the provision of activities is predominately aimed at women.
- The Huon She Shed's application to the 2023-2024 Community Support Fund (CSF) Small Grants Program was successful and the organisation was funded for \$9,935 (plus GST) for the purchase, delivery, and installation of a dust extraction system.
- The organisation's application to the 2023-2024 CSF Large Grants program for \$124,603 towards the fit-out of the Shed was unsuccessful.
- The Huon She Shed is eligible to apply for future CSF Grants Programs and has received feedback about alignment of grant assessment criteria.

Budget Information

Table 1	TMSA Peak Body Funding				
Years	2022-2023	2023-2034	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027
Peak Body - Core Funding	\$117,594*	\$121,168	\$122,945	\$127,246^	\$131,066
Indexation		\$2,105	\$4,303	\$3,817^	\$3,932
Election Commitment uplift funding			\$100,000	\$200,000^**	\$100,000
Total	\$117,594	\$123,273	\$227,248	\$331,063	\$234,998

* Including indexation

^ Funding for 2025-2026 is to be paid in 50 per cent instalments as per the *Supply Act (No. 1) 2025*

** Through the 2024 State Election, the Tasmanian Government committed to increasing peak body funding to the TMSA for two years (2024-2025 and 2025-2026). DPAC worked with the TMSA to develop a new Grant Deed for the \$400,000 to be expended over a three-year period (2024-25 to 2026-2027).

Table 2 **Men's Shed Grant Programs**

Years	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
TMSA Grants Program	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$175,000
Tasmanian Men's Shed Capital Investment Program		-	\$1,000,000*	-
Total	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$1,175,000	\$175,000

*Funding not fully expended in 2024-2025, remaining funds will be used for second round in 2025-2026.

Table 3 **2024 Election Commitments - One-off funding**

Men's Shed	Purpose	Funding
Sorell Men's Shed	New Shed	\$550,000
Westbury Men's Shed	Relocate Shed	\$220,000
Lilydale Men's Shed	Shed support	\$30,000
Dorset Men's Shed	Shed equipment	\$12,000
Total		\$812,000

Prepared by	Name Brad Kelly	Position Senior Program Officer
	Cass Wise	Team Leader
Cleared by	Kristy Broomhall	A/Director, Community Services
	Noelene Kelly	Deputy Secretary, Community and Government Services

	Name	Contact number
DPAC contact for more information:	Corrina Smith	Out of scope, s.36

Parliamentary Briefing 2025

CMA-13

Minister for Community and Multicultural Affairs

Output Group – Community and Government Services

Output – 3.3 – Community Services

Multicultural Tasmanians

Current as at: **14-October-2025**

Talking Points

- The Tasmanian Government's vision is of a harmonious, inclusive and respectful multicultural island where all Tasmanians belong, and are enabled to contribute and achieve.
- Our Government is investing more than \$2 million over two years (2024-25 and 2025-26) to support the needs of Tasmanians from culturally and linguistically diverse families.
 - This includes an uplift in funding to the Multicultural Council of Tasmania to \$175,000 per year in 2024-25 and 2025-26.
- *Embracing Diversity, Fostering Belonging: Tasmania's Multicultural Action Plan 2025-2029* (the Plan), was released on 28 March 2025 and has been informed by over 1,000 Tasmanians from culturally and linguistically diverse families.
- Reflecting our ongoing commitment to support culturally and linguistically diverse Tasmanians, through the 2025-26 State Budget our Government has committed to providing:
 - \$190,000 to implement actions in the Plan during 2025-26.
 - \$10,000 to establish an advisory group to oversee the implementation of the Plan.
 - Uplifting funding to our multicultural festivals to \$15,000 per year for four years (2025-26 to 2028-29), with this funding

being provided to Festa Italia; Estia Greek Festival and the Chinese Lunar New Year Festival.

- Additional funding of \$30,000 for two years (2025-26 and 2026-27) for the Diwali Festival, and \$15,000 for the following two years (2027-28 and 2028-29).
- \$15,000 per year for four years (2025-26 to 2028-29) to the Nepalese community for a cultural event.

Tasmania's Multicultural Action Plan

- The Plan addresses the concerns raised by Tasmanians from culturally and linguistically diverse communities, including:
 - Addressing racism and social cohesion on a systemic level and through direct supports to communities;
 - Enhancing social and economic participation, including projects that restore community confidence in workplaces being culturally safe; and
 - Ensuring culturally and linguistically diverse Tasmanians feel they are recognised, valued and their needs are met through Tasmanian services.
- A new Ministerial Advisory Group is being established to ensure lived experience is at the centre of monitoring the Plan and setting future priorities for our multicultural island and we are currently seeking expressions of interest for members of this group.

Addressing Racism and Fostering Social Cohesion

- Our Government is committed to upholding the motion passed in Parliament on 10 September 2025 to stand in solidarity with Tasmania's multicultural communities.
 - We recognise that migrants bring skills, perspectives and cultural diversity that benefit and strengthen our community.

- People of all cultures, colours, faiths and nations should feel welcome, included and safe in Tasmania.
- Our Government is taking a proactive approach to addressing racism and fostering social cohesion by investing \$500,000 across three years (2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26).
- This includes the 2024 Social Cohesion Small Grants Program, with \$200,000 provided to 13 projects to address racism and foster social cohesion through local, place-based partnerships.
- Our Government has also provided:
 - \$80,000 over 2024-25 and 2025-26 for the Multicultural Community Festivals Small Grants Program to support cultural celebrations of new and emerging communities with nine applicants receiving funding in 2024-25.
 - \$50,000 per year for two years (2024-25 and 2025-26) to Welcome Cultural Services for a multicultural liaison role to deliver outreach to the North-West.
 - \$600,000 over 2024-25 and 2025-26 for CatholicCare's Multicultural Employment Services to continue to ensure our migrant communities are supported into employment.
 - \$70,000 in 2023-24 to the Migrant Resource Centre Tasmania (MRC Tas) for additional statewide counselling and psychosocial support services for communities affected by racial discrimination, abuse and harassment.

Multicultural Council of Tasmania

- The Tasmanian Government is aware of the Multicultural Council of Tasmania's efforts to work with members and review its constitution.
- We are supportive of governance improvements and encourage all our peak bodies to continually review and align with best practice processes.

Background:

Tasmanian Government Funding

- Through the 2025-26 State Budget, the Tasmanian Government has committed:
 - \$190,000 to implement actions in the Plan during 2025-26.
 - \$10,000 to establish an advisory group to oversee the implementation of the Action Plan.
 - An uplift to \$15,000 per year for four years (2025-26 to 2028-29) for multicultural festivals - Festa Italia; Estia Greek Festival and the Chinese Lunar New Year Festival.
 - Additional funding for the Diwali Festival to \$30,000 per year for two years (2025-26 and 2026-27), and \$15,000 for the following two years (2027-28 and 2028-29).
 - Funding of \$15,000 per year for four years (2025-26 to 2028-29) to the Nepalese community for a cultural event.
- This builds on commitments made through the 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future, to provide over \$2 million during 2024-25 and 2025-26 to support Multicultural Communities, including:
 - An uplift in annual funding for the Multicultural Council of Tasmania (MCOT) to \$175,000 per annum.
 - Delivering a proactive approach to respond to racism in our communities by investing \$500,000 to address racism and foster social cohesion across Tasmanian communities, including:
 - \$200,000 for a competitive small grants program;
 - \$70,000 to MRC Tas for counselling and psychosocial support;
 - \$30,000 to MCOT for Harmony Week in 2025; and
 - \$200,000 to support actions under the Multicultural Action Plan.
 - Providing increased funding of \$75,000 a year to the Moonah Multicultural Hub.
 - Providing funding of \$400,000 across 2024-25 and 2025-26 to provide specific support to eligible multicultural small businesses.
 - In 2024-25 \$80,000 was allocated to the Multicultural Small Business Grants Program.
 - In 2025-26 the Department of State Growth awarded \$120,000 to MCOT to deliver a Diverse Enterprise Program which aims to engage 100 businesses and offers small grants to help finance projects that build capability and help with new skills.
 - Continued support of \$300,000 per year for two years for statewide employment and education pathway services for eligible migrants, humanitarian entrants and temporary visa holders who are facing barriers to employment, via CatholicCare's Multicultural Employment Services (formerly the Safehaven Hub).
 - Providing \$50,000 per year for two years to support a multicultural liaison role to deliver outreach to the North-West through Welcome Cultural Services (formerly the Migrant Resource Centre North).

- Providing \$40,000 per year for two years to establish the new Multicultural Community Festival Small Grants Program, with grants of up to \$5,000 available.
- Continued funding of Festa Italia; Estia Greek Festival; Chinese Lunar New Year and the Diwali Festival.

Racism and Social Cohesion in Tasmania

- Over the past three years, community tensions have been heightened due to the Hamas-Israel conflict, and there have been increased media reports and community complaints of discrimination, abuse, harassment and violent attacks within Tasmania.
- Tasmania Police and the Australian Government Department of Home Affairs (DoHA) have reported concern about the potential for far-right groups and lone operators with mixed or fixated ideologies to escalate tensions and undermine social cohesion through online rhetoric and activism.
- 'March for Australia' rallies were held in various capital cities nationally on 31 August 2025, protesting current immigration patterns to Australia.
 - A 'March for Australia' rally was held at Salamanca Place in Hobart, with a counter-protest also held. The gathering remained peaceful on both sides.
 - On 10 September 2025 the Leader of the Greens, Dr Rosalie Woodruff MP, introduced a motion to Parliament expressing solidarity with multicultural communities following the rallies, and urging condemnation of racism and discrimination.
 - This motion passed without opposition.
- In September 2025, the Office of Social Cohesion, DoHA released Connections That Matter, an Engagement Guide for governments and institutions to build connections, engagement and trust.
- Tasmanian Police received funding from the Australian Government through the new Federation Funding Agreement for Counter Violent Extremism Intervention and Capability Development (FFA) to work across Tasmanian Government agencies to support social cohesion activities for the purpose of countering violent extremism.
- The Premier's Discretionary Fund has allocated \$7,500 as a contribution towards the fundraising efforts of the MRC Tas Big Tassie Walk during October.
 - The walk was led by Peter Gutwein, MRC Tas Board Chair and former Premier.
 - It was a month-long walking and fundraising challenge honouring Tasmania's diversity with the funding supporting MRC Tas activities.

Language Services in Tasmania

- According to the 2021 census, 5,090 Tasmanians speak another language but do not speak English well or at all, compared to 4,338 in 2016. This is likely to be an underestimation, due to under-reporting in the census.
- There is a national declining trend in the accreditation of translators and interpreters, with Tasmania declining at a higher rate than other jurisdictions.
- On 6 December 2024, at the Ministerial Forum on Multicultural Affairs, Ministers from Australian, state, and territory governments agreed that the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) would develop an endorsement model

for language service providers (LSPs) to improve the quality and consistency of language services delivery.

- Driving this initiative are concerns that:
 - The number of non-credentialed providers in the language services sector is increasing, impacting quality service provision and compliance with industry standards.
 - Government procurement processes shape demand, requiring governments to set the standard for requesting credentialled interpreters and translators and quality services.
 - Current demand for established and emerging language services is not being met by the workforce and supply is not adequately supported through scholarships to encourage new workers to join and remain in the industry.
- The Tasmanian Government is broadly supportive of the model's aims of ensuring nationally consistent quality and conditions for language services, by establishing standards for interpreting and translation services provided to Government.
- However, it is critical that local contexts are considered and accommodated, both in how the model is developed and how standards are implemented.
- Currently, there is a lack of interpreters and translators to meet Tasmanian demand in both established and emerging languages.
- The adaptability of the model to serve local markets is crucial for avoiding any unintended consequences on the access to services and outcomes for local communities.
- The agility of the model to scale up local markets where workforce training and supply is a challenge, will also be critical.
- Commencing in 2018, the Tasmanian Government partnered with NAATI to deliver the Interpreter Training Scholarship program providing \$20,000 per year for scholarships.
 - NAATI contributed funding of \$10,000 per year for this purpose.
 - The scholarship program ended in June 2023 and a future program will be considered as part of Tasmania's Multicultural Action Plan.
- States and territories will be asked to approve the final LSP Endorsement Model in December 2025.
- The Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) is currently reviewing and revising the Tasmanian Government's Language Services Guidelines, which provides guidance to agencies on how to engage and support interpreters.

Migration updates

- The Australian Government's 2025–26 Migration Program will maintain the 2024–25 level of 185,000 places, which is focused on skills and addresses critical skill shortages.
- The program is primarily focused on skills to address workforce needs, with 132,200 places (about 71 per cent) allocated to the skills stream.
- National Planning Level (NPL) for new international student commencements for 2025 is 260,000, and will be increased by 25,000 in 2026, indicating a positive shift for

international students following recent policy changes aimed at managing growth and addressing pressures like housing.

- In 2025, the University of Tasmania's New Overseas Commencement allocation was 2,220.

Settlement Services in Tasmania

- As of July 2025, there are approximately 300,000 refugee and humanitarian applicants awaiting assessment to enter Australia (noting that a maximum of 20,000 places are available per year).
- 293 people on humanitarian visas arrived to settle in Tasmania in 2024. They arrived from Afghanistan, Iran, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Myanmar, Pakistan, Syria and Yemen.
- MRC Tas currently delivers Tasmania's Humanitarian Settlement Program (HSP) supporting entrants for the first 12 months.
- MRC Tas, Uniting Care, CatholicCare and 54 Reasons deliver the Settlement Engagement and Transition Support Program (SETS) in Tasmania, which provides supports to entrants who have arrived in Australia less than five years ago.

Multicultural Council of Tasmania

Governance and Constitution

- The Tasmanian Government funds MCOT as the peak body representing the interests of multicultural Tasmanians. Funding is administered by DPAC and has been acquitted in accordance with the terms specified in the Grant Deed.
- As part of its strategic plan, MCOT has committed to undertaking a review of its governance structure to ensure that it meets contemporary standards of practice.
- This has included engaging a consultant to review current documents and structures and make recommendations for implementing a skills-based board and constitutional change comparative with other Tasmanian peak body organisations.
- A Special General Meeting (SGM) was held on 15 September 2025 for members to consider and endorse the proposed changes to the MCOT constitution. However the required 75 per cent of votes to pass the motion was not achieved.
- In advance of the vote, MCOT undertook community consultation on the proposed reforms to enhance understanding and increase support for the process.
- Following the result, MCOT has reflected that a community education process for its membership about contemporary governance, the need for constitutional change and the broader role of a peak body is required.
- DPAC is supportive of the proposed reforms and will continue to work with MCOT to assist them work towards contemporary and best practice governance.

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Australian Multicultural Council

- The Australian Multicultural Council (AMC) is a community-led, federally appointed body focusing on collaboration across country and community, representing a broad cross-section of Australian interests.
- The AMC provides the Australian Government with independent and robust advice on multicultural affairs, with a particular focus on connection, identity and belonging, and inclusion.
- The Tasmanian Government nominated three Tasmanians for appointment to the AMC, based on consultation with key stakeholders in the Tasmanian multicultural community.
- These nominees were:
 - Aimen Jafri - nominated by MCOT and MRC Tas.
 - Grace Akousa Williams - nominated by Citizen Tasmania who subsequently withdrew from the process.
 - John Kamara - nominated by Culturally Diverse Alliance Tasmania (CDAT).
- Ms Jafri was subsequently appointed to the AMC by the Australian Government, along with Hon Peter Gutwein as a special appointment.
- All current AMC members have been appointed for a three-year term from 1 March 2025 to 1 March 2028.
- It is anticipated that future Tasmanian nominations to the AMC will be drawn from the Tasmanian Ministerial Multicultural Advisory Group, in line with other jurisdictions.

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Budget Information

Table 1 | **Multicultural Council of Tasmania Funding**

Activity	2013-14	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Peak Body Funding	\$90,000	\$157,255	\$162,759	\$167,642
Indexation	-	\$5,504	\$4,883	\$5,029
ERO	\$4,419	-	-	-
Uplift to support delivery of the Multicultural Action Plan	-	\$17,745	\$17,745	-
Harmony Week Funding	\$30,000	\$30,000 ¹	\$30,000	-
Cultural Safety Project			\$130,400 ²	-
Diverse Enterprise Program			\$120,000 ³	-
Total	\$124,419	\$210,504	\$465,787	\$172,671

¹ Provided through \$500,000 social cohesion funding commitment and is also listed in Tables 2 and 4.

² Provided to MCOT to deliver action 7 in the Multicultural Action Plan – Design and deliver resources to promote cultural safety. Also listed in Table 4.

³ Provided to MCOT by the Department of State Growth from the 2024-25 Election Commitment to support Multicultural Small Businesses. Also listed in Table 4.

Table 2	Social Cohesion Funding				
Initiative	2013-14	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Social Cohesion Small Grants Program	-	-	-	\$200,000	-
Delivery of Multicultural Action Plan	-	-	-	-	\$200,000
MRC Tas Support for Victims of Racism	-	-	\$70,000	-	-
Harmony Week funding – MCOT	-	-	-	\$30,000 ¹	-
Total	-	-	\$70,000	\$230,000	\$200,000

¹ Provided to MCOT for Harmony Week 2025 and is also listed in Tables 1 and 4.

Table 3	Multicultural Festivals Funding					
Initiative	2013-14	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Estia Street Festival – Greek Orthodox Church	\$10,000 ¹	\$13,000 ³	\$13,000 ³	\$13,000 ³	-	-
Estia Street Festival – CPAF uplift	-	-	\$2,000 ⁴	\$2,000 ⁴	\$15,000 ⁴	\$15,000 ⁴
Festa Italia – Italian Community of Tasmania	\$5,000 ¹	\$12,500 ³	\$12,500 ³	\$12,500 ³	\$12,500 ³	-
Festa Italia – CPAF uplift	-	-	\$2,500 ⁴	\$2,500 ⁴	\$2,500 ⁴	\$15,000 ⁴
Chinese Lunar New Year – Chinese Community Association of Tasmania	\$3,000 ¹	\$10,000 ⁵	\$5,000 ³	\$5,000 ³	\$5,000 ³	-
Chinese Lunar New Year – CPAF uplift	-	-	\$10,000 ⁴	\$10,000 ⁴	\$10,000 ⁴	\$15,000 ⁴
Diwali – Deepavali Tasmania	-	\$15,000 ⁶	\$35,000 ⁷	\$35,000 ⁷	\$5,000 ³	-
Diwali – CPAF uplift	-	-	-	-	\$10,000	\$15,000 ⁴
Multicultural Festivals Small Grants Program	-	\$40,000 ^{3,8}	\$40,000 ³	-	-	-
Total	\$18,000	\$90,500	\$120,000	\$80,000	\$60,000	\$60,000

¹ Allocated from the Premier's Discretionary Fund.

² Allocated from the Community Participation and Appeals Fund (CPAF).

³ Allocated through the 2024-25 State Budget.

⁴ Festival funding uplift provided through CPAF in the 2025-26 State Budget. Funding of \$15,000 per year will be provided to Estia, Festa Italia and Chinese Lunar New Year Festivals from 2025-26 to 2028-29.

⁵ Consists of \$5,000 from CPAF and \$5,000 from the 2024-25 State Budget.

⁶ Consists of \$5,000 from CPAF, \$5,000 from the 2024-25 State Budget and \$5,000 Social Cohesion funding.

⁷ Consists of \$30,000 allocated through the 2025-26 State Budget and \$5,000 allocated through the 2024-25 State Budget.

⁸ Deepavali Tasmania have also been awarded \$5,000 from the 2024-26 Multicultural Small Grants Program for the 2025-26 festival.

Table 4	Multicultural Action Plan - Programs and Initiatives			
Initiative	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Multicultural Action Plan				
Action Plan Implementation	-	-	-	\$190,000 ⁷
Ministerial Advisory Group administration	-	-	-	\$10,000 ^{7,8}
Language Services				
NAATI membership	\$13,303	\$15,560	\$17,200	\$15,020
Interpreter Scholarship Program	\$20,000 ¹	-	-	-
Migrant Services				
Homestay – MRC Tas Migrant Accommodation Program	-	\$100,000	-	-
CatholicCare Multicultural Employment Services (formerly Safe Haven Hub)	\$300,000	\$325,000	\$300,000 ²	\$300,000 ²
MRC Tas – My Transitions Program	\$20,000	-	-	-
Emergency relief and assistance – temporary visa holders	\$250,000	-	-	-
Multicultural Programs and other grants				
MCOT and Glenorchy Council - Multicultural Hub	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$75,000 ²	\$75,000 ²
Welcome Cultural Services Mersey-Leven partnership	-	-	\$50,000 ²	\$50,000 ²
Culturally safe gambling harm education	\$109,130 ³	-	\$150,000	-
Multicultural Small Business Grants	-	-	\$200,000 ^{2, 9}	\$200,000 ²
Harmony Week	\$30,000	\$30,000 ⁵	\$30,000 ⁵	\$30,000
MCOT - Cultural Safety ⁴	-	-	-	\$130,400
Social Cohesion ⁵	-	\$70,000 ⁵	\$200,000 ⁵	\$200,000 ⁵
Multicultural Festivals ⁶	\$31,500	\$31,500	\$90,500	\$120,000
Total	\$833,933	\$632,060	\$1,112,700	\$1,320,420
Total Action Plan investment 2024-25 to 2025-26	-	-	\$1,433,120	

¹ NAATI contributed \$10,000 to this program, increasing the total investment to \$30,000 per annum.

² 2024-25 State Budget commitment.

³ Provided to WCS through the Gambling Support Program in 2022-23. In 2024-25 funding is allocated through the Gambling Support Program to deliver culturally safe gambling harm education.

⁴ Provided to MCOT to deliver action 7 in the Multicultural Action Plan. Also listed in Table 1.

⁵ See Table 2 for a breakdown of this funding.

⁶ See Table 3 for a breakdown of funding.

⁷ 2025-26 State Budget commitment.

⁸ \$10,000 is being provided for one-year to establish a Ministerial Multicultural Advisory Group to oversee the implementation of the action plan.

⁹ \$80,000 allocated to the Multicultural Small Businesses Grants Program in 2024-25. \$120,000 allocated to MCOT for the Diverse Enterprise Program. Also listed in Table 1.

	Name	Position
Prepared by	Harrison Virs	Project and Policy Officer, Community Services
Through	Lindsey Fidler	Senior Policy Analyst, Community Services
Cleared by	Kristy Broomhall	A/Director, Community Services
	Noelene Kelly	Deputy Secretary, Community and Government Services

	Name	Contact number
DPAC contact for more information:	Corrina Smith	Out of scope, s.36

Minister for Community and Multicultural Affairs

Output Group – Community and Government Services
Output – 3.3 – Community Services

Neighbourhood Houses

Current as at: **11-November-2025**

Talking Points

- Our Government recognises that Neighbourhood Houses are key pillars of healthy, supportive and inclusive communities, especially as the cost of living rises.
- We also recognise the role which the peak body, Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania, plays in advocating for and supporting Houses across Tasmania.
- Since 2021, the Tasmanian Government has provided the Neighbourhood House network with funding support of over \$40 million, including annual base funding, indexation, uplifts, capital improvement funding, Community Connector funding and peak body funding.
- Through the 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future, our Government has further supported Neighbourhood Houses by:
 - Boosting funding to the 34 Neighbourhood Houses by \$50,000 a year for three years.
 - Supporting the continuation and expansion of the Community Connector Program.
 - Providing \$6 million in new capital funding over three years, including investigating needs for East Devonport Neighbourhood House.

- Providing \$150,000 for the Hood in the Hub Community Garden initiative at the Warrane Mornington Neighbourhood Centre.
- Providing Phoenix Neighbourhood House with additional funding of \$74,000 per annum for four years.
- Providing \$16,000 to Jordan River Service for upgrades to the Waterbridge Food Co-op kitchen.

Background

Neighbourhood Houses

- The Tasmanian Government funds 32 organisations to deliver 34 Neighbourhood Houses located in areas of social and economic disadvantage across the State.
 - Jordan River Service operates the Bridgewater and Gagebrook Houses.
 - Northern Suburbs Community Centre operates the Mowbray and Newnham Houses.
- The Australian Government Department of Defence funds another Neighbourhood House at Dowsing Point.
- Houses provide a place-based approach to community capacity building through consultation, collaboration and the delivery of specialised programs and services.
- Houses work to support individuals in the community to reach their potential, foster strong and supportive families, encourage safe, inclusive and resilient communities, and improve general health and wellbeing.
- Funding provided to Houses involves a mixture of recurrent core funding and fixed term funding for programs such as the Community Connector Program (CCP).
- Houses may also receive funding from other sources, including:
 - The Neighbourhood Houses Capital Improvement Program, which provides funds to assist in ensuring houses are fit for their designed purpose.
 - Other grant programs such as the Tasmanian Food Relief Grant Program or Emergency Relief Grants.
 - Philanthropic support and community partnerships.
- It has been identified that a number of houses are experiencing concerns in relation to governance across the network. DPAC is working collaboratively with NHT to address these concerns on a House-by-House basis.

Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania

- NHT is the peak body representing the majority of Houses across Tasmania.
- NHT's purpose outlines that it is not to be the decision-making body for Houses, but to represent, support, and enable Houses in Tasmania to support local communities through a community led approach.

- In 2021-2022, NHT received funding for the delivery of a governance program to increase governance skills and knowledge in Neighbourhood Houses.
 - NHT received \$100,000 per year for four years (2021-2022 to 2024-2025) for this activity.
 - The Revised Estimates Report 2022-2023 (including December Quarterly Report) allocated additional funding of \$100,000 for this project in 2025-2026 only.
- In 2022, subsequent to this funding commitment, the former Department of Communities Tasmania initiated an Independent Review of Governance within NHT following long-standing concerns relating to the operation of the peak body.
- Following the governance review, it was agreed that funding provided in 2021-2022 to increase skills and knowledge in Houses could also be utilised by NHT to address outcomes of the review.
- As a result of the 2022 independent governance review, Houses are no longer required to be NHT members under Grant Deeds administered by DPAC.
- This has led to:
 - Some Houses electing not to become members of NHT or opting out of membership after a period of time.
 - An increasing number of Houses not being engaged through NHT, and as a result, falling outside of NHT's governance frameworks.
 - A significant increase in grant administration and stakeholder management support required of DPAC across the Neighbourhood House Network.
- DPAC understands that, of the 32 organisations funded by the Tasmanian Government, 29 are members of NHT.
 - Bucaan Community House, Ulverstone Neighbourhood House and Northern Suburbs Community Centre (Mowbray and Newnham) are not current members of NHT.
- Given the increasing number of Houses declining membership of NHT, future consideration will be required as to how this may impact the allocation of Tasmanian Government funding across the Network.
- DPAC is considering this issue in the context of work being undertaken to review the principles and processes for establishing new Neighbourhood Houses.

Tasmanian Government Funding

- Houses are funded through three categories, as detailed below:

Category	Catchment	Number of Houses	Base funding 2025-2026 (including 3% indexation)
A	Metropolitan	19	\$285,760
B	Non-metropolitan	14	\$261,844
C	Remote	1	\$177,275

- As well as recurrent funding, the Tasmanian Government has committed the following additional support to Houses:
 - \$1.7 million per year for three years (2024-2025 to 2026-2027) to uplift funding by \$50,000 per house, with a total investment of \$5.1 million.
 - Continued and additional support for the Community Connector Program, including:
 - base funding of \$1.298 million per year for 2024-2025 to 2027-2028
 - base uplift funding of \$324,000 per year for 2024-2025 to 2028-2029 (funded in 2024-2025 through the Community Support Fund)
 - expansion funding of \$236,000 in 2025-2026, \$472,000 in 2026-2027 and \$708,000 in 2027-2028.
 - \$6 million over three years (2024-2025, 2025-2026 and 2026-2027) for the Neighbourhood House Capital Improvement Program (it is noted that the 2024-2025 allocation was re-profiled to 2027-2028, due to the finalisation of the previous CIP).
 - Indexation of 3.5 per cent for 2024-2025 and 3 per cent for 2025-2026 to 2027-2028.
 - \$74,000 per annum for 2024-2025 to 2027-2028 for Phoenix Community House
 - \$150,000 for the 'Hood in the Hub' garden development project for Warrane Mornington Neighbourhood Centre.
 - \$16,000 for Waterbridge Community Pantry and Café kitchen upgrades at Jordan River Service.
- NHT received funding of \$776,640 in 2024-2025, comprising recurrent peak body funding of \$421,640, governance skills program funding of \$100,000 and \$255,000 to support emergency food relief following the severe weather event in August-September 2024.
- There are several organisations or local government areas that are seeking recognition as a Network House. These requests would require ongoing funding to be identified before being considered.
- In a letter provided to HATCH during the 2025 State Election, the Premier supported the organisation's inclusion into the Network from 2026-2027.
 - The addition of a House at Ouse would require recurrent funding and associated indexation, as well as consideration of CCP and CIP funding.

Motion in House of Assembly

- On 10 September 2025, Independent Member for Franklin David O'Byrne MHA introduced a motion moving that the House of Assembly:
 - Note and acknowledge the help that Neighbourhood Houses provide to Tasmanian communities
 - Note that Houses are providing an increasing volume of essential and preventative services without an equivalent increase in funding for staff positions

- That some Houses are at risk of running out of money
- Calls on the Government to:
 - Fund Neighbourhood Houses at a level that adequately reflects the services they now provide
 - Simplify grant deeds and offer long term funding certainty, ideally through five-year funding agreements
- Speakers from the Government, Opposition and cross bench spoke to support the motion and it was passed.
- Base funding for Neighbourhood Houses is indexed at 3 per cent per annum through 2027-2028 to offset rising wage and service delivery costs.
 - Core funding Grant Deeds include base funding, indexation and time-limited election commitment funding for \$50,000 per annum per House booster funding and annual uplift funding for Phoenix Community House.
- The Community Connector Program (CCP) provides Houses with additional resources to reduce time pressures on House Managers and address increasing numbers and complexity of issues being raised with Houses.
 - Time-limited CCP Grant Deeds include base CCP funding and increasing annual expansion funding.
- Longer-term funding agreements are included in a range of initiatives being considered as part of the broader community services funding review.

Concerns with reporting requirements

- Several houses have raised concerns with the conditions included in Grant Deeds that payment of 2025-2026 funding was linked to annual reporting for the previous year, due on 31 July 2025.
 - This is a standard inclusion in Grant Deeds across the community sector.
 - The condition was included in Grant Deeds signed by Houses for a three-year period, that commenced on 1 July 2024.
- Houses were not required to provide reporting to access 2024-2025 funding as this was paid on execution of the new Grant Deed.
- The requirement for organisations to provide reporting before payments are released reflects best practice grants administration in the use of public funds.
- DPAC is consulting with Houses to streamline reporting, address any concerns and assist where possible.

Neighbourhood Houses Election Campaign

- During the 2025 State Election, Neighbourhood Houses actively voiced concerns about the need for additional funding.
- The request, which was also outlined in an open letter in the state's major newspapers, requested a commitment to sustainable funding for the network including:
 - Five-year Grant Deeds with indexation.

- Five full-time staff, with a staged expansion to six full-time staff.
- Basic operating costs to keep the doors open, programs running and the lights on.
- This would require an increase in Tasmanian Government of approximately \$500,000 per House per year in 2025-2026, totalling an additional \$17,000,000.
- This would increase in 2026-2027 to \$620,000 per House totalling an additional \$21,080,000 per annum, plus required indexation.
- NHT as the Peak Body has been advised of the constrained fiscal environment within which the Tasmanian Government is operating.
- NHT subsequently advised DPAC in mid-August that it would be raising the need for a sustainable funding increase to support four FTE per house.
 - This increase of four FTE would see a combining of CCP into ongoing Core Funding which would have an indexation impact.
 - Such an increase would involve a significant increase in funding to the Network compared to what is currently provided.
 - If implemented from July 2026 this would cost an additional \$12.5 million during in 2026-2027 and an additional \$14.6 million in 2027-28, compounding due to indexation going forward.
 - It is noted this could be higher due to the changes currently being considered nationally under the SCHADS awards.
 - A blanket approach of this nature may see a disparity across the Network, with Houses who are situated within larger communities receiving the same FTE as Houses in smaller communities, as it does not consider community need.

Community Connector Program

- The Community Connector Program (CCP) supports Houses to deliver practical help to meet the increased volume and complexity of individual and community needs being addressed through Houses.
- Through the 2021-2022 State Budget, the Tasmanian Government committed funding of \$1.4 million per annum for the CCP Pilot from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2023.
 - An additional \$700,000 was provided to maintain the Pilot under the same Host House and Cluster model for six months from 1 January to 30 June 2024.
- In 2024-25, the Tasmanian Government committed to continue base funding for the CCP for a further four years (2024-25 to 2027-2028) with funding for program expansion from 2025-2026 to 2027-2028.
- CCP funding is based on a direct individual House funding model and includes four Houses that did not participate in the pilot.

2024-25 Funding Commitment

- Through the 2024 State Election, and subsequent 2024-25 State Budget, funding of \$1.298 million per annum for four years (2024-2025 to 2027-2028) was committed for the continuation of the CCP.
 - This funding allocation equated to a reduction of \$102,000 from the annual funding allocation of \$1.4 million during the CCP Pilot.
- The 2024-2025 State Budget also provided additional funding for the staged expansion of the CCP in out years, as follows:
 - 2025-2026: \$236,000;
 - 2026-2027: \$472,000; and
 - 2027-2028: \$708,000.
- However, with the delay in the 2024-25 State Budget, NHT and Houses raised concerns with DPAC regarding the retention of Community Connectors due to Pilot funding concluding on 30 June 2024.
 - In response, DPAC provided Houses with pro rata interim funding based on the Pilot funding model for the period 1 July to 30 November 2024 to retain Community Connectors until 2024-25 State Budget funding was released and the new CCP model was implemented.
- NHT and the Network expressed strong dissatisfaction with the funding allocated through the 2024-25 State Budget for the CCP and advocated for additional funding.
- Houses indicated that CCP funding was already inadequate to meet program delivery costs, and that Houses would find it difficult to retain staff and continue to deliver CCP services without additional funding.
- In 2024-2025, \$324,000 supplementary funding was provided through DPAC's 2024-2025 Community Support Fund (CSF) submission.
- The additional funding enabled full wage and oncosts for the CCP to be addressed, providing equity across all Houses and ensured that no Houses were significantly disadvantaged under the new model.
- Accordingly, total funding for the CCP in 2024-2025 was \$1.622 million.
- The delay in the 2025-2026 State Budget has caused similar concern with DPAC temporarily redirecting funding allocated to other programs under the CSF to cover the shortfall in funding.
- The 2025-2026 Budget commits to base uplift funding of \$324,000 per year for four years from 2025-2026 to ensure CCP base funding of \$1.622 million per annum.
- DPAC has issued Grant Deeds to all Houses, providing funding (under Supply) for the CCP for the period 1 July to 31 December 2025.
- As at 11 November 2025, Grant Deeds for 32 Houses have been executed and paid, and the remaining two Deeds are yet to be returned by the Houses (Risdon Vale and Deloraine).

- Following Royal Assent of the 2025-2026 Interim State Budget, DPAC will work with NHT and Houses to issue Deeds of Variations to cover the remaining period of the CCP funding for the period (1 January 2026 to 30 June 2028).

Capital Improvement Program

- The Tasmanian Government has supported House upgrades through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) since 2012-13.
- Through the 2030 Strong Plan, the Tasmanian Government committed to a new CIP round, providing \$6 million over three years (2024-2025 to 2026-2027).
- To better fit the expenditure timing, DPAC requested that Treasury reprofile the funding of \$2 million scheduled for 2024-2025 to 2027-2028.
- The CIP governance structure is now in place and the work and costings outlined in the functional assessments completed in the previous CIP round will be provided to Houses for review.

House rebuilds and relocations

- While identification and scoping of potential works is covered in the CIP, full House rebuild and relocation sits outside the scope of the CIP.
- Through the CIP process, four Houses were identified for a total rebuild or relocation:
 - East Devonport Neighbourhood House (EDNH).
 - Bucaan Neighbourhood House.
 - Dunalley-Tasman Neighbourhood House – Dunalley and Nubeena sites.
- East Devonport Neighbourhood House remains the priority of the four identified Houses due to unresolvable safety concerns limiting access to the lower ground floor.
- Currently, there is no identified funding source for the four new builds or relocations.
- DPAC continues to explore options for these rebuilds and relocations, in close collaboration with the Houses, Homes Tasmania and local councils. This will likely include engagement of a third-party provider to undertake modelling of the four Houses.

Establishment of Neighbourhood Houses

- DPAC is aware of interest from several community-based organisations and local government areas relating to the establishment of new Houses at locations including:
 - Ouse (Central Highlands LGA) – Health Action Team Central Highlands (HATCH).
 - Glamorgan-Spring Bay LGA.
 - Longford (Northern Midlands LGA).
 - Hobart CBD (with a focus on homelessness).
- In a letter to the Health Action Team Central Highlands (HATCH) during the 2025 State Election, the Premier, Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP supported the organisation's inclusion into the Neighbourhood House network and committed to:
 - Work with HATCH in the first 100 days following the election on the model that best supports the community.

- Look at transitional funding until the 2026-2027 Budget if required.
- Recognise HATCH with full Neighbourhood House status from the 2026-2027 Budget.
- If required, transitional 2025-2026 funding will likely be sourced through the Department of Health.
- The addition of a Neighbourhood House at Ouse will require significant funding consideration in terms of recurrent funding level, associated indexation, distribution of CCP funding and inclusion in the CIP.
 - It is unclear how a future announcement of Ouse as a new Neighbourhood House will be received by other organisations seeking to join the network or current Houses seeking increased funding for staffing, capital investment and facility relocations or rebuilds.
- Glenhaven Family Care currently deliver Kentish House which provides services within the Kentish Council municipality similar to those provided at Houses.
 - The 2023-2024 State Budget committed funding of \$145,000 per year for three years (2023-2024 to 2025-2026) to Glenhaven Family Care for the continuation of this service.
 - In a letter provided to Glenhaven Family Care during the 2025 State Election, the Premier of Tasmania, Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP committed to the consideration of Kentish House as part of the Neighbourhood House Network prior to the conclusion of their current funding agreement on 30 June 2026.
 - The letter committed to addressing a funding shortfall by providing an additional \$85,000 to Kentish House in 2025-2026.
 - The 2025-2026 additional funding is reflected in the 2025-2026 State Budget.
- DPAC is reviewing the Neighbourhood House establishment process and developing guidelines to ensure a consistent approach, however the constrained fiscal environment within which the Tasmanian Government is operating is a prohibiting factor for the consideration of any new Neighbourhood Houses.
- Other key considerations are community need, capacity (infrastructure, governance, resources), and location.

	Name	Position
Prepared by	Deb Fast	Senior Program Officer, Community Services
Through	Ben Fowler	Team Leader, Community Services
Cleared by	Corrina Smith	Director, Community Services
	Noelene Kelly	Deputy Secretary Community and Government Services

DPAC contact for more information: Corrina Smith

Out of scope, 3.3%

Budget Information

Table 1

Neighbourhood House Program

<i>Initiative</i>	<i>July 2013- June 2014</i>	<i>July 2022- June 2023</i>	<i>July 2023- June 2024</i>	<i>July 2024- June 2025</i>	<i>July 2025- June 2026</i>	<i>July 2026- June 2027</i>	<i>July 2027- June 2028</i>
House Core Funding and indexation (34 Houses)	\$4,486,696	\$8,339,829	\$8,527,475	\$8,698,024	\$9,002,455*	\$9,272,529	\$9,550,704
Indexation - Houses	-	\$187,646	\$170,560	\$304,431	\$270,074*	\$278,176	\$286,521
Cost of Living Uplift Payment - Houses	-	\$62,549	-	-	-	-	-
Community Sector Uplift - Houses	-	-	\$170,549	-	-	-	-
Cost of Living Booster: NHT and Houses: \$50,000 per House (2022-23 State Budget)	-	\$1,750,000	-	-	-	-	-
NHT and House Uplift: \$50,000 per organisation (2023-24 State Budget)	-	-	\$1,750,000	-	-	-	-
Funding booster: \$50,000 per House (2024 Election commitment)	-	-	-	\$1,700,000	\$1,700,000*	\$1,700,000	-
Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania – Core funding	\$210,897	\$307,032	\$399,394	\$407,382	\$421,640*	\$434,289	\$447,318
Indexation - NHT	-	\$6,908	\$7,988	\$14,258	\$12,649*	\$13,029	\$13,420
Cost of Living Uplift Payment - NHT	-	\$2,303	-	-	-	-	-

Table 1 Neighbourhood House Program

Initiative	July 2013- June 2014	July 2022- June 2023	July 2023- June 2024	July 2024- June 2025	July 2025- June 2026	July 2026- June 2027	July 2027- June 2028
Community Sector Uplift Payment - NHT	-	-	\$7,988	-	-	-	-
NHT – Eating with Friends Program (One off commitment: 2022-23)	-	\$32,815	-	-	-	-	-
NHT – Governance Project (One off commitment: 2022-23)	-	\$53,266	-	-	-	-	-
NHT Governance Project (2021 Election Commitment)	-	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000** (included in 2022-23 RER)	-	-
NHT – Severe Weather Event	-	-	-	\$255,000	-	-	-
Phoenix Community House Uplift (2022-23 State Budget)	-	\$74,000	-	-	-	-	-
Phoenix Community House Uplift (2023-24 State Budget)	-	-	\$74,000	-	-	-	-
Phoenix Community House Uplift 2024 Election Commitment	-	-	-	\$74,000	\$74,000*	\$74,000	\$74,000
Total	\$4,486,696	\$10,916,348	\$11,207,954	\$11,553,095	\$11,580,818	\$11,772,023	\$10,371,963

* 50 per cent funding in 2025-26 paid in line with *Supply Act (No. 1) 2025*.

** Funding not yet provided. DPAC to negotiate outcomes with NHT.

Table 2	Other Neighbourhood House Funding			
Commitment	July 2022-June 2023	July 2023-June 2024	July 2024-June 2025	July 2025-June 2026
Warrane-Mornington Community Centre Hood in the Hub Project (2024 Election Commitment)	-	-	\$150,000	-
Jordan River Service Waterbridge Community Pantry Upgrade (2024 Election Commitment)	-	-	\$16,000	-
Community Garden Grant Program (Food Relief to Resilience Action Plan)	\$91,006	-	-	-

**\$2 million from 2024-25 has been re-profiled for use in 2027-2028 to allow previous rounds of CIP to be completed*

Table 3	Capital Improvement Program								
Commitment	July 2028- June 2019	July 2019- June 2020	July2020- June 2021	July 2021- June 2022	July2022- June 2023	July 2023- June 2024	July 2024- June 2025	July 2025- June 2026	July 2026- June 2027
2018-19 State Budget commitment	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	-	-	-	-	-
2021-22 State Budget commitment	-	-	-	-	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	-	-	-
2024-25 State Budget commitment	-	-	-	-	-		\$2,000,000*	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000

Table 4 | **Community Connector Program**

Commitment	July 2021- June 2022	July 2022- June 2023	July 2023- June 2024	July 2024- June 2025	July 2025- June 2026	July 2026- June 2027	July 2027- June 2028	July 2028- June 2029
Family and Community Support Workers (Original name for CCP) (2021 Election Commitment)	\$1,400,000 (Calendar year 2022)	\$1,400,000 (Calendar year 2023)	-	-	-	-	-	-
CCP Pilot Extension (to address delay in 2024-25 State Budget) (Community Support Fund)	-	-	\$700,000 (Jan to June 2023)	-	-	-	-	-
CCP Base Funding (2024-25 State Budget)	-	-	-	\$1,298,000	\$1,298,000*	\$1,298,000	\$1,298,000	-
CCP Expansion (2024-25 State Budget)	-	-	-	-	\$236,000*	\$472,000	\$708,000	-
CCP Base Funding Uplift (2025-26 State Budget)	-	-	-	\$324,000*	\$324,000**	\$324,000	\$324,000	\$324,000
TOTAL	\$1,400,000	\$1,400,000	\$700,000	\$1,622,000	\$1,858,000	\$1,770,000	\$2,330,000	-

*Funded through Community Support Fund for 2024-2025.

** 50 per cent funding in 2025-26 paid in line with *Supply Act (No. 1) 2025*.

Parliamentary Briefing 2025

CMA-15

Minister for Community and Multicultural Affairs

Output Group – Community and Government Services

Output – 3.3 – Community Services

Tasmanian Community Fund

Current as at: **14-October-2025**

Talking Points

- The Tasmanian Community Fund (TCF) Board is governed by the Tasmanian Community Fund Act 2005 (the Act).
- Our Government is committed to the transparent distribution of public funds to meet community expectations.
- The Tasmanian community expect a high degree of diligence, transparency and accountability in the use of public funds.
- From 1 January 2025, the TCF Board returned to its full capacity of six members, following the recruitment of a new Chairperson and two new Board members.
- The terms of two current members of the TCF Board conclude on 31 December 2025.
- Recruitment for these positions is being supported by independent recruitment agency, Chapman Executive.
- Our *2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future* focuses on making our State the best place to live, work and raise a family.
- The TCF makes an important contribution to this vision by providing grants to community organisations to support positive social change and meet community needs.
- In 2024–2025, total funding of \$6.9 million was awarded to 35 projects.

- Since it was established in 1999, the TCF has allocated over \$144 million to more than 3,260 projects.

Background

- The TCF was established in 1999 from the sale of the Trust Bank to provide grants to community organisations.
- The TCF's operations are governed by the Tasmanian Community Fund Act 2005 (the Act).
- The TCF receives a reserved-by-law appropriation, which is indexed to the March quarter Consumer Price Index for Hobart.
- The Act specifies that grants may be made by the Board for charitable purposes; sporting or recreational purposes; cultural and arts purposes; educational purposes, religious purposes and any other community purpose approved by the Minister on the recommendation of the Board.
- The Board must perform its functions and exercise its powers honestly and in the best interests of the Tasmanian community.
- The Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) has administrative responsibility for the Act.

Grant to Australians for Indigenous Constitutional Recognition

- In 2023, the TCF provided grant funding of \$557,800 to Australians for Indigenous Constitutional Recognition Ltd to implement a campaign to build an alliance of supportive voices in Tasmania, mobilising volunteers and having face-to-face conversations with Tasmanians about the Voice referendum.
- In considering the provision of funding, the TCF Board advised that the opportunity to support an organisation that would be providing Aboriginal people with the chance to have a say in issues that affect them and in the longer-term would have led to better outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- The TCF Board further considered that the Voice, over time, would have provided the opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to provide input to support better educational outcomes for their community.
- The Board's view was that the funding of Australians for Indigenous Constitutional Recognition fell directly within its Strategic Plan and within section 7, subsection (2) of the Act.

Tasmanian Audit Office Review

- The Tasmanian Audit Office completed an independent audit of the provision of a grant to the Australians for Indigenous Constitutional Recognition (AICR).
- The objective of the audit was to express a limited assurance opinion on the TCF's processes and considerations leading to the decision to publicly support a yes vote in the Voice Referendum, and its processes for assessing the AICR grant.

- In addition, the audit examined the TCF's governance in relation to its decision to support a yes vote, and also examined the grants assessment processes with reference to relevant legislation and its own policies and procedures.
- The aim of the audit was to provide transparency on the processes the TCF followed, and to enhance public trust in the TCF by strengthening its practices.
- The audit identified significant recordkeeping shortcomings relating to the TCF's operations, and that the recommendation for providing grant funding to AICR, as measured against the evaluation criteria, did not follow an effective process, as the:
 - Processes and considerations leading up to the decision to support a yes vote were inadequate; and
 - Assessment of the AICR grant was not conducted in accordance with an established and documented grants management framework.
- The Auditor-General's Report was tabled in Parliament on 8 August 2024, recommending that the TCF Board:
 - Conduct and document due diligence, including recording the legislative basis, key considerations, conflicts of interest, assessment of risks, and any advice relied upon in reaching its decisions.
 - Adopt best practice grants management to objectively assess the relative merit of grants with clear reasons why applications are approved or denied.
 - Provide regular guidance, training, and clear directions to Tasmanian State Service (TSS) staff to ensure they comply with TSS principles of remaining impartial and apolitical while following the Board's directions.
 - Adopt best practice records management in accordance with the Archives Act 1983 and associated guidance.
- In response to the review, DPAC committed to providing the staff that support the TCF with regular guidance, training and clear directions to ensure they can comply with the TSS principles of remaining impartial and apolitical, while following the Board's directions.
- This commitment is documented in the Service Level Agreement (SLA) between the TCF Board and DPAC.
 - Initial training on the TSS principles and Code of Conduct was provided to the TCF staff in December 2025.
- In April 2025, the TCF Board wrote to the Minister for Community Services, indicating that three of the four audit report recommendations were functionally complete, and that the remaining recommendation was being progressed.

Review of the *Tasmanian Community Fund Act 2005*

- In August 2024, the Tasmanian Government committed to a review of the *Tasmanian Community Fund Act 2005*.
- The review was progressed by DPAC, and the Tasmanian Community Fund Amendment Bill 2024 (the Amendment Bill) was tabled in Parliament in December 2024.

- The Amendment Bill aimed to embed the Tasmanian Government's response to important policy recommendations made within the Auditor-General's Report and address all four key recommendations made to the TCF Board.
- The Bill was initially debated in Parliament on 13 March 2025.
- Revised amendments were moved in the House of Assembly in May 2025 addressing concerns raised by Parliamentarians in March.
- The Amendment Bill was passed by the House of Assembly on 6 May 2025, however as a result of the 2025 State Election, the Bill lapsed at prorogation on 11 June 2025.
- The Amendment Bill was reintroduced to Parliament on 25 September 2025.

TCF Board

- The Act stipulates that:
 - The TCF Board is to consist of not more than six persons appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Minister; and
 - One of the persons appointed to the Board is to be appointed by the Governor, on recommendation of the Minister, as Chairperson.
- As part of the 2014-2015 State Budget, the Tasmanian Government announced it was considering future options of the TCF and the Board.
- Following a period of consultation, the Government decided that the TCF Board would remain but would be reduced by one member to five members.
- This took effect from 1 January 2016, following the expiration of tenure of two Board members, however there was no formal amendment to the Act.
- From 1 January 2025, the TCF Board returned to its full capacity of six members, following the recruitment of a new Chairperson and two new Board members.
- Under the Act, Board members may be paid remuneration, expenses and allowances.
- Currently, Board members are paid remuneration of \$21,472 and the Chairperson \$35,793. Reasonable out-of-pocket expenses are also provided to Board members.

TCF Board Recruitment

- As the Act is silent in relation to the administrative aspects of Board Member Recruitment and tenure, members have historically been appointed in line with the TCF's Board Appointment Policy (the Policy), which stipulates that:
 - The Chair can be reappointed if they have served less than 9 years.
 - A Board member can be reappointed if they have served less than 6 years.
- Under the Policy, the TCF is required to call for Expressions of Interest, which are to be advertised in the relevant regional newspaper, depending on the desired location of the new Board member.
- The Policy also stipulates that:
 - A Board Member Selection Advisory Panel (the Panel) will be established by the Board as necessary to identify potential candidates for upcoming vacancies and make recommendations to the Board and Minister.

- Where a Board Member who has served one term, or less than six years, is considered by the Board to be suitable for reappointment, a Panel may not be required unless the Board wishes to consider other candidates or the Minister specifically requests that a panel process be undertaken.
- The Panel is to comprise of the Chairperson of the TCF, at least one other TCF Board member, the Secretary or Deputy Secretary of the Department with administrative responsibility for the Act, and an independent member as selected by the Board.
- In August 2024, the recruitment for TCF Board vacancies from 1 January 2025, including the proposed appointment of a new Chairperson, was paused to ensure that the recruitment process was:
 - Open and transparent; and
 - That an appropriate mix of skills and regional representation was considered for the Board.
- Recruitment of all vacancies was subsequently progressed by DPAC in late 2024. A recruitment agency, Orchard Talent, was engaged by DPAC to ensure a transparent and independent process was conducted.
- Following the recruitment process a new Chairperson and two Board members were selected and subsequently appointed by the Governor upon recommendation of the then Minister for Community Services.
- The new appointments, for the period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2028 were:
 - Kym Goodes (Chairperson).
 - Michael Buckby.
 - Matthew Greskie.
- The current board composition is as follows:

Board member	Region	First appointed	Number of terms	Expiration of current appointment
Kym Goodes (<i>Chairperson</i>)	North	1 January 2025	1	31 December 2028
Micheal Buckby	North West	1 January 2025	1	31 December 2028
Matthew Greskie	North West	1 January 2025	1	31 December 2028
Michelle Swallow	South	1 January 2020	2	31 December 2025
Ric De Santi	South	1 January 2023	1	31 December 2025
Stephen Walley	North	1 January 2024	1	31 December 2026

- Recruitment for two Board vacancies commencing on 1 January 2026 commenced in September 2025.
 - Michelle Swallow is not eligible for reappointment to the Board, as she has completed two terms (six years).
 - Ric De Santi is eligible for reappoint to the Board as he has completed one term (three years). s.36

- An independent recruitment agency, Chapman Executive, has been appointed by the TCF to manage the process. Applications for the positions closed on 29 September 2025.
- Further advice will be provided to the Minister on this matter.

Funding - Tasmanian Community Fund

- The TCF appropriation was \$8.309 million in 2024-2025 and forecast as \$8.674 million in 2025-2026.
 - The TCF's full year expenditure for 2024-2025 was \$5.809 million.
 - As at 30 June 2025, the TCF had a cash balance of \$21.99 million.
- Under the SLA between the TCF and DPAC, the appropriation included in the State Budget is to be provided to the TCF within two months of the State Budget receiving Royal Assent by the Governor.
- As the Tasmanian Government is currently operating under the Supply Bill which passed Tasmanian Parliament on 13 June 2025, the 2025-2026 appropriation is not currently available for the TCF.
- The TCF has a sufficient cash balance to maintain operations at the 2024-2025 level until such time that the 2025-2026 appropriation is available.

TCF Strategic Plan 2022-2030 and Funding Strategy

- The TCF adopted a strategic plan for the period 2022 to 2030, noting that the Board would be responsible for the development and implementation of initiatives to meet the goals of the plan.
- The strategic plan outlines a vision for the TCF of driving systemic change to achieve positive outcomes for all Tasmanians; and enabling communities to develop, deliver and lead place-based responses to needs.
- The TCF Board also finalised a funding strategy for the period 2024-2030, which focuses on removing barriers to learning for children and young people between the ages of 8 and 19.
- The funding strategy prioritises building the capacity of community to create and lead its own solutions to complex local issues.
- For strategic initiative projects, the TCF Board allows up to twelve months for applicants to submit a final project plan to the Board for consideration. This means that successful project announcements are made throughout the year.

2025 Stakeholder Engagement

- In July 2025, the Board of the TCF committed to undertaking stakeholder engagement aimed at generating community feedback on the strategic direction and operations of the TCF.
- To facilitate this, the TCF engaged Jackie Duke Insights (JDI), an independent research agency.

- The TCF Board will utilise the outcomes of the consultation to review its strategic priorities and funding approach.
- The TCF board has indicated to DPAC that the results of the consultation will be considered by the Board later in 2025.
- DPAC will work with the TCF Board to inform the Minister for Community and Multicultural Affairs of the outcomes of this process.

	Name	Position
Prepared by	Kristy Broomhall	A/Director, Community Services
Cleared by	Noelene Kelly	Deputy Secretary, Community and Government Services

	Name	Contact number
DPAC contact for more information:	Corrina Smith	Out of scope, s.36

Minister for Community and Multicultural Affairs

Output Group – Community and Government Services**Output – 3.3 – Community Services**

Volunteers in Tasmania

Current as at: **11-November-2025**

Talking Points

- Volunteering is vital for the Tasmanian community, environment and economy.
- Our Government strongly supports the volunteer industry and acknowledges and values the contribution volunteers make right across our State.
- Under our 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future, we committed an uplift in funding to Volunteering Tasmania, providing \$520,000 a year for two years (2024-2025 and 2025-2026).
- This funding includes the delivery of the annual Volunteering Awards and the continuation of the Future of Volunteering project (formally the Safeguarding Volunteers project).

Volunteering Strategy

- Our Government recognises that a strategic approach is required to address the changing conditions faced by the volunteering industry and the needs of volunteers.
- In 2024-2025, we invested \$150,000 to develop Tasmania's first Volunteering Strategy and Action Plan in collaboration with Volunteering Tasmania.
- I was pleased to launch Valuing our Volunteers: Tasmania's Volunteering Strategy 2025-2030 on 14 November 2025.

- Development of the Strategy and Action Plan has been informed by extensive consultation undertaken between February and April 2025, including regional forums, sector expert interviews, focus group discussions and a public online survey.
- Those participating in the consultation included volunteers, Volunteering Involving Organisations, Tasmanian Government agencies, peak bodies, local government, not for profits and businesses.

2025-2026 Interim State Budget

- The 2025-2026 Interim State Budget commits funding of \$300,000 per year in 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 to deliver a pilot program that will remove the cost of new or renewed Registration to Work with Vulnerable People fees for volunteers, and to deliver initial actions from in the Volunteering Strategy and Action Plan.

Registration to Work with Vulnerable People - Pilot

- Our Government is backing volunteers by removing a financial barrier.
- Tasmanian volunteers are critical to communities right across the state, in diverse areas from the sport and the arts, through to health and community services, emergency management, education and conservation.
- As part of the 2025-2026 Interim State Budget, we are making the Registration to Work with Vulnerable People card free for volunteers for the next two years.
- Rollout of the pilot initiative is expected to occur by early next year.

Background

Tasmanian Government Funding of Volunteering Tasmania

- Through the 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future, the Tasmanian Government committed funding of \$520,000 a year to Volunteering Tasmania for two years (2024-2025 and 2025-2026), including the delivery of the annual Volunteering Awards and the Future of Volunteering project.
- Volunteering Tasmania has also received:
 - \$11,563 in 2024-2025 to assist with the development of Tasmania's first Volunteering Strategy.
 - \$60,000 in 2023-24 to deliver the State of Volunteering Report.
 - \$60,000 for two years (2023-2024 and 2024-2025) for the Emergency Volunteers and Community Response to Extreme Weather (EVCREW) project.
- Volunteering Tasmania is included as a peak body under stage one of the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) led project to transition community service organisations to longer term funding agreements.
- Through the 2025-2026 Interim State Budget, the Tasmanian Government has committed funding of \$300,000 per year in 2025-26 to:
 - Deliver a pilot program that will remove the cost of new or renewed Registration to Work with Vulnerable People (RWVP) registration fees for volunteers; and
 - Deliver initial actions in the Volunteering Strategy and Action Plan.
- The Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) is working with the Department of Justice (DoJ) to determine the funding allocation required for the RWVP with the remaining funding to support the implementation of the Action Plan.

State of Volunteering Report

- The 2023 State of Volunteering Report, commissioned by Volunteering Tasmania and funded by the Tasmanian Government, estimated the value of volunteering to Tasmania as \$12.1 billion in the previous 12 months.
- This was an increase from \$4 billion in 2019.
- The Report found that:
 - For every \$1 invested in volunteering, \$4.80 is returned in benefits to the community;
 - 332,100 Tasmanians (69.8 per cent) volunteered during 2023;
 - Tasmanian volunteers gave 89.4 million hours of their time in 2023 with an average of 22.4 hours volunteered each month; and

- 54.2 per cent of community members attribute the wellbeing of their community to volunteers.
- The top three issues facing the volunteer sector are:
 - The growing demand for volunteer training and professional development;
 - The increasing cost of volunteering; and
 - The growing need of volunteers for supportive workplaces.

Volunteering Tasmania Organisational Updates

- Following a period of instability during 2023-2024, Mel Blake was appointed as CEO of Volunteering Tasmania in July 2024, Sarah Wilcox commenced as Chair of the Board and Chris Brookwell remained as Treasurer.
- The CEO has led the organisation through a consolidation phase since her appointment and continues to implement positive changes towards sustainability with the support of the Board, including:
 - A successful restructure to focus on core operations and financial stability;
 - A new Corporate Volunteering Program funded by corporates;
 - Sublease of the organisation's premises to generate additional income; and
 - Fee for services, such as a Rural Business Tasmania project during 2024-2025.
- DPAC maintains a close working relationship with the CEO to monitor the organisation's financial situation and ensure that outcomes, governance standards and financial obligations stipulated in current peak body and project funding agreements are delivered on time and within budget.

Budget Information

Table 1	Volunteering Tasmania – Peak Body Funding				
Funding line	2013-2014	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Peak Body Operations	\$260,000	\$152,117 ¹	\$155,540 ¹	\$298,349	\$311,551 [^]
Volunteer Awards	-	\$12,935 ¹	\$13,226 ¹	\$13,226	\$13,226 [^]
Safeguarding / Future of Volunteering Project	-	\$220,000	\$220,000	\$208,425	\$208,425 [^]
Equal Remuneration Order (ERO)	\$12,127	-	-	-	-
Cost of living booster	-	\$1,211	-	-	-
Indexation			\$3,114 ²	\$13,202	\$11,712 [^]
Total	\$272,127	\$385,052	\$388,766	\$533,202	\$544,914[^]

¹ Includes indexation of 2.25 per cent

² Indexation uplift from 2.25 per cent to 4 per cent

[^] Funding for 2025-2026 is to be paid in 50 per cent instalments as per the *Supply Act (No.1) 2025*

Table 2	Volunteering Tasmania – Project Funding				
Funding line	2013-2014	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Volunteering Strategy Development	-	-	-	\$11,563	-
EVCREW	-	\$110,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	-
State of Volunteering Report 2023	-	-	\$60,000	-	-
Youth Volunteer Army	-	\$130,300	\$132,262	-	-
Investing in our Volunteers	-	\$112,159	-	-	-
Total	-	\$352,459	\$252,262	\$71,563	-

Table 3	2025-2026 State Budget Funding			
Funding line	2013-2014	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027
Volunteering Strategy Implementation (including RWVP)	-	-	\$300,000	\$300,000
Total	-	-	\$300,000	\$300,000

Prepared by	Name Sarah Lindenmayer	Position Senior Program Officer
Through	Sarah Jacobs	Senior Policy Analyst
Cleared by	Corrina Smith	Director, Community Services
	Noelene Kelly	Deputy Secretary, Community and Government Services

	Name	Contact number
DPAC contact for more information:	Corrina Smith	Out of scope, §.38



**Tasmanian
Government**

DPAC Budget Estimates 2025-26

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

17 November 2025 – 20 November 2025

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

Output Group – Output Group 1 - Policy, Reform and Government Priorities
Output – 1.6 Aboriginal Affairs

Aboriginal Affairs Opening Statement

Current as at: **01-October-2025**

Talking Points

- Firstly, and most importantly, I acknowledge Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the traditional and original owners of the land we are on and pay my respects to Elders past and present.
- I acknowledge former Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, the Honourable Jacquie Petrusma, for her commitment and the respect that she gained from Aboriginal people as the former Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.
- It has been an honour for me to meet with many Tasmanian Aboriginal people over my career and since becoming the new Tasmanian Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.
- It is a responsibility I take very seriously.
- As many members may be aware, I was a supporter of the Voice to Parliament referendum, and I am passionate about Aboriginal self-determination.
- As a signatory to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, the Tasmanian government is committed to reforms to advance Aboriginal self-determination and Aboriginal community control.
- I acknowledge and am impressed by Aboriginal leaders in Tasmania who work hard to build the capacity and sustainability of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community sector to deliver services and programs to Aboriginal people.

- Aboriginal people are the experts on the needs of their people.
- I have met with the Closing the Gap Coalition of Peaks partner in Tasmania, and I look forward to working with our partner to meet our obligations and responsibilities as parties to the National Agreement.
- I know we have come a long way together but there is more to be done.
- I have started a process of personally engaging with Aboriginal organisations and people across the state to hear and listen to their voices, visions and priorities.
- The Closing the Gap framework gives us a significant opportunity to learn from Tasmanian Aboriginal people and the community-controlled organisation sector about how the greatest impact can be delivered for stronger outcomes for Tasmanian Aboriginal people.
- Across Government we have forums dedicated to elevating Aboriginal voices, where Aboriginal people participate in decision making forums with government including the:
 - Closing the Gap Partnership Forum
 - Aboriginal Heritage Council
 - Aboriginal Youth Justice Reference Group
 - Truwana / Cape Barren Island Steering Committee
 - Tasmanian Aboriginal Health Reference Group.
- There has been comprehensive engagement with Aboriginal people and organisations on:
 - *Tasmania's Plan for Closing the Gap 2025-2028*
 - Closing the Gap Annual reports
 - An Aboriginal Engagement Guide for Tasmanian Government agencies and organisations
 - *Improving Cultural Respect Across Tasmania's Health System* project

- the Tasmanian Aboriginal Youth Justice Strategy; and
- The role of an Aboriginal Commissioner for Children and Young People
- The Department of Premier and Cabinet, through Aboriginal Partnerships, brings a cultural lens to policy advice and engagement, ensuring that the Government's work is culturally sensitive and aligns with local priorities.
- This portfolio intersects with other very significant pieces of work including the
 - Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings
 - Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability.
- Reports by the respective Commissions contained multiple recommendations specific to Aboriginal people, and these, amongst other key actions are being addressed through *Tasmania's Plan for Closing the Gap 2025-2028*.
- Developing this plan has been an Aboriginal-led process, involving engagement with Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and people over the past two years.
- We share the priorities of Tasmanian Aboriginal people, and we know there is much work still to be done, particularly relating to the overrepresentation of:
 - young Aboriginal people in-and-out -of-home care
 - youth justice
 - adults in the criminal justice system.
- [TBC] This Budget commits funding to Aboriginal community-controlled organisations to participate in and contribute to outcomes against closing the gap targets.
- [TBC] It also provides funding to begin a process of truth-telling for Tasmania, if it is what Tasmanian Aboriginal people want.

- As the New Minister, I will further engage with Aboriginal people and organisations and will work at their pace as this significant pathway towards Truth-telling and healing must be right for Aboriginal people and the wider community.

Conclusion

- It will be a pleasure for me as I gain a higher visibility of the work in the Aboriginal community sector.
- We are committed to working in new ways with Aboriginal people and organisations, to transform Government and build the capacity of the Aboriginal community-controlled sector to advance self-determination and better outcomes for Tasmanian Aboriginal people.

Parliamentary Briefing 2025

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Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

Output Group 1 – Policy Reform and Government Priorities

Output – 1.6 Aboriginal Affairs

Overview – Aboriginal Affairs

Current as at: **02-October-2025**

Talking Points

- The Tasmanian Government is committed to implementing Outputs under the Government's Aboriginal Affairs policies and programs and administering funding agreements with Tasmanian Aboriginal community-controlled organisations.
- Key aspects include working to develop and implement Tasmania's requirements of the Closing the Gap National Agreement, and we will do this by working in genuine partnership with the Coalition of Peaks partner the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, Tasmanian Aboriginal organisations, the Australian Government, and other jurisdictions to deliver *Tasmania's Plan for Closing the Gap 2025-2028* under the National Agreement.

FTE Information

- Paid FTEs have decreased by 1.0 FTE, from 7.0 on 30 June 2024 to 6.0 on 30 June 2025.
- The reduction in staffing reflects an external secondment in place at the end of the reporting period.

Table 1 Paid FTE comparison – June 2023 to June 2025

Title	30 June 2023	30 June 2024	30 June 2025
Paid FTEs ^[1]	4.8 ^[2]	7.0 ^[2]	6.0

Budget Information

- Funding is provided to progress commitments to improve outcomes for Tasmanian Aboriginal people and ensure Tasmania is meeting its obligations under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. (Table 2)
- As a commitment under the National Agreement for Closing the Gap, all jurisdictions provide funding to their Coalition of Peaks (CoP) partner to participate in closing the gap programs and services to improve the lives of Aboriginal people.
- The Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC) is Tasmania's Coalition of Peaks partner and under the National Agreement we are parties to the Agreement.
- Funding of \$1 million over four years will provide support to the Coalition of Peaks partner to progress its Closing the Gap obligations to advance the economic and social participation for Tasmanian Aboriginal people, organisations and businesses and the Truth-telling process.
- Tasmanian Regional Communities Alliance (TRACA) will also be funded \$600,000 over four years, to support its operations as an Alliance and will be included in Closing the Gap actions.
- TRACA represents seven (7) Tasmanian Aboriginal community-controlled organisations, and this funding will support its facilitation to its affiliated organisations on priorities and community needs.
- Palawa Business Hub will be funded \$800,000 over four years to support and advance the economic and social participation of Tasmanian Aboriginal small businesses.
- Palawa Hub provides exposure and opportunities for supplying mainstream, government and Aboriginal specific business support services and advice, that directly aligns to the National

Agreement and *Tasmania's Plan for Closing the Gap 2025-2028*.

- The Truth-telling process acknowledges the healing and building of relationships between Aboriginal people, the broader Tasmanian community and Government. Any process will need to be Aboriginal led and include trauma informed supports, capacity to gather and store stories and information and engagement across the State. Funding will be made available in 2025-2026 to further this process.
- In line with our commitment to Truth-telling and healing, funding of \$200,000 over four years is provided to the Elders Council of Tasmania. This funding will give capacity to continue its operation in sustaining cultural strengthening, to guide young mob and enable focus on the strength and resilience of Elders as part of Truth-telling and healing.
- Reconciliation Tasmania (RecTas) will also be funded \$400,000 over four years to support important activities to work with the wider community to build a deeper understanding of Aboriginal ways of knowing and doing in Tasmania through education and training that contributes and furthers the process for Truth-telling and healing.
- Aboriginal organisations are the experts in the needs of their Community and building capacity is an investment in the Aboriginal Community Controlled sector and a direct link to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. Funds will be made available of approximately \$500,000 in 2025-2026 to implement identified Aboriginal program initiatives.

Table 2 Key Deliverables for Output 1.6 Aboriginal Affairs

	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Revenue:	1,400	1,400	800	800
Closing the Gap and other Aboriginal Projects				
Expenditure				
Coalition of Peaks partner	250	250	250	250
TRACA	150	150	150	150
Palawa Business Hub	200	200	200	200
Truth-telling and Healing				
Elders Council of Tasmania	50	50	50	50
Reconciliation Tasmania	100	100	100	100
Aboriginal-led design and engagement	150	290		
Total	\$300	\$440		
Support Aboriginal program initiatives	500	360	50	50
Total	\$1,400	\$1,400	\$800	\$800

- The total Budget Allocation for Output 1.6 Aboriginal Affairs

Table 4 Budget Allocation as outlined in 2025-2026 Budget (Total Expenses by Portfolio and Output)

<i>Minister for Aboriginal Affairs</i>	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029
Output Group 1 – Policy Reform and Government Priorities	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
1.6 Aboriginal Affairs	\$2,814	\$2,744	\$2,175	\$2,215

^[1] Agencies now report using Paid FTEs for a more consistent reflection of FTEs, and the number provided is how many FTEs are paid as at the last pay period in March. This figure changes constantly with ons and offs, work pattern changes and unpaid leave.

^[2] Output Groups were updated for the year ending 30 June 2025. Paid FTE data for June 2023 and June 2024 reflects the previous Output structure: 7.8 – *Aboriginal Affairs*.

Performance Information

- The performance measure replaces the previous performance measure actions on schedule against the milestones and timeframes identified in the Aboriginal Reset.
- The new performance measure represents the target percentage achieved of actions in the Tasmania's Plan for Closing the Gap 2025-2028 for the 2025-2026 year of the plan.

Table 4 Performance Information

Performance Measure	Unit of Measure	2022-2023 Actual	2023-2024 Actual	2024-2025 Target	2025-2026 Target
Actions on schedule against the timeframes identified in the <i>Tasmanian Plan for Closing the Gap 2025-2028</i>	%	N/A	N/A	N/A	80

	Name	Position
Prepared by		
Cleared by	Mel Gray	Deputy Secretary, Policy and Reform

	Name	Contact number
DPAC contact for more information:	Mel Gray	Out of scope, a.3b

Parliamentary Briefing 2025

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

Output Group – Output Group 1 - Policy, Reform and Government Priorities
Output – 1.6 Aboriginal Affairs

Aboriginal and Dual Naming Policy

Current as at: **22-September-2025**

Talking Points

- The Tasmanian Government is committed to support and create a future for Tasmanian Aboriginal Language to be embedded into the Tasmanian landscape.
- The Tasmanian Government acknowledges that many Aboriginal people speak and accept palawa kani as their language for strength, belonging and connections to Country.
- Language is a fundamental human right. Aboriginal people's rights to their language are encapsulated in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).
- Outcome 16 of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap commits us all to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and languages that are strong, supported and flourishing.
- The Aboriginal and Dual Naming Policy aims to promote community awareness and understanding of Aboriginal history and culture by restoring and connecting Tasmanian Aboriginal names to places and features throughout the State.
- The Tasmanian Government recognises the need to revise the Policy to align with Tasmanian Aboriginal community priorities, particularly in relation to Tasmanian Aboriginal language.

- The Tasmanian Government will work with Tasmania's Coalition of Peaks partner, the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, to undertake broad consultation with Aboriginal people and organisations to review the Policy, which will guide Tasmanian naming authorities on approved processes for culturally appropriate and safe use of Aboriginal names for Tasmanian geographic features and places.
- This will help to preserve Aboriginal heritage and language into the future and marks our deep respect for Tasmanian Aboriginal people, for their enduring strength and culture and their continued connection to Country.
- The Policy will be reviewed as an action under *Tasmania's Plan for Closing the Gap 2025–2028* by the end of the 2026-27 financial year.

Background

Language and policy issues

- The Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre is the language authority for palawa kani.
- *Palawa kani* is the Tasmanian Aboriginal language spoken by Tasmanian Aboriginal people for three generations. It is the culmination of significant language research and revitalisation undertaken by the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre for over 30 years.
- The Aboriginal and Dual Naming Policy was revised in 2019 following extensive Aboriginal community consultation. However, concerns with the Policy have been raised consistently over time by Tasmania's Coalition of Peaks partner, the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, particularly regarding use of non-palawa kani names and the lack of alignment to their language policy and guidance on culturally safe and respectful use of palawa kani as the only Tasmanian Aboriginal language.
- The CEO of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre wrote an email to the Tasmanian Government in late 2024 calling for the Policy to be revised to be decent, sensible and culturally safe. The Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre continues to reference this email in Closing the Gap Languages Policy Partnership meetings.
- Language is a community and individual priority identified through consultation with Aboriginal organisations on the development of the *Tasmania's Plan for Closing the Gap 2025–2028*;

- Aboriginal organisations do not have a unified approach to Aboriginal language in Tasmania.
- The Tasmanian Regional Aboriginal Communities Alliance (TRACA) and affiliated Aboriginal organisations do not support palawa kani and regard it as linguistic genocide.
- Some of these organisations are keen to undertake their own language revitalisation programs based on use of Plomley's wordlist and will want to inform the revision of the Policy.
- The Aboriginal organisations are:
 - Circular Head Aboriginal Corporation
 - Melaythenner Teeackana Warrana Aboriginal Corporation
 - South East Tasmania Aboriginal Corporation
 - Parrdarrama Pungenna Aboriginal Corporation
- The Government will work with the Coalition of Peaks Partner and Aboriginal organisations to ensure that a culturally appropriate and sensible approach will be undertaken.
- Whilst the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) has oversight of the Policy, the department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas) is responsible for its administration.
- Action 61 in *Tasmania's Plan for Closing the Gap 2025–2028* is to review the Aboriginal and Dual Naming Policy, including broad consultation with ACCOs.
- The review will need to be undertaken sensitively and within a cultural framework, with respect to Tasmania's Coalition of Peaks partner's priorities and more broadly across Tasmanian Aboriginal organisations.
- DPAC with NRE Tas are the lead agencies, and the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and the Minister for Parks have responsibility for this action.
- There is no specific funding attached to the Policy review.

Aboriginal and Dual Naming Policy

- Key principles underpinning the Policy include to:
 - Prioritise official place and feature renaming where the existing name may be offensive to Tasmanian Aboriginal people
 - Amend previously assigned official place names derived from, or incorrectly attempting to use, Aboriginal language to ensure they are generally accepted by Tasmanian Aboriginal people.
- Under the Policy, a Reference Group was established to advise the Place Names Advisory Panel on all Aboriginal naming submissions.
- The Panel is the authority responsible for making naming decisions, which are progressed through existing established practices, under the Tasmanian *Place Names*

Act 2020. In accordance with the Act, the Minister for Parks approves names for geographical features and places based on the Panel's recommendations.

- The Reference Group was formed in early 2020 and comprises mostly of Aboriginal people. The group has wide-ranging authority to enquire, engage in correspondence, seek independent views and conduct localised research as it sees fit to provide advice to the Panel on all Aboriginal and dual naming proposals.
- There have been no proposals for Aboriginal and dual naming over the last couple of years and as the Reference Group has not been active over this time, including members resigning due to cultural difficulties, and membership has since lapsed.
- Once the Policy review is complete or further naming proposals are received, NRE Tas will consider advertising for membership again.
- To date, 44 Aboriginal and dual names have been assigned under the Aboriginal and Dual Naming Policy, noting these names are a combination of palawa kani and Plomley's wordlist. Further information is available on the NRE Tas website.
- Local councils are free to adopt their own dual naming policy. For example, Burnie City Council adopted a policy in recent years to use palawa kani names for regions and features within its local government area. These names are not official and are not shown on official maps and publications unless they are assigned in accordance with the Tasmanian *Local Government Act 1993*.

Policy scope

- The Policy applies to the naming of Tasmanian features and places in accordance with the Tasmanian *Survey Coordination Act 1944*, namely to:
 - give Aboriginal names to geographic features or places that do not already have an official or assigned name
 - replace an existing official name with an Aboriginal name
 - give an additional Aboriginal name to a feature that already has an official name (dual naming).
- The Policy does not apply to the naming of cities or towns or existing non-natural features including roads, highways, bridges, and communication towers.

Prepared by	Name	Position
	Laura Halm	Senior Policy Analyst, Aboriginal Partnerships
Cleared by	Caroline Spotswood	Director, Aboriginal Partnerships
	Mel Gray	Deputy Secretary, Policy and Reform

DPAC contact for more information:	Name	Contact number
	Mel Gray	Out of scope, s.38

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

Output Group 1 – Policy, Reform and Government Priorities
Output – 1.6 Aboriginal Affairs

Truwana / Cape Barren Island infrastructure funding and maintenance

Current as at: **22-October-2025**

Talking Points

- As a signatory to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, the Tasmanian Government is required to ensure a jurisdictional standard of municipal and essential services on Truwana / Cape Barren Island.
- The Tasmanian Government is working in partnership with the Cape Barren Island Aboriginal Association (CBIAA) on the delivery of sustainable municipal and essential services (MES) and housing on the Island.
- CBIAA is leading planning, decision-making and identification of community needs and priorities, in partnership with the Tasmanian Government, community and subject matter experts.
- In 2025-26, the Tasmanian Government has committed \$4 million for the planning and delivery of municipal and essential services and \$300,000 for a road and airstrip maintenance grant for the Island community.
- Homes Tasmania is working with CBIAA on housing infrastructure and to understand funding requirements.
- The Department of State Growth and the Department of Premier and Cabinet are working closely with CBIAA and community to address urgent infrastructure maintenance and long-term needs.

Infrastructure maintenance and funding

- For 2025-26, priorities are to improve the sustainability and reliability of the water and energy systems, upgrade essential machinery, and putting in place sustainable funding support for the provision of housing services on the Island following the exhausting of Stronger Remote Aboriginal Services (SRAS) funds in 2023-24.
- To improve sustainability and reliability of both energy and water systems, projects will be developed and Australian Government funding leveraged where possible to upgrade infrastructure.
- The Tasmanian Government successfully obtained funding from the Australian Government National Water Grid Fund, with \$760,000 committed towards new rainwater tanks and for consultancy to identify a sustainable, long-term water solution.
- Regarding energy, the Department of State Growth is working with CBIAA and community to develop funding applications for the design and upgrade of its energy generation and distribution system.
- Much of the Island's infrastructure is owned and managed by CBIAA. Harsh weather and the remote location create conditions where more regular maintenance or urgent repairs are often needed.
- In last August 2025, CBIAA advised they have old machinery and equipment that is no longer deemed safe to deliver the required maintenance activities across the Island.
- The Tasmanian Government is preparing a separate grant deed for \$1 million specifically to support CBIAA to purchase replacement plant and equipment, likely to be reasonable quality used machines.

Budget Information

- Table 1 details recent municipal and essential services expenditure for Truwana / Cape Barren Island by the Department of Premier and Cabinet, noting:
 - responsibility for municipal and essential services funding to Truwana / Cape Barren Island was transferred to the Department of State Growth in 2024-25.
 - whilst the 2024-25 State Budget allocated \$1 million for municipal and essential services, the full cost of MES for the year was almost \$1.4 million. This is now administered by State Growth, and included for reference.
 - water cartage in both the 2023-24 and 2024-25 years was additional to MES grant funding; noting State Growth funded the additional \$7,184 water cartage in March 2025.
 - DPAC funded water investigations in 2023-24 to support longer-term water solutions. These have resumed under the National Water Grid funding administered by State Growth to inform the business case.
 - DPAC will continue to support engagement with CBIAA and the community.

Table 1. Municipal services expenditure for Truwana / Cape Barren Island

Municipal and essential services	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Municipal and essential services grant deeds	Core 2-yr funding \$1,275,164		\$1,361,582	\$3,480,000
2024 reimbursement of electrical repairs; operational costs (deed of variation)		\$742,932		
Total		\$2,018,096	\$1,361,582	\$3,480,000
Water cartage (non-grant funding)		\$557,000	\$7,184	
Water investigations excl GST (incl. desalination advice and detailed plant designs; hydrogeologist groundwater investigations; temporary spring water extraction infrastructure; drilling permits and rig hire)		\$67,714 (indicative)		
Total per year		\$2,642,810	\$1,367,766	\$3,480,000

- For the two-year period July 2022 to June 2024, the MES grant deed to CBIAA was \$2,018,096, incorporating:
 - \$1,275,164 for core MES funding, including maintenance of the recently upgraded water treatment facility and power generation system
 - \$742,932 grant deed variation for critical MES repairs and reimbursement of previously unbudgeted urgent repairs.
- In 2024-25, due to significant increases in insurance premiums and additional urgent investment required to maintain the energy generation and distribution network on the Island, the \$1 million Budget allocation was expended prior to June 2025.
- State Growth internally sourced an additional \$400,000 to ensure CBIAA could continue to deliver services for the full 2024-25 financial year, with total MES expenditure for the year reaching almost \$1.4 million.

- Table 2 details recent non-municipal and essential services expenditure for Truwana / Cape Barren Island for housing and road/airstrip maintenance, noting:
 - this funding is administered by State Growth, through Homes Tasmania and the Transport Group
 - the housing figures show the Truwana / Cape Barren Island component only, noting Homes Tasmania also provides funding to Flinders Island Aboriginal Association for housing.

Table 2. Other non-MES related expenditure for Truwana / Cape Barren Island

Non-MES expenditure	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Housing – Truwana / Cape Barren Island (formerly SRAS until 2023-24)	\$212,426 (SRAS)	\$219,861	\$226,457
Road/airstrip maintenance	\$260,000	\$260,000	\$300,000
Total per year	\$472,426	\$479,861	\$526,457

Background

- Truwana / Cape Barren Island is classified as very remote; and is Tasmania's only discrete Aboriginal community, per accepted national definitions.
- The remainder of Crown land on the Island was returned to Aboriginal ownership in 2005 under the *Aboriginal Lands Act 1995* (Tas). The Island has a total population of approximately 70 people.
- CBIAA owns and manages the island infrastructure and holds the titles for the homes they manage, except for six titles belonging to Homes Tasmania. Work is underway to transfer these titles under *Tasmania's Plan for Closing the Gap 2025–2028*.
- The National Agreement on Closing the Gap carries an obligation to provide essential services (power, water, wastewater and solid waste management) that meet or exceed the relevant jurisdictional standard to discrete Aboriginal communities by 2031 (Target 9b).
- Harsh environmental and remoteness conditions in the Bass Strait, including isolation, increased exposure, strong winds and salt corrosion, quickly degrade infrastructure, machinery and housing on the island and make delivery and maintenance challenging, with failing infrastructure often requiring urgent repairs.

- The Tasmanian Government is supporting CBIAA with immediate and longer-term strategic and operational planning, including for asset management and maintenance, whilst helping CBIAA to maintain essential service provision.
- State Growth is leveraging its infrastructure policy expertise to support CBIAA in planning and delivery, including managing funding grants to CBIAA; while DPAC is the relationship partner with CBIAA, bringing government and business parties and CBIAA together on the journey to future sustainability.
- To assist future Aboriginal-led strategic planning and decision-making for the Island, a steering committee has been established that is co-chaired by State Growth and DPAC with representatives from CBIAA, Homes Tasmania and the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania.

Infrastructure funding and maintenance (MES, housing, roads)

- In 2014, the Tasmanian Government took over responsibility in perpetuity for funding MES and housing on Truwana / Cape Barren Island and housing on Flinders Island from the Australian Government, accompanied by a one-off payment of \$17.35 million, which is now fully expended.
- For the two-year period July 2022 to June 2024, the grant deed for MES to CBIAA was \$2,018,096. It incorporated core MES funding of \$1,275,164, including maintenance of the recently upgraded water treatment facility and power generation system; and a grant deed variation of \$742,932 for critical MES repairs and reimbursement of previously unbudgeted urgent repairs.
- Additional non-grant funding of \$557,000 was provided in 2023-24 to assist with water cartage to the island to avert a water crisis due to drought conditions and depleted dams. This funding was the last expenditure to be covered by the Australian Government funds transferred in 2014.
- The 2024-25 State Budget allocated \$1 million for MES, which was administered by State Growth to draw on infrastructure expertise. Due to significant increases in insurance premiums and the urgent investment required to maintain the energy generation and distribution network, an additional \$400,000 was sourced to ensure services continued for the full financial year.
- \$500,000 has already been provided to CBIAA through a grant deed to cover its operational expenses through to 31 December 2025. Through the 2025-26 State Budget, State Growth will ensure CBIAA remains solvent and adequately resourced to deliver essential services for the remainder of the financial year. If any infrastructure systems fail, additional funding would be required over and above the Budget allocation to fund the repairs.
- State Growth will seek a sustainable, ongoing budget funding allocation through budget processes for MES and social housing. State Growth estimates a minimum of \$1.5 million per annum is required for CBIAA for ongoing MES operations and service provision.

Energy system

- The current system is ageing and becomes unstable under heavy demand scenarios (particularly over winter months with electric heating appliances), and the system itself is not performing as sustainably as intended despite being a hybrid solar system. The community has significant reliance on diesel generators for energy generation.
- CBIAA has undertaken to communicate with the Island community to be mindful of energy consumption to better maintain a stable energy system.
- Any upgrades proposed for the Island would intend to provide a more stable and higher capacity system for residents.
- State Growth and DPAC are working with CBIAA to determine community needs and priorities, helping CBIAA to maintain essential service provision while investigating options for design of sustainable long-term solutions.
- Work is ongoing in relation to energy infrastructure, with the first stage of community engagement undertaken in August 2025 through a dedicated on-Island workshop.
- In late 2024, CBIAA advised critical repairs were needed to the ageing power infrastructure to avoid the system being shut down for safety reasons. The urgent repairs were made and cost approximately \$500,000. The situation presented an opportunity to collaborate on immediate maintenance as well as future sustainable power solutions.
- Efforts to identify a funding source for upgrading the energy generation and distribution system is underway. The Tasmanian Government supported CBIAA to lodge an EOI recently for the First Nations Clean Energy Program to help access funding to continue developing a business case for energy system design.

Water

- The water supply situation on Truwana / Cape Barren Island has been monitored closely since 2023, when the Island community experienced severe water supply issues due to dry weather conditions and depleted dams. DPAC supported CBIAA to manage this issue through extensive cross-organisational efforts to arrange water cartage to the Island and begin investigations into potential future groundwater sources.
- In March 2025, State Growth arranged delivery of 10 pallets of drinking water casks (7,200L) to assist households with drier conditions whilst a long-term solution is investigated. Investigations are continuing into longer-term, sustainable options for potable water supplies.
- More recently State Growth and DPAC have also worked with CBIAA to apply to the Australian Government First Nations National Water Grid Fund for funding to improve the reliability and quality of water supply for the community.
- Through the National Water Grid Fund, the 2025-26 Australian Budget confirmed \$760,000 to assist with:

- an urgent short-term action plan to address expected water shortages during the upcoming summer period, with associated installation of additional water tanks in anticipation of a hybrid technological solution
- a business case for a long-term sustainable water solution to support future funding applications to the Australian and Tasmanian Governments.

Housing

- CBIAA manages 27 properties on the Island, including six owned by Homes Tasmania, to be transferred back to the Island community under the Closing the Gap Plan.
- In 2024-25, Homes Tasmania funded \$489,740 for housing for both CBIAA and Flinders Island Aboriginal Association (with \$219,861 for CBIAA) following the exhaustion of the Stronger Remote Aboriginal Services program funds.
- In 2025-26, Homes Tasmania is continuing to provide funding of \$504,432 for both CBIAA and Flinders Island Aboriginal Association (with \$226,457 for CBIAA), with State Growth covering it as a budget risk while a new agreement and funding is agreed as part of this overall process.

Roads, airstrip maintenance and machinery issues

- Through the Infrastructure Maintenance budget, State Growth provides a grant to CBIAA for road and airport runway maintenance and to fund associated plant and equipment, and training.
- For the past five years this has totalled \$1.3 million (\$260,000 per year) to contribute to routine maintenance and minor works on roads, bridges and the airstrip. A new 5-year \$1.5 million grant deed is being prepared (\$300,000 per year) to contribute towards maintenance of road and airstrip infrastructure; procurement and maintenance of plant and equipment; and training.
- In August 2025, CBIAA formally advised the works supervisor had tagged the majority of its heavy machinery as unsafe and employees directed not to use them.
- State Growth has led machinery engagement with CBIAA over recent weeks to prioritise facilitation of safe machinery. This is important not just for work health and safety, but also for the Island's road network and airstrip for vital economic and health linkages to mainland Tasmania and wellbeing outcomes for Island residents.

Food security

- Following former NIAA CEO Jody Broun's visit to the Island in May 2025, NIAA have been in discussion with CBIAA about supporting upgrades to the community store through the Remote Food Stores Efficiency and Resilience Package under the Food Security Strategy.
- Aboriginal Partnerships and NIAA are liaising to support CBIAA, including for a potential extension to the food store to increase storage capacity.

	Name	Position
Prepared by	Laura Halm	Senior Policy Analyst, Aboriginal Partnerships, DPAC
	Rod Malcomson	Manager, Infrastructure Strategy and Policy, Infrastructure Tasmania, Department of State Growth
Cleared by	Caroline Spotswood	Director, Aboriginal Partnerships
	Mel Gray	Deputy Secretary, Policy and Reform

	Name	Contact number
DPAC contact for more information:	Mel Gray	Out of scope, s.36

Parliamentary Briefing 2025

AA-5

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

Output Group 1 – Policy, Reform and Government Priorities
Output – 1.6 Aboriginal Affairs

Closing the Gap

Current as at: **11-November-2025**

Talking Points

- As a signatory to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap we are required to reduce the disparities in health, education, adult and youth justice and overall outcomes between Aboriginal people and the wider Tasmanian Community.
- This is a long-term commitment, requiring transformation, resources, and genuine partnership with Tasmanian Aboriginal organisations and people.
- Closing the Gap acknowledges that better outcomes are achieved when change is led by Aboriginal people, with Aboriginal people at the centre of decision-making about issues affecting them.
- The Government works in partnership with its Closing the Gap Coalition of Peaks partner Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre.
- The Government also works with other Aboriginal community-controlled organisations to ensure that their perspectives and priorities are considered within Closing the Gap architecture.
- The key message of the Productivity Commission Review Report on Closing the Gap 2024 is that fundamental changes are required to deliver on the Agreement.

Tasmanian's Plan for Closing the Gap 2025-2028

- I am pleased to announce that Tasmania's Plan for Closing the Gap 2025-2028 has been released and is available on the DPAC's Closing the Gap webpage.
- Extensive engagement with Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and people over the past two years informed the drafting process.
- Engagement and consultation involved multiple meetings and hearing about the priorities and practical actions that Tasmanian Aboriginal organisations and people want to see in the plan.
- We worked intensively with the Coalition of Peaks partner, as well as providing the opportunity to participate to every Aboriginal community-controlled organisation across Tasmania.
- The process we undertook aligns with the Closing the Gap priority reform around building stronger partnerships and shared decision between governments and Aboriginal people.
- It will also ensure Tasmania's new Plan responds to the recommendations from the 2024 Productivity Commission Review of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, including the requirement for governments to work closely with Aboriginal people to agree substantive actions for Closing the Gap.
- Work to close the gap across a range of targets has continued while the new plan was in development, including:
 - access to land and sea culture through the transfer of leases and abalone licenses;
 - support for the Aboriginal small business sector;
 - intensive cross agency work and collaboration in partnership with Cape Barren Island on municipal and essential services;
 - reform for child safety, family violence and youth justice;

- disability reform;
- developing Aboriginal engagement guidelines; and
- Building stronger relationships and partnerships with Aboriginal organisations and people.

Closing the Gap Engagement Guidelines

- The Aboriginal Engagement Guidelines have been developed for Government to ensure that engagement is culturally informed and truly benefits Aboriginal people by integrating their views at every stage of planning, decision-making and implementation of any government program or project.
- The Guidelines were co-designed in partnership with Aboriginal organisations and people for use by all Tasmanian Government agencies and businesses.
- The Guidelines have been provided to all government agencies and across the Aboriginal community-controlled organisations sector.

Closing the Gap Annual Report

- Both the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 Closing the Gap Annual Reports are completed and are available online on DPAC's Closing the Gap webpage.
- The Annual Reports are provided to the Productivity Commission in line with National Agreement requirements.
- The Annual Reports contain key accountabilities outlined in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. They outline the progress made against the target outcomes in Tasmania.

Closing the Gap Governance

- The governance of Closing the Gap refers to formal structures outlined in the National Agreement.
 - Joint Council provides oversight and administration of the National Agreement. Membership is Aboriginal Ministers

and Coalition of Peak Partners. Joint Council will meet twice this year in July and November. Joint Council will meet in Hobart on 21 November 2025 (Friday this week).

- Partnership Working Group has jurisdictional, and Coalition of Peaks Partners membership. Decisions from the Partnership Working Group are put forward to Joint Council for final review and clearance.
- The Group has met in March, May and October.

Tasmanian Governance

- Closing the Gap Deputy Secretaries Co-ordinating Group
- Closing the Gap Interdepartmental Committee
- Partnership Forum (combined Coalition of Peaks Partner and Senior Government officials).

Budget Information

- This budget, the government has further committed its support to Closing the Gap and Aboriginal people with an allocation of \$4.4 million over four years. The commitment includes:
 - \$1,400,000 in 2025-2026 and in 2026-2027 (Table 1).
 - The budget breakdown of this allocation will be split across peak body and alliance Aboriginal organisations and program initiatives that support Closing the Gap and Truth-telling and healing.
 - \$800,000 in 2027-2028 and in 2028-2029 (Table 2)
 - To continue funding support to our peak body, ACCOs and strengthening capacity for closing the gap.
- Tasmania's Coalition of Peaks partner, the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, has been funded for a dedicated Closing the Gap Policy Officer since 2022–2023 and requires funding to support its role through Closing the Gap. Funding of \$250,000 per year for four years is being provided this budget.
- Funding has been provided to the Tasmanian Regional Aboriginal Communities Alliance (TRACA) to support engagement and advocacy activities associated with Closing the Gap. This funding will be \$150,000 per year for four years.
- The Palawa Business Hub plays a key role in supporting and fostering recognition and awareness of Aboriginal businesses in Tasmania. Funding of \$200,000 per year over four years will enable the Hub to continue to support Tasmanian Aboriginal community-controlled organisations (ACCOs) through capacity building.
- As part of our commitments to Truth-telling and Healing, funding will be provided to the Elders Council to support its key

role with recognition and understanding and recording of Aboriginal people's culture and history. The Elders Council will receive funding of \$50,000 per year over four years to support its work.

- Reconciliation Tasmania is working to expand its focus across truth-telling and healing for Tasmanian Aboriginal people and this work will be supported with funding of \$100,000 per year over four years.
- Funding of approximately \$150,000 will also be available towards an Aboriginal led and designed approach for the Truth-telling and healing process.
- Remaining funding allocation this year of approximately \$500,000 will enable Aboriginal program initiatives that contribute towards Closing the Gap to be supported.

Table 1 Anticipated expenditure for 2025-2026 and 2026-2027

Title	2025-26	2026-27
Peak body and ACCO funding:		
Coalition of Peaks Partner – Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC)	\$250,000	\$250,000
Tasmanian Regional Aboriginal Communities Alliance (TRACA)	\$150,000	\$150,000
Total	\$400,000	\$400,000
Palawa Business Hub	\$200,000	\$200,000
Truth-telling and Healing		
Elders Council of Tasmania	\$50,000	\$50,000
Reconciliation Tasmania	\$100,000	\$100,000
Aboriginal-led design and engagement	\$150,000	\$290,000
Total	\$300,000	\$440,000
Support Aboriginal program initiatives	\$500,000	\$360,000
Total	\$1,400,000	\$1,400,000

Table 2 Anticipated expenditure for 2027-2028 and 2028-2029

Title	2027-2028	2028-2029
Peak body and ACCO funding:		
Coalition of Peaks Partner – Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC)	\$250,000	\$250,000
Tasmanian Regional Aboriginal Communities Alliance (TRACA)	\$150,000	\$150,000
Total	\$400,000	\$400,000
Palawa Business Hub	\$200,000	\$200,000
Truth-telling and other Aboriginal Programs:		
Elders Council of Tasmania	\$50,000	\$50,000
Reconciliation Tasmania	\$100,000	\$100,000
Support Aboriginal program initiatives	\$50,000	\$50,000
Total	\$200,000	\$200,000
Total	\$800,000	\$800,000

Background

- Through the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, the Tasmanian Government committed to four priority reforms:
 - stronger partnerships and shared decision making with Tasmania's Aboriginal community-controlled sector
 - building the capacity of the community-controlled sector
 - transforming government organisations to ensure accountability for Closing the Gap, and that our workplaces and services are culturally safe
 - providing the Aboriginal community-controlled sector with shared access to relevant data and information.
- As a small jurisdiction, Tasmania experiences challenges meeting the national requirements of the Closing the Gap architecture and reporting. While this work is important, it diverts resources from progressing the substantive work required on the priority reforms and socioeconomic outcomes and targets across government agencies.
- Shared decision making is fundamental to Closing the Gap however Tasmania's Aboriginal community-controlled sector is small. Shared decision making and engagement must be managed so as not overwhelm the sector, while continuing to build capacity.
- The Tasmanian Government provides funds to enable the Tasmanian Coalition of Peaks representative to employ a policy officer to support Closing the Gap.
- Priorities for Closing the Gap in Tasmania for 2025–2028 include:
 - development of a whole-of-government Closing the Gap Aboriginal Engagement Strategy, supported by Guidelines for Aboriginal Engagement in Tasmania
 - increasing and extending partnerships with Aboriginal community-controlled organisations
 - completing a report on Tasmanian Government Aboriginal expenditure and progressing a review of services and capacity for the Aboriginal community-controlled sector to increase its service delivery
 - developing a framework to support transformation of government organisations to deliver on Closing the Gap, including to ensure high level accountability and cultural safety of government workplaces and services/programs
 - developing an independent mechanism to support and monitor the Tasmanian Government's progress against Priority Reform 3: Transformation of Government

Governance, coordination and engagement

- The Tasmanian Government works with its Coalition of Peaks partner at officer-level and through regular senior-level meetings between the Coalition of Peaks partner and government agencies.
- The Tasmanian Government also engages and works with the Tasmanian Regional Aboriginal Communities Alliance (TRACA) and Aboriginal community-controlled organisations statewide.
- TRACA has previously sought membership of the Coalition of Peaks and is progressing incorporation to strengthen another application.

Previous funding committed to Closing the Gap included:

- From 2021–2024, the Tasmanian Government allocated a total of \$5.3 million to building the capacity of Aboriginal community-controlled organisations.
 - In the 2020-2021 budget, \$1.3 million was committed over four years (which included \$300,000 per annum for four years to enable Tasmania's contribution of \$1.2 million for the joint virtual funding pool to support the strengthening of the community-controlled sector).
 - The 2022-2023 budget included \$2 million towards Closing the Gap and 2023-2024 included \$2.2 million for Closing the Gap activities and initiatives.
- The \$5.3 million was allocated across two capacity building grant rounds comprising:
 - Round 1 \$3,213,000 total allocation (2022-2023)
 - Round 2 \$2,137,425 total allocation (2023-2024)
 - (details provided at Attachment 1 for both rounds)
- In the 2024–2025 Tasmanian budget \$600,000 was allocated to Closing the Gap to enable essential activity to meet Tasmania's commitments under the National Agreement. Funding allocations included:
 - Peak body (TAC) and ACCO (TRACA) funding: \$300,000
 - Capacity building and operational: \$300,000
- Peak body and ACCOs have received funding to participate in Closing the Gap including:
 - Coalition of Peaks partner (the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre) - in 2022, \$550,000 over two years to 30 December 2024. Funding was extended to 30 June 2025 with a further payment of \$150,000.
 - The Tasmanian Regional Aboriginal Communities Alliance (TRACA) – in 2022-2024 \$90,000 annually auspiced through Flinders Island Aboriginal Association Inc and increased to \$150,000 auspiced through MTWAC in 2024-2025.

	Name	Position
Prepared by		
Cleared by	Mel Gray	Deputy Secretary, Policy and Reform

	Name	Contact number
DPAC contact for more information:	Mel Gray	Out of scope, s.38

Attachment 1 - Round 1 and Round 2 Capacity Building Grants recipients

2022-2023 and 2023-2024 Successful Applicants

Organisation	Project	Round 1 2022-2023 Grant Amount	Round 2 2023-2024 Grant Amount	Total Received
Cape Barren Island Aboriginal Association Incorporated	Digital Connectivity and Child Health	\$365,000		\$365,000
Circular Head Aboriginal Corporation	Connection to Country		\$78,000	\$78,000
Elders Council of Tasmania Aboriginal Corporation	milangkani Cultural Program	\$140,000	\$82,000	\$222,000
Karadi Aboriginal Corporation	Health and community services (Deadly Choices)	\$300,000	\$280,000	\$580,000
melythina tiakana warrana Aboriginal Corporation	Building capacity on Tebrakunna Country	\$250,000	\$310,000	\$560,000
Six Rivers Aboriginal Corporation	Building a resilient and connected community	\$166,000	\$245,000	\$411,000
South East Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation	Family Support	\$122,000	\$142,425	\$264,425
Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre	Palawa Out of Home Care Framework and Pilot Program	\$1,500,000	\$1,000,000*	\$2,500,000
Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service	Bail Support Program	\$250,000		\$250,000
Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service	Bridgewater Youth Community Hub	\$120,000		\$120,000
Total		\$3,213,000	\$2,137,425	\$5,350,425

*Due to delays in reporting and final acquittal of the Round 1 grant, the Round 2 grant has not been issued or expended. It is anticipated to be allocated in 2025-2026

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Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

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Closing the Gap – Dashboard Update

Current as at: **03-October-2025**

Talking Points

- The Closing the Gap Dashboard was updated on 30 July 2025.
- The Dashboard provides the most up-to-date information available on the targets and associated indicators to inform reporting on progress on Closing the Gap.
- I'm pleased to say the July 2025 Dashboard update showed Tasmania is performing better than the national average against 11 targets, and the same as the national average against one.
- Tasmania is on the right track overall across targets and their associated indicators. However, the July data indicates worsening figures against the baseline, similar to other states and territories, against housing, adult incarceration, out-of-home care and early childhood development.
- The Government will continue working with Tasmania's Coalition of Peaks partner and other Aboriginal organisations to close the gap in life outcomes for Aboriginal people in Tasmania.
- The next update to the Closing the Gap Dashboard is scheduled for 2026.

Targets under the National Agreement

- The National Agreement on Closing the Gap (the National Agreement) includes 19 broad, measurable socioeconomic targets across: health; early childhood care and development;

education, training and employment; housing and essential services; justice; family safety and wellbeing; land and water rights; and language and digital inclusion.

- These targets may include several associated indicators that, together, paint a picture for how we are performing at state and national levels.

Latest update

- The July 2025 Dashboard update includes an outline of Tasmania's performance, with a new year of data for four targets, two of which relate to disaggregated information such as by sex or age.
- The update highlights Tasmania is meeting four of the 19 targets: Target 2 (healthy birthweight), Target 3 (preschool enrolment), Target 8 (employment) and Target 9a (housing).
- However, it is also clear that Tasmania has work to do to meet:
 - Target 4: early childhood development
 - Target 10: adult incarceration
 - Target 12: children in out-of-home care.
- The July 2025 Dashboard update also includes four targets for which:
 - data is unreportable (Target 1: life expectancy; Target 9b: essential services; and Target 14: Suicide reduction)
 - comparable data on non-Aboriginal people is not available, meaning a target value to achieve parity cannot be set (Target 17: Digital inclusion).
- There are three targets where no assessment of progress is available, with only baseline data available. Our Government is working with the Australian Government to progress work on the data development needed to better track progress on these targets.









- No change was reported for Target 11: Aboriginal young people in detention; and Targets 15a and 15b: Land and Sea Country subject to Aboriginal legal rights or interests.
- *Tasmania's Plan for Closing the Gap 2025–2028* was released in June 2025 following extensive engagement and consultation with Tasmanian Aboriginal community-controlled organisations, Tasmania's Coalition of Peaks partner and government agencies.
- Under the Plan, we will renew efforts to close the gap on those targets where we know attention is needed. This includes youth justice and adult incarceration; out-of-home care, housing, health and family safety; and Land and Sea Country rights.

Background

- The National Agreement includes several measures aimed at ensuring public accountability for progress against the Closing the Gap agenda, including to develop and maintain an online dashboard (Clauses 116 and 117).
- The Dashboard provides a summary of national and jurisdictional performance against the National Agreement's 4 priority reforms and 17 socioeconomic outcomes (with 19 related targets).
- The Productivity Commission is responsible for maintaining the Dashboard, including regular updates (at least annually) by collating information from relevant national and jurisdictional data sources as it becomes available.
- Tasmania's performance on Closing the Gap targets is summarised in Table 1.






Table 2. Tasmania's performance on the Closing the Gap targets

Source: www.pc.gov.au/closing-the-gap-data/dashboard, data last updated 30 July 2025
Progress is measured against the baseline, not the previous year's data

Target	National progress	Tasmania's progress
1: Close the Gap in life expectancy within a generation, by 2031.	Improvement, not on track Latest data (2020-22): Males = 8.8 years gap Females = 8.1 years gap Baseline (2005-07): Males = 11.4 years gap Females = 9.6 years gap	Tasmanian data is not reportable due to insufficient data levels, in line with national reporting guidelines. ¹ ?
2: By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal babies with a healthy birthweight to 91%.	Improvement, not on track Latest (2022): 89.2% Baseline (2017): 88.8%	Improvement; target being met  Latest (2022): 91.1% Baseline (2017): 88.5%
3: By 2025, increase the proportion of Aboriginal children enrolled in Year Before Fulltime Schooling early childhood education to 95%.	Good improvement, on track Latest (2024): 94.2% Baseline (2016): 61.3%	Improvement; target being met  Latest (2024): 110.1% Baseline (2016): 80.4%
4: By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal children assessed as developmentally on track in all five domains of the Australian Early Development Census to 55%.	Worsening Latest (2024): 33.9% Baseline (2018): 35.2%	Worsening  Latest (2024): 33.3% Baseline (2018): 37.5%
5: By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal people (age 20–24) attaining Year 12 or equivalent qualification to 96%.	Improvement, not on track Latest (2021): 68.1% Baseline (2016): 63.2%	Improvement  Latest (2021): 68.1% Baseline (2016): 62.7%
6: By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal people aged 25–34 years who have completed a tertiary qualification (Certificate III and above) to 70%.	Improvement, not on track Latest (2021): 47% Baseline (2016): 42.3%	Improvement  Latest (2021): 51.2% Baseline (2016): 47%
7: By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal youth (15–24 years) who are in employment, education or training to 67%.	Improvement, not on track Latest (2021): 58.0% Baseline (2016): 57.2%	Improvement  Latest (2021): 63.3% Baseline (2016): 62.4%
8: By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal people aged 25–64 who are employed to 62%.	Good improvement, on track Latest (2021): 55.7% Baseline (2016): 51%	Improvement; target being met  Latest (2021): 62.4% Baseline (2016): 59%
9a: By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal people living in appropriately sized (not overcrowded) housing to 88%.	Improvement, not on track Latest (2021): 81.4% Baseline (2016): 78.9%	Worsening; target being met  Latest (2021): 88.8% Baseline (2016): 89.9%
9b: By 2031, all Aboriginal households (i) within discrete Aboriginal communities receive essential services that meet or exceed the relevant jurisdictional standard; (ii) in or near to a town receive essential services that meet or exceed the same standard as applies generally within the town.	Not reported for Australia or states/territories; there is no data source that includes all the required data elements. ² ?	

¹ Advised by the Australian Bureau of Statistics: www.abs.gov.au/methodologies/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-life-expectancy-methodology/2020-2022

² Advised by the Productivity Commission: www.pc.gov.au/closing-the-gap-data/dashboard/se/outcome-area9

Target	National progress	Tasmania's progress
10: By 2031, reduce the rate of Aboriginal adults held in incarceration by at least 15%. <i>Tas equivalent target (rounded) = no more than 615 Aboriginal adults per 100,000 in detention.</i>	Worsening Latest (2024): 2,304.4 per 100,000 Baseline (2019): 1,906.1 per 100,000	Worsening  Latest (2024): 876.1 per 100,000 Baseline (2019): 723.7 per 100,000
11: By 2031, reduce the rate of Aboriginal young people (10–17 years) in detention by at least 30%. <i>Tas equivalent target (rounded) = no more than 6 Aboriginal young people per 10,000 in detention.</i>	No change Latest (2023-24): 26.1 per 10,000 Baseline (2018-19): 28.3 per 10,000	No change  Latest (2023-24): 8.3 per 10,000 Baseline (2018-19): 8.0 per 10,000
12: By 2031, reduce the rate of over-representation of Aboriginal children in out-of-home care by 45%. <i>0-17 years; Tas equivalent target (rounded) = no more than 16 Aboriginal children per 1,000 in out-of-home care.</i>	Worsening Latest (2024): 50.3 per 1,000 Baseline (2019): 47.3 per 1,000	Worsening  Latest (2024): 30.4 per 1,000 Baseline (2019): 29.3 per 1,000
13: By 2031, the rate of all forms of family violence and abuse against Aboriginal women and children is reduced at least by 50%, as progress towards zero. <i>Tas equivalent target = 4.15%</i>	No assessment available Baseline (2018-19): 8.4% of females aged 15 years+ experienced physical or threatened physical harm	No assessment available Baseline (2018-19): 8.3% of females aged 15 years+ experienced physical or threatened physical harm ?
14: Significant and sustained reduction in suicide of Aboriginal people towards zero.	Worsening Latest (2023): 30.8 per 100,000 Baseline (2018): 23.6 per 100,000	Tas and ACT data is not reportable due to insufficient data levels and quality, in line with national reporting guidelines. ³ ?
15a: By 2030, a 15% increase in Australia's landmass subject to Aboriginal people's legal rights or interests. <i>Tas equivalent target = extra 95 kms² subject to Aboriginal people's rights or interests.</i>	Improvement, on track Latest (2024): 4,314,744 km ² subject to Aboriginal people's legal rights or interests Baseline (2020): 3,908,387 km ²	No change  Latest (2024): 631 km ² (0.9%) subject to Aboriginal people's legal rights or interests Baseline (2020): 631 km ²
15b: By 2030, a 15% increase in areas covered by Aboriginal people's legal rights or interests in the sea. <i>Tas example target = 15 kms² subject to Aboriginal people's rights or interests.</i>	Improvement, on track Latest (2024): 113,517 km ² subject to Aboriginal people's legal rights or interests Baseline (2020): 90,252 km ²	No change  Latest (2024): 0 km ² subject to Aboriginal people's legal rights or interests Baseline (2020): 0 km ²
16: By 2031, there is a sustained increase in number and strength of Aboriginal languages being spoken.	No assessment available Baseline (2018-19): 123 languages spoken	No assessment available Baseline (2018-19): 4 languages spoken ?
17: By 2026, Aboriginal people have equal levels of digital inclusion. <i>There is no comparable data for non-Aboriginal people.⁴</i>	No assessment available Baseline (2022-23): 88.3% of Aboriginal people 15+ years old had used the internet in the past three months.	No assessment available Baseline (2022-23): 92.7% of Aboriginal people 15+ years old had used the internet in the previous three months. ?

Prepared by Name
Laura Halm

Position
Senior Policy Analyst, Aboriginal Partnerships

³ Advised by the Productivity Commission: <https://www.pc.gov.au/closing-the-gap-data/dashboard/se/outcome-area14> and by the Australian Bureau of Statistics: <https://www.abs.gov.au/methodologies/causes-death-australia-methodology/2023>

⁴ Advised by the Productivity Commission, noting a change in target indicators means a new baseline year (2022-23): <https://www.pc.gov.au/closing-the-gap-data/dashboard/se/outcome-area17>

Cleared by	Caroline Spotswood Mel Gray	Director, Aboriginal Partnerships Deputy Secretary, Policy and Reform
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Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

Output Group 1 - Policy, Reform and Government Priorities

Output – 1.6 Aboriginal Affairs

Closing the Gap-Aboriginal Expenditure Review

Current as at: **11-November-2025**

Talking Points

- As part of Closing the Gap, governments across Australia agreed more services for Aboriginal people should be delivered by Aboriginal community-controlled organisations.
- The starting point is to identify current budget expenditure on Aboriginal programs and services, and where that money is being allocated.
- Closely analysing Aboriginal expenditure over two years has been a complex project, the first of its kind in Tasmania.
- A consultant was engaged to collect and analyse data from all government organisations on Aboriginal expenditure in 2021–2022 and 2022–2023.
- The consultant has completed the data collection and analysis, and the Tasmanian Government Aboriginal Expenditure Report is being developed, using that information.
- Transitioning services for Aboriginal people to the Aboriginal community-controlled sector will take time and must be carefully planned so the sector has capacity, including appropriately trained and skilled staff to take on additional

service provision and so that government service delivery can adjust.

- In the interim, for services where Government delivers services for Aboriginal people, agencies are increasingly working to engage the Aboriginal community-controlled sector in those programs, including through sharing or transferring decision making for those services to Aboriginal people, as an important step towards self-determination.
- A sector scan will also be undertaken in partnership with the sector, to determine the sector's capacity and priorities for capacity building.

Background

- Clause 55 of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap committed governments to implement measures to increase service provision by Aboriginal community-controlled organisations (ACCOs). This included implementing funding prioritisation policies (across all Closing the Gap outcomes), requiring decisions about the provision of services to Aboriginal people to preference ACCOs; and, for new whole-of-population funding initiatives, allocating a proportion of funding to ACCOs with relevant expertise.
- Clause 113 of the National Agreement requires governments to review and identify spending on Aboriginal programs and services to identify reprioritisation opportunities to ACCOs; these reviews were to be completed by July 2022.
- All other states/territories have completed and published expenditure their reviews.
- In 2024, DPAC contracted Stenning and Associates to collect data and report on Aboriginal expenditure on programs and services for Aboriginal people for 2021–2022 and 2022–2023.
- The cost of the consultation was approximately \$83,000, covering design and testing of the data collection method and tool, engagement with and collection of data from every Tasmanian Government organisation, and data compilation and analysis.
- The consultant's report has been submitted to DPAC, and the Aboriginal Expenditure Report 2021–2022 and 2022–2023 has been drafted.

- As the Government's Coalition of Peaks partner, the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC) will be provided an opportunity to review the draft.
- The TAC may expect the Report to identify opportunities to begin the transfer of services to community control.
- Transitioning services to community control will take time, including to adjust government staffing establishments and ensure sufficient capacity and capability of the ACCO sector.
- An important next step is to undertake an ACCO sector scan with the Coalition of Peaks partner, to identify the capacity of the sector and capacity-building priorities, including for workforce development. This is an action in Tasmania's Plan for Closing the Gap 2025–2028.

	Name	Position
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Cleared by	Caroline Spotswood	Director, Aboriginal Partnerships

	Name	Contact number
DPAC contact for more information:	Mel Gray	Deputy Secretary, Policy and Reform

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

Output Group 1 – Policy, Reform and Government Priorities
Output – 1.6 Aboriginal Affairs

Closing the Gap: Adult and Youth Justice

Current as at: **11-November-2025**

Talking Points

- I acknowledge the recent passing of a young Aboriginal woman in custody and the profound impact and loss for the family and community. My Government's thoughts are with the family, friends and Aboriginal community at this sad time.
- Aboriginal organisations and people are providing culturally appropriate services and support to the family and community through this difficult time.
- Most Aboriginal young people do not have contact with the youth justice system in Tasmania. However, we know those that do are almost four times more likely than their non-Aboriginal peers to be in detention.
- We know this is the same situation for Aboriginal adults, who are five times more likely to be imprisoned than their non-Aboriginal peers.
- In 2024 in Tasmania, less than 1 per cent of Aboriginal adults were incarcerated; and in 2023-24 in Tasmania, less than 0.1 per cent of Aboriginal young people were in detention on an average day.
- While the numbers are low, and over-representation is significantly lower than in all other states and territories,

Aboriginal people are still over-represented in the Tasmanian justice system.

- Over-representation is a complex problem that requires:
 - examination of the data in Tasmania (incarceration rates may be compounded by recent increased Aboriginal self-identification rates); as well as
 - comprehensive, collaborative and innovative approaches across all governments and all sectors as a priority.

Young Aboriginal people

- Reducing Aboriginal young people's contact with the justice system is a core focus of actions in *Tasmania's Plan for Closing the Gap 2025–2028*, including the development of a Practice Model for the Palawa Youth Justice Futures Project, and an Aboriginal Youth Hub Model for piloting in Launceston.
 - Reducing the harm of contact with the justice system underpins recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry (COI) that include the development of an Aboriginal youth justice strategy and the establishment of a new youth justice facility that are grounded in cultural safety and community connection.
 - Of the 30 COI recommendations related to Aboriginal affairs, approximately two thirds relate to Aboriginal youth justice. The COI noted an effective method to prevent abuse is to reduce young people's entry into the justice system by raising the age of criminal responsibility to 14 years.
- We take the increased rate of young Aboriginal people in custody very seriously and we have a responsibility for their safety. To do this we need serious conversations with Aboriginal people and agencies.

- Despite the increased rate of Tasmanian Aboriginal youth in detention in 2023-24 from 2022-23 (8.3 per 10,000 Aboriginal young people, up from 6.3 per 10,000), the Tasmanian rate is just under a third of the national rate (26.1 per 10,000).
- Reducing the rate of Aboriginal young people in custody is one of the outcomes sought through the Tasmanian Youth Justice Blueprint, an Aboriginal youth justice strategy under development, and *Tasmania's Plan for Closing the Gap 2025–2028*.
- *Tasmania's Plan for Closing the Gap 2025–2028* was released in June 2025 after extensive engagement with Aboriginal organisations and people. The Plan will drive change across all outcome areas and support reduced incarceration rates.

Concerns raised by the Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service

- I note the concerns raised by the Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service following the July 2025 release of Closing the Gap data by the Productivity Commission that showed recent increases in the rates of Aboriginal youth detention.
- As a government we understand the intersection of socioeconomic factors that contribute to the gap in outcomes experienced by people who identify as Aboriginal, including over-representation in youth and adult custodial settings.
- On the recent death of an Aboriginal woman in custody, the Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Services (TALS) CEO highlighted the concern with over-representation, saying “in Tasmania, Aboriginal people remain significantly over-represented in custody and are five times more likely to be in custody than non-Aboriginal people”.

Nukara Strategy (the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre)

- Tasmania's Coalition of Peaks partner, the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, released its Nukara Strategy earlier this year, which focuses on wholistic and preventive approaches to out-of-home care for Aboriginal children, young people and their families. Nukara will build a sustainable and better life for Aboriginal families into the future. It is aligned to several Closing the Gap targets, particularly Targets 11 and 12.
- This highlights the importance of all 17 socioeconomic outcomes sought through the National Agreement on Closing the Gap; and underpins the Government's reform agenda to implement all the 191 Commission of Inquiry recommendations, including the development of an Aboriginal youth justice strategy.

Background

- The Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service notes that incarceration rates are strongly influenced by socioeconomic factors, including housing; education; racism and discrimination; income and employment; adverse childhood events and intergenerational trauma; access to services; mental health; and use of alcohol and other drugs.
- The Tasmanian Government's Coalition of Peaks partner (the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre) and Aboriginal organisations, including the Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service, were consulted extensively in drafting *Tasmania's Closing the Gap Plan 2025–2028*, which includes actions to reduce over-representation of Aboriginal people in the criminal justice system.
- There have been anecdotal suggestions that an increased propensity to identify as Aboriginal may be linked with a perception that Aboriginal prisoners receive extra services while incarcerated.

Adults

- In 2024, the incarceration rate of Aboriginal adults in Tasmania increased to 876.1 per 100,000 Aboriginal adults from 733.1 per 100,000 Aboriginal adults in 2023.
- The incarceration rate of non-Aboriginal people in Tasmania also increased in 2024.
- Tasmania continues to have a considerably lower rate of over-representation of Aboriginal adults in detention than other states and territories.
- In 2024, Victoria is the only jurisdiction showing a decrease in the Aboriginal adult incarceration rate.

- The Department of Justice is reviewing information to understand the significant increase in the number of adult Aboriginal prisoners, including the drivers of Aboriginal identification and accurate data collection.

Table 1: Adult imprisonment rates in Tasmania

	Aboriginal adults	Non-Aboriginal adults
2020	695.9/100,000 (0.7%)	146.5/100,000 (0.15%)
2021	701.7/100,000 (0.7%)	140.0/100,000 (0.14%)
2022	619.1/100,000 (0.62%)	134.5/100,000 (0.13%)
2023	733.1/100,000 (0.73%)	155.9/100,000 (0.16%)
2024	876.1/100,000 (0.88%)	163.0/100,000 (0.16%)

Note: percentages are rounded.

Young people

- The rate of Aboriginal young people aged 10–17 years in detention on an average day in Tasmania increased from 6.3 per 10,000 Aboriginal young people in 2022–23 to 8.3 per 10,000 in 2023–24.
- Rates of non-Aboriginal young people in detention in Tasmania have also increased since 2021–22.

Table 2: Young people in detention on an average day in Tasmania

	Aboriginal young people	Non-Aboriginal young people
2020–21	5.7/10,000 (0.06%)	1.0/10,000 (0.01%)
2021–22	5.3/10,000 (0.05%)	1.0/10,000 (0.01%)
2022–23	6.3/10,000 (0.06%)	1.9/10,000 (0.02%)
2023–24	8.3/10,000 (0.08%)	2.2/10,000 (0.02%)

Note: percentages are rounded.

Identification rates

- In Tasmania, the number of people identifying as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander has increased significantly over recent censuses. In the 2021 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census, 30,186 people identified as such, representing 5.4 per cent of the state's population.

Table 3: People in Tasmania identifying as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander

	Number	Proportion of Tasmanian population
2011	19,625	4.0
2016	23,572	4.6
2021	30,186	5.4

Aboriginal community-controlled youth justice initiatives

- The Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre received \$285,000 in Tasmanian Government funding to undertake a two-year statewide Palawa Youth Justice Futures Project from July 2024. Under this project, the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre will develop a practice model consistent with the Commission of Inquiry reforms, including a therapeutic approach and a broader Youth Justice Model of Care.
- From 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2026, the Melaythenner Teeackana Warrana Aboriginal Corporation has been funded \$285,000 (excl GST) by the Tasmanian Government to plan and develop an Aboriginal Youth Hub model in Launceston for Aboriginal children and young people in or at risk of engagement with the youth justice system. This is intended to support healing and community connections through a range of targeted sessions and activities, and family and community engagement.

Commission of Inquiry recommendations relating to Aboriginal youth justice

- The Commission of Inquiry recommended greater care, compassion and investment in protecting and healing marginalised children and young people, including Aboriginal children and young people, particularly through co-designed, Aboriginal-led reform based on principles of self-determination.
- Key recommendations for Aboriginal youth justice reform include:
 - a new, strengthened regulator and advocate for children and young people's rights and safety. This includes creation of a new Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People to advocate broadly for, and to monitor the experiences of, Aboriginal children and young people, particularly those in out-of-home care and youth detention (Recommendation 9.14)
 - valuing and strengthening the skills and expertise of those working in the child safety and youth justice systems. This includes creating an Executive Director for Aboriginal Children and Young People, supported by an Office of Aboriginal Policy and Practice in the Department for Education, Children and Young People (Recommendation 9.7)
 - developing an Aboriginal youth justice strategy, created in partnership with Aboriginal communities, that is underpinned by self-determination and focuses on prevention, early intervention and diversion strategies for Aboriginal children and young people (Recommendation 12.27).
- Aboriginal people are the experts on the needs of their children and young people and are best-placed to support and assist Aboriginal children and young people, particularly to reduce their over-representation in out-of-home care and youth detention.
- This aligns with the priority reforms of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. Accordingly, the Commission of Inquiry recommended, as part of a new Aboriginal youth justice strategy:

- capacity building and funding for Aboriginal organisations to participate in youth justice decision-making relating to Aboriginal children and young people, and to deliver youth justice services to Aboriginal children and young people
- legislative reform to enable Aboriginal organisations to design, administer and supervise elements of the youth justice system for Aboriginal children and young people.

	Name	Position
Prepared by	Kate Harrison	Senior Policy Analyst, Aboriginal Partnerships
	Laura Halm	Senior Policy Analyst, Aboriginal Partnerships
	Belinda Fenney-Walch	Senior Project Manager, Closing the Gap
Cleared by	Caroline Spotswood	Director, Aboriginal Partnerships
	Mel Gray	Deputy Secretary Policy and Reform

	Name	Contact number
DPAC contact for more information:	Mel Gray	Out of scope, s.38

Parliamentary Briefing 2025

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

Output Group – Output Group 1 - Policy, Reform and Government Priorities
Output – 1.6 Aboriginal Affairs

Closing the Gap - Tasmania's Plan for Closing the Gap 2025-2028

Current as at: 03-October-2025

Talking Points

- Closing the Gap is a high priority for the Tasmanian Government.
- The National Agreement on Closing the Gap is clear that better outcomes are achieved when change is led by Aboriginal people, with Aboriginal people at the centre of shared decision-making about issues affecting them.
- Extensive consultation with Aboriginal community-controlled organisations over the last two years has informed Tasmania's Plan for Closing the Gap 2025-2028 (the Plan), which is finalised.
- We have worked closely with the Tasmanian Coalition of Peaks partner, the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, met with Aboriginal people at community sessions and Aboriginal community-controlled organisations to develop the actions in the Plan.
- Tasmanian Aboriginal people told us the priorities and practical actions are needed which aligns with the Closing the Gap priority of stronger partnerships and shared decision making between governments, Aboriginal people and organisations.

- It will also ensure Tasmania's Plan responds to 2024 recommendations from the Productivity Commission for governments to work closely with Aboriginal people to agree substantive actions for Closing the Gap plans.
- The Plan was considered by the Coalition of Peaks partner and Aboriginal organisations, through multiple meetings.

Background

- The National Agreement on Closing the Gap requires all states and territories to have implementation plans and to report annually against progress implementing those plans. The status of jurisdictional plans is outlined in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Status of state and territory Closing the Gap implementation plans and annual reports as stated in PWG papers August meeting 2025.

	Year/s of latest implementation plan	Latest annual report
ACT	2022	2022 - 2023
NSW	2022–24 Bridging Implementation Plan for 2025 under development	2022-2023
NT	2022-23	2021-2022
Qld	2023	2022 - 2023
SA	2024–26	2023–24
Tas	2025-2028	2021–2022 2022-2023 2023-2024 2024-2025 commenced
WA	2023–25 (3 years) Looking to a CtG refresh for new Implementation Plan	Aboriginal Affairs Report 2023
Vic	2021–23 (extended to 2025)	2023

- Tasmania has developed and published its Closing the Gap Annual Reports for 2022–2023 and 2023–24 (both tabled in September 2025) and has commenced preparation of the 2024-2025 Annual Report.
- Through the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, the Tasmanian Government committed to four priority reforms:

- Formal partnerships and shared decision making with Tasmania's Aboriginal community-controlled sector
- Building capacity of the community-controlled sector
- Transforming government organisations to ensure accountability for Closing the Gap, and that our workplaces and services are culturally safe
- Providing the Aboriginal community-controlled sector with shared access to relevant data and information.
- As a small jurisdiction, Tasmania experiences challenges meeting the national requirements of the Closing the Gap architecture and reporting. While this work is important, it diverts resources from progressing the substantive work required across government agencies on the priority reforms and outcomes sought.
- Shared decision making is fundamental to Closing the Gap and Tasmania's Aboriginal community-controlled sector is small. Shared decision making and engagement must be managed so as not to overwhelm the sector, while continuing to build capacity.
- The Tasmanian representative on the Coalition of Peaks is the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC), making the TAC the Tasmanian Government's formal partner in Closing the Gap.
- The Tasmanian Government has provided peak body funding to Tasmania's Coalition of Peaks partner to employ a policy officer to support Closing the Gap. A budget commitment has been made to the Coalition of Peaks partner to continue its Closing the Gap work.
- Priorities for Closing the Gap in Tasmania for 2025–2028 include:
 - developing an independent mechanism to support and monitor the Tasmanian Government's progress against Priority Reform 3: Transformation of Government recommendations coming out of the Closing the Gap Independent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Led Review
 - development of a whole-of-government Closing the Gap Aboriginal Engagement Strategy, supported by Guidelines for Aboriginal Engagement in Tasmania
 - increasing and extending partnerships with Aboriginal community-controlled organisations
 - completing a report on Tasmanian Government Aboriginal expenditure and progressing a review of services and capacity for the Aboriginal community-controlled sector to increase its service delivery
 - developing a framework to support transformation of government organisations to deliver on Closing the Gap, including to ensure high level

accountability and cultural safety of government workplaces and services/programs

Governance, coordination and engagement

- The Tasmanian Government works with its Coalition of Peaks partner at officer-level and through regular senior-level meetings.
- Closing the Gap Deputy Secretaries Co-ordination Group
- Closing the Gap Intergovernmental Committee
- Partnership Forum – Coalition of Peaks and Tasmanian Government
- The Tasmanian Government also engages with the Tasmanian Regional Aboriginal Communities Alliance (TRACA) and Aboriginal community-controlled organisations statewide.

	Name	Position
Prepared by	Belinda Fenney-Walch	Senior Policy Analyst, Aboriginal Partnerships
Cleared by	Caroline Spotswood	Director, Aboriginal Partnerships

	Name	Contact number
DPAC contact for more information:	Mel Gray	Out of scope, s.38

Parliamentary Briefing 2025

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

Output Group 1 Policy, Reform and Government Priorities
Output – 1.6 Aboriginal Affairs

Commission of Inquiry Recommendations relating to Aboriginal Affairs

Current as at: **30-September-2025**

Talking Points

- Our Government has committed to the widespread, transformational reforms recommended by the Commission of Inquiry in its final report.
- The Commission of Inquiry made 30 recommendations related to Tasmanian Aboriginal children and young people and their families, and those impacted by institutional child sexual abuse.
- In delivering these recommendations, we remain committed to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap priority reforms and target outcomes.
- We are changing practices at a system level to work in partnership and to share decision-making with Aboriginal organisations and people to ensure their needs and expectations are met for the safety of children and their families.
- As we seek to drive systemic and cultural change, we are also focused on working with Tasmanian Aboriginal organisations and people to improve healing services into the future and have started initial engagement with Aboriginal organisations to inform this important work.

Executive Aboriginal roles

- Two Aboriginal roles for safeguarding Aboriginal children and young people in Tasmania will be established by 1 July 2026.
- An Executive Director for Aboriginal Children and Young People in the Department for Education, Children and Young People will lead departmental engagement, strengthen community partnerships and promote cultural safety (Recommendation 9.7).
- The Department has collaborated with Tasmania's Coalition of Peaks partner, the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, to ensure shared decision-making for this vital leadership role.
- A Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People (Recommendation 9.14) will be appointed as part of the new independent Commission for Children and Young People (Recommendation 18.6).
- The new Commissioner role is significant – this will be the first Aboriginal Commissioner in Tasmania.
- Tasmania's Coalition of Peaks partner, Aboriginal organisations and people were engaged in the consultation process on the draft Bill to establish the Commission, which was tabled in Parliament on 24 September 2025.
- The Government will continue to engage with Tasmania's Coalition of Peaks partner, Aboriginal organisations and people to establish the Aboriginal Commissioner role, and the Commission more generally.
- We are transforming our practices to share decision-making, and to ensure programs and services are Aboriginal-designed and led and based on community priorities and needs, in accordance with both the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry and the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

Background

- Aboriginal Partnerships, Department of Premier and Cabinet is progressing COI Recommendation 21.7 (due 2029), related to working with the Aboriginal sector to improve healing services for Aboriginal victim-survivors, their families and communities through full sector resourcing and support; and ensuring appropriate board and executive representation with sexual assault service providers. Funding for this recommendation will be sought through future Budget processes.
- On 1 December 2023, the Tasmanian Government released *Keeping Children Safe and Rebuilding Trust*, the Government Response to the Commission of Inquiry's report. Focus is now on implementing Phase 2 recommendations due by 1 July 2026.
- The Government committed to implementing all 191 recommendations from the Commission of Inquiry Final Report, with a broad reform agenda to 2029.
- The 30 recommendations related to Aboriginal affairs are summarised below. The full detail of all recommendations is attached (Attachment 1).
- Recommendation progress is noted as of **30 June 2025**.

Commission of Inquiry recommendations due by 1 July 2024 (4)

Number	Recommendation brief description	Agency lead	Progress
12.23	Develop family and community connections policy for young people in detention, including assistance for Aboriginal families and community members	DECYP	Completed
18.6	Establish a statutory Commission for Children and Young People, including Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People	DPAC	In progress
18.7	Appointment of future Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners to have rigorous selection processes, including independent selection panels (including ones with Aboriginal member majority for Aboriginal Commissioner) and Ministerial consultation	DPAC	Completed
19.1	Develop a whole of government child sexual abuse reform strategy and action plan	DPAC	Completed

Commission of Inquiry recommendations due by 1 July 2026 (16)

Number	Recommendation brief description	Agency lead	Progress
9.4	Executive-level restructure in DECYP, with relevant knowledge, expertise, leadership and responsibilities	DECYP	In progress
9.6	Develop and fund an empowerment and participation strategy for children and young people in out of home care, including a permanent advisory group	DECYP	In progress

9.7	Appoint Executive Director for Aboriginal Children and Young People, to be supported by an Office of Aboriginal Policy and Practice	DECYP	In progress
9.14	Appoint a Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People	DPAC	In progress
9.16	Ensure a case manager for each child in care; with maximum caseloads and regular reporting and publication of related data	DECYP	In progress
9.22	Tailor out of home care processes to specific needs of individual children, and informed by children's views	DECYP	In progress
12.8	Develop and fund an empowerment and participation strategy for children and young people in detention, including a permanent advisory group	DECYP	In progress
12.27	Develop an Aboriginal youth justice strategy in partnership with Aboriginal organisations and people	DECYP	In progress
12.28	Co-design youth detention / youth justice models with Aboriginal organisations and people to enable cultural safety and connection	DECYP	In progress
12.29	Ensure youth detention facilities are culturally safe for Aboriginal children and young people	DECYP	In progress
12.36	Ensure the independent community visitor scheme includes minimum standards for visits, safe spaces and access to Aboriginal visitors or the Aboriginal Commissioner as preferred	DECYP	In progress
12.39	Appoint and resource the Commission for Children and Young People as an additional National Prevent Mechanism under the United Nations Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT)	DOJ	In progress
15.10	Partner with stakeholders on diverse needs and backgrounds of children and young people using health services, including culturally safe spaces for Aboriginal children	DOH	Completed
16.1	Fund and establish specialist Tasmania Police units to investigate child sexual abuse, based across 3 regions, including reporting on client satisfaction	DPFEM	In progress
16.2	Review and establish flexible options to report child sexual abuse, including strategy to engage with priority communities including Aboriginal people	DPFEM	In progress
16.20	Prioritise data collection, monitoring and reporting relating to institutional child sexual abuse and justice systems	DOJ	In progress

Commission of Inquiry recommendations due by 1 July 2029 (10)

Number	Recommendation brief description	Agency lead	Progress
9.8	Develop and publish an out of home care strategic plan and related policy documents	DECYP	In progress
9.15	Fully implement all elements of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle – including through investment, reporting, data collection, partnerships and transfer of decision-making to Aboriginal community-controlled sector	DECYP	In progress
9.34	Establish an independent community visitor scheme for children in out of home care, youth detention and other residential youth justice facilities	DECYP	In progress
12.13	Develop and implement a Diversionary Services Framework, including new diversion programs and process review	DECYP	In progress
12.14	Review of youth justice system to maximise bail admissions and minimise remand placements	DOJ	In progress
12.15	Review youth justice legislation, establish new specialist Magistrates Court division and specialised professional development for judicial officers	DECYP	In progress
12.24	Establish throughcare services and appropriate learning environments to aid transition from detention	DECYP	In progress
18.5	Ensure the independent three-year review of the <i>Child and Youth Safe Organisations Act 2023</i> focuses on the Independent Regulator's resourcing, functions, powers and effectiveness; on organisational support to ensure compliance; and data review, application of the Universal Principle, and legislative amendments needed	DPAC	In progress
21.7	Improve healing services for Aboriginal victim-survivors, their families and communities, including Aboriginal sector resourcing and board representation	DPAC	In progress
21.8	Develop a Harmful Sexual Behaviours Framework and Plan; and ensure ongoing and increased funding for specialist therapeutic service services and systems, including Aboriginal representation in governance structures	DPAC	In progress

Prepared by	Name Laura Halm	Position Senior Policy Analyst, Aboriginal Partnerships
Cleared by	Caroline Spotswood Mel Gray	Director, Aboriginal Partnerships Deputy Secretary, Policy and Reform

DPAC contact for more information:	Name Mel Gray	Contact number Out of scope, s.36
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Recommendation	Commission of Inquiry Topic
<p style="text-align: center;">Expert and active leadership</p> <p>9.4 1. The Tasmanian Government should fund and restructure the Department for Education, Children and Young People to ensure (in addition to the current roles of Deputy Secretary for Keeping Children Safe, and the Executive Director for Youth Justice):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. there is separate executive-level responsibility for out of home care services b. there is separate executive-level responsibility for the combined areas of Child Safety Services, the Strong Families, Safe Kids Advice and Referral Line and family support services c. the classification level of these executive roles reflects the level of risk and responsibility carried by the positions d. the holders of these executive roles have knowledge and understanding in the area of child protection or out of home care and experience in providing strategic direction and leadership e. executive responsibility for child safeguarding in the education context is not combined with responsibility for child safeguarding in the children and family services context f. the role of Executive Director for Aboriginal Children and Young People is established and supported by an Office of Aboriginal Policy and Practice (Recommendation 9.7) g. the role of the Chief Practitioner is established and supported by an Office of the Chief Practitioner (Recommendation 9.17) h. expertise among members of the Department's executive is evenly balanced across the areas of education, Child Safety Services, out of home care, and youth justice i. the relevant specialist for out of home care and youth justice in the executive leads policy and practice development for those areas j. relevant centralised functions within the Department, such as human resources, procurement, and staff learning and development, address the distinct needs of schools, Child Safety Services, out of home care and youth detention. <p>2. The Tasmanian Government should ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the Secretary of the Department demonstrates active efforts to inform themselves about child protection and out of home care through individual professional development b. the Deputy Secretary for Keeping Children Safe has knowledge and understanding of the area of child protection or out of home care and experience in providing strategic direction and leadership c. the Secretary and Deputy Secretary, and the holders of the new executive roles, have key performance measures that include culture change in Child Safety Services and out of home care d. the Secretary and Deputy Secretary, and the holder of the new executive role responsible for out of home care, have key performance measures that include preventing sexual abuse in out of home care e. the Department has appropriate processes in place to ensure leaders have the knowledge, skills, aptitude and core capability requirements to effectively manage people and to lead a child safe organisation. 	
<p style="text-align: center;">Governance</p> <p>9.6 1. The Department for Education, Children and Young People should, in consultation with the Commission for Children and Young People (Recommendation 18.6), develop an empowerment and participation strategy for children and young people in out of home care. This strategy should have regard to best practice principles for children's participation in organisations at the individual and systemic levels.</p> <p>2. The empowerment and participation strategy should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. establishing a permanent out of home care advisory group to be involved in developing the out of home care strategic plan (Recommendation 9.8) and have ongoing input into the out of home care system b. building engagement with children into the Department's quality assurance and continuous improvement activities under the strategic plan (Recommendation 9.8) c. implementing the Viewpoint online questionnaire without delay d. regular monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the empowerment and participation strategy. <p>3. The out of home care permanent advisory group should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. include children, young people and young adults up to the age of 25 years with current or previous experience of out of home care in Tasmania, including Aboriginal people and people with disability b. have clear terms of reference developed in consultation with children, young people and young adults with experience of out of home care c. enable its members to participate in a safe and meaningful way and express their views on measures to empower children and young people in out of home care d. meet regularly, be chaired by a person independent of the Department and be attended by a senior departmental leader e. be adequately funded and resourced. 	
<p>9.7 The Department for Education, Children and Young People should appoint an Executive Director for Aboriginal Children and Young People for the whole of the Department. The office holder should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. report directly to the Secretary b. be supported by a sufficiently resourced Office of Aboriginal Policy and Practice c. oversee and report on the implementation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle (Recommendation 9.15) d. facilitate departmental engagement and build partnerships with Aboriginal communities e. promote and help establish recognised Aboriginal organisations (Recommendation 9.15) f. ensure Aboriginal culture, views and interests are represented in all departmental activities g. promote cultural safety for Aboriginal staff and Aboriginal children and families who come into contact with the Department h. increase recruitment of Aboriginal staff in the Department i. participate in the Quality and Risk Committee at least every six months in discussions about the number of Aboriginal children in out of home care, the proportion of Aboriginal children placed with Aboriginal carers, the proportion of Aboriginal children in out of home care with a cultural support plan, reunification rates for Aboriginal children and other key performance indicators to be agreed with the Quality and Risk Committee. 	
<p style="text-align: center;">Strategic planning for out of home care</p> <p>9.8 1. The Department for Education, Children and Young People should develop a strategic plan for the out of home care system. The plan should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. a vision for future models of out of home care in Tasmania b. the transition plan and commissioning strategy for outsourcing the provision of out of home care to the non-government sector (Recommendation 9.2) c. the empowerment and participation strategy for children and young people in out of home care (Recommendation 9.6) 	

	<p>d. implementation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle (Recommendation 9.15)</p> <p>e. a commitment to trauma-informed, therapeutic models of care (Recommendation 9.18)</p> <p>f. a commitment to the National Standards for Out-of-Home Care and the Child and Youth Safe Standards</p> <p>g. a workforce capacity building strategy (Recommendation 9.10)</p> <p>h. developing a carer recruitment, support and retention strategy, in consultation with the non-government sector</p> <p>i. a process for ongoing carer accreditation, registration and monitoring (Recommendation 9.20)</p> <p>j. establishing the outcomes and performance reporting framework (Recommendation 9.9)</p> <p>k. building quality assurance and improvement into all activities</p> <p>l. an updated framework of policies for the safety and wellbeing of children in care, including updating key policies relating to</p> <p>i. complaints handling</p> <p>ii. harmful sexual behaviours</p> <p>iii. mandatory education for staff in child sexual abuse</p> <p>iv. care concern and critical incident reporting and management</p> <p>v. child sexual exploitation</p> <p>vi. how decisions can be appealed and reviewed</p> <p>vii. professional conduct</p> <p>viii. implementing the Child and Youth Safe Standards.</p> <p>2. All policy documents should be published on the Department's website.</p> <p>3. Each element of the strategic plan for the out of home care system should have a timeframe attached, with staggered implementation, and the plan should be fully implemented within five years.</p> <p>4. The Secretary's key performance indicators should require the implementation of the strategic plan for the out of home care system within allocated timeframes.</p>
Keeping Aboriginal children safe	
9.14	The Tasmanian Government should appoint a Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People with statutory powers and functions to monitor the experiences of Aboriginal children in out of home care and youth detention.
9.15	<p>1. The Tasmanian Government should fully implement all elements of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle by:</p> <p>a. increasing investment in Aboriginal-led targeted early intervention and prevention services for Aboriginal families, including family support and reunification services, to a rate equivalent to the representation of Aboriginal children in the Tasmanian child safety system</p> <p>b. adopting and reporting on measures to reduce institutional racism and supporting decolonising practices in the Department for Education, Children and Young People to reduce the over-representation of Aboriginal children in out of home care</p> <p>c. ensuring that the Aboriginal status of all Aboriginal children in contact with Child Safety Services is accurately identified and recorded at the earliest opportunity, and appropriately shared with non-government out of home care providers and carers</p> <p>d. introducing legislation to amend the <i>Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997</i> to</p> <p>i. require decision makers to consult with a relevant recognised Aboriginal organisation in relation to any decision likely to have a significant impact on an Aboriginal child—in particular, decisions about whether to remove a child from their family and where a child should live</p> <p>ii. require the involvement of a relevant recognised Aboriginal organisation nominated by an Aboriginal child, or their advocate, in family group conferences, case planning and cultural support planning in respect of the child</p> <p>iii. create a statutory framework and plan co-designed with Aboriginal communities for transferring child safety decision-making authority for Aboriginal children to recognised Aboriginal organisations</p> <p>e. partnering with Aboriginal communities to</p> <p>i. promote and support establishing recognised Aboriginal organisations with local knowledge of Aboriginal children, families and communities, to facilitate the participation of Aboriginal children and families in child safety and out of home care decision-making processes</p> <p>ii. develop a model or models for the transfer of child safety decision making authority to recognised Aboriginal organisations</p> <p>iii. invest in recognised Aboriginal organisations' capacity to ensure they are fully resourced, and their workforces fully equipped and supported, to participate in child safety and out of home care decision-making processes for Aboriginal children, including involvement in cultural support planning, and to manage any transfer of decision-making authority for Aboriginal children</p> <p>f. designing and establishing, in partnership with Aboriginal communities, fully resourced, Aboriginal-led, therapeutic residential programs for Aboriginal children who have been removed from their families and for whom an appropriate placement with an Aboriginal carer cannot be found</p> <p>g. implementing systems to ensure every Aboriginal child in out of home care has a meaningful cultural support plan prepared by or with the involvement of a recognised Aboriginal organisation or an Aboriginal person with relevant cultural knowledge, and regularly reviewing cultural support plans to ensure cultural connections for Aboriginal children are being maintained</p> <p>h. ensuring non-government out of home care providers comply with the 'placement' and 'connection' elements of the Placement Principle</p> <p>i. ensuring the Aboriginal status of carers is identified and accurately recorded</p> <p>j. providing mandatory professional development to Child Safety Services staff to ensure all interactions with and responses to Aboriginal children, families and organisations are culturally safe.</p>
Supporting quality care	
9.16	1. The Department for Education, Children and Young People should:

	<p>a. ensure all children in care, including those on guardianship orders until age 18, have a case manager</p> <p>b. set a maximum case load for Child Safety Officers.</p> <p>2. The Department should report quarterly to the Quality and Risk Committee on the:</p> <p>a. number of children without an individual case manager</p> <p>b. average case load for Child Safety Officers</p> <p>c. average frequency of case manager visits children received, and the longest and shortest time periods between visits</p> <p>d. the number of children with a care team and Aboriginal representatives on the care team (where appropriate)</p> <p>e. average frequency of care team meetings</p> <p>f. percentage of children with a current care plan.</p> <p>3. The Department should ensure these figures are published quarterly on its website.</p>
Meeting children's needs	
9.22	<p>1. The Department for Education, Children and Young People's out of home care processes, including assessments, placements and care planning, should be tailored to address the specific needs of individual children.</p> <p>2. These processes should address the specific needs of all children, including Aboriginal children, children from other culturally diverse backgrounds, children with disability, children with mental illness and children who identify as LGBTQIA+.</p> <p>3. The Department's empowerment and participation strategy for children and young people in out of home care (Recommendation 9.6) should include processes that enable children's views to inform all elements of their individual care, including their assessments, placements and care planning.</p>
Independent advocacy and oversight	
9.34	<p>1. The Tasmanian Government should introduce legislation to establish an independent community visitor scheme for children in out of home care, youth detention and other residential youth justice facilities.</p> <p>2. The scheme should be administered by the Commission for Children and Young People (Recommendation 18.6) and led by the Child Advocate (Recommendation 9.33).</p> <p>3. The scheme should be funded to enable every child in care, youth detention or another residential youth justice facility to receive regular and frequent visits, and children in family-based care to be visited regularly or when they request a visit. Resourcing should also enable community visitors to undertake advocacy on behalf of the children they visit.</p> <p>4. Community visitors should be appointed by the Child Advocate based on their skills, knowledge and expertise, and remuneration should be comparable to similar paid roles in other jurisdictions.</p> <p>5. Aboriginal children should have access to Aboriginal community visitors under the scheme.</p> <p>6. Community visitors should be responsible, among other matters, for:</p> <p>a. developing trusting and supportive relationships with children in out of home care, youth detention or other residential youth justice facilities</p> <p>b. advocating on behalf of children by listening to, giving voice to and helping to resolve their concerns and grievances</p> <p>c. facilitating children's access to support services</p> <p>d. inquiring about and reporting on children's physical and emotional wellbeing</p> <p>e. inquiring about whether children's needs are being met.</p> <p>7. The program should include funding for a small number of legally trained child advocacy officers, also appointed by the Child Advocate (Recommendation 9.33), to assist children with more complex concerns and to support them in seeking independent review of departmental decision making.</p>
Cultural change	
12.8	<p>The Department for Education, Children and Young People should, in consultation with the new Commission for Children and Young People (Recommendation 18.6), develop an empowerment and participation strategy for children and young people in detention, having regard to best practice principles for children's participation in organisations. The strategy should include:</p> <p>a. the establishment of a permanent advisory group that:</p> <p>i. includes children, young people and young adults up to the age of 25 years with previous experience of youth detention in Tasmania, including Aboriginal people and people with disability</p> <p>ii. has clear terms of reference developed in consultation with young people with experience of detention</p> <p>iii. enables its members to participate in a safe and meaningful way and express their views on measures to empower children and young people in detention (including the role and purpose of the Resident Advisory Group) and achieve cultural change in detention</p> <p>iv. meets regularly and is chaired by a person independent of the Department and attended by a senior departmental leader</p> <p>v. is adequately funded and resourced</p> <p>b. a review of the Ashley Youth Detention Centre Resident Advisory Group to ensure it conforms with best practice principles for children's participation and provides a safe forum for children and young people in detention to express their views, including on measures to achieve cultural change in detention, without fear of reprisal</p>

	<p>c. a consultation forum for children and young people in any youth detention facility that replaces Ashley Youth Detention Centre</p> <p>d. mechanisms to ensure children and young people in detention are aware of their rights</p> <p>e. regular monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the empowerment and participation strategy.</p>
Reducing the number of children in youth detention	
12.13	<p>1. The Tasmanian Government, in reviewing current diversion processes and developing a Diversionary Services Framework, should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. examine the exercise of police discretion to determine whether opportunities for cautioning and community conferencing are being maximised, particularly for Aboriginal children and young people, and children and young people without a strong family support network b. commission research to examine the effectiveness of formal cautions imposed with undertakings and the sanctions imposed by community conferences, to ensure they are proportionate to the alleged offending and not unnecessarily onerous c. introduce legislation to widen the range of alleged offences in respect of which diversion may be pursued and create a presumption in favour of pre-court diversion for children and young people. <p>2. The Tasmanian Government should begin statewide delivery of new diversion programs under the Diversionary Services Framework by 2025.</p>
12.14	<p>The Tasmanian Government, to maximise opportunities for children and young people to be admitted to bail and minimise the number of children and young people on remand, should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. introduce legislation to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. require bail decision makers to consider the matters specified in section 3B of the <i>Bail Act 1977</i> (Vic) when determining bail for a child, as well as the child's age (including their developmental age at the time of the alleged offence), Aboriginal status and any previous experience of trauma or out of home care ii. prohibit the refusal of bail to a child on the sole ground that the child does not have any, or any adequate, accommodation b. examine the effectiveness of the existing bail support program with a view to expanding its capacity and funding additional bail support programs c. establish and fully resource a statewide 24-hour bail system for children and young people with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. specialised and trained decision makers who have knowledge of children and young people, Aboriginal children and young people, and the impact of trauma ii. access to corresponding bail support services iii. access to legal representation for children and young people d. ensure its proposed assisted bail facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. are small, homelike and, subject to bail conditions, do not place restrictions on the movements of children and young people ii. have the capacity to deal with children and young people with complex needs iii. are designed to include wraparound services, such as health, education and employment iv. are culturally safe for Aboriginal children and young people v. include specialist, therapeutically trained bail support workers to help children and young people attend programs and services, and to comply with their conditions of bail.
12.15	<p>The Tasmanian Government should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. ensure any legislation designed to amend or replace the <i>Youth Justice Act 1997</i> provides that <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. rehabilitation is the primary purpose of sentencing a child ii. the list of sentencing options is a hierarchy and a sentencer can only impose a sentence at a particular level of the hierarchy if satisfied that it is not appropriate to impose a sentence that is 'lower' in the hierarchy iii. a sentence imposed on a child should be the minimum intervention required in the circumstances iv. a custodial sentence must only be imposed as a last resort and for the minimum period necessary v. in sentencing a child the court must consider the child's experience of trauma, any child protection involvement or experience of out of home care, disruptions to the child's living situation or education, any mental illness, neurological difficulties or developmental issues experienced by the child, and the child's chronological age and developmental age at the time of sentencing vi. in sentencing an Aboriginal child, the court must consider additional factors including the consequences of intergenerational trauma, historical discriminatory policies, general and systemic racism, and any previous culturally inappropriate responses that may have worsened the effects of trauma on the child vii. there is a presumption against imposing restrictive conditions (such as curfews and non-association conditions) with community-based sentencing orders, which may increase a child's likelihood of breaching a sentencing order and being sentenced to detention b. ensure children who are sentenced to a supervised community-based order receive adequate support to comply with the conditions of the order from therapeutically trained, culturally competent staff c. assist and support the Magistrates Court to establish a new division of the Court to hear and determine both child protection matters and criminal charges against children and young people, which should be constituted by at least three dedicated full-time magistrates with specialist knowledge and skills relating to children and young people d. support the Magistrates Court to arrange for the implementation and operation of the Court's new specialist division to be independently evaluated after three years e. fund the Magistrates and Supreme Courts to provide professional development for judicial officers hearing matters involving children and young people in the adult jurisdiction, in areas including child and adolescent development, trauma, child and adolescent mental health, cognitive and communication deficits, and Aboriginal cultural safety.
Creating a child-focused youth detention system	
12.23	<p>The Department for Education, Children and Young People should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. develop and implement a policy that recognises the importance to children and young people in detention of maintaining or building connections with their family and community and' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. specifies ways to promote such connections, including through visits, temporary leave and phone or video calls ii. clearly states that entitlements to visits, temporary leave and phone or video calls cannot be denied on the basis of a child or young person's behaviour b. provide reasonable assistance (including financial help) to members of a child or young person's family or Aboriginal community to enable them to visit the child or young person frequently, where families or Aboriginal community members have barriers to accessing the youth detention facility.

12.24	<p>The Tasmanian Government should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> establish an integrated throughcare service for children and young people in detention that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> begins exit planning as soon as possible after a child or young person enters detention for the provision of safe and stable accommodation, access to physical and mental health support, and assistance with education or employment after release to facilitate their reintegration into the community provides increased access to the detention facility for staff of community based providers of post-release services adopts a collaborative, child-centred, cross-organisation approach involving child protection, housing, health, disability support and education services, supported by a memorandum of understanding and clear policies and procedures involves the child or young person and, to the greatest extent possible, their parent, guardian or other significant adult in exit planning includes post-release wraparound support services for children and young people is culturally safe for Aboriginal children and young people deliver community-based schooling options for children and young people with complex behavioural challenges, including those who are or have been involved in the youth justice system, to provide appropriate learning environments for children to transition to when they leave detention
Aboriginal children in youth detention	
12.27	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Tasmanian Government, to protect Aboriginal children and young people against the risk of sexual abuse in youth detention, should urgently develop, in partnership with Aboriginal communities, an Aboriginal youth justice strategy that is underpinned by self-determination and that focuses on prevention, early intervention and diversion strategies for Aboriginal children and young people. Aboriginal communities should be funded to participate in developing the strategy. The strategy should consider and address, among other matters: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> legislative reform to enable recognised Aboriginal organisations to design, administer and supervise elements of the youth justice system for Aboriginal children and young people capacity building and funding for recognised Aboriginal organisations to participate in youth justice decision making in relation to Aboriginal children and young people, and to deliver youth justice services to Aboriginal children and young people the use of police discretion in the investigation and processing of Aboriginal children and young people, including cautioning, arrest, custody, charging and bail alternative pre-court diversionary options for Aboriginal children and young people mechanisms to increase the likelihood of Aboriginal children and young people receiving bail and minimise the number of Aboriginal children and young people on remand, including culturally responsive supported bail accommodation and other bail assistance programs, and legislative reform to require bail decision makers to consider a child's Aboriginal status mechanisms to support Aboriginal children and young people to comply with the conditions of community-based youth justice orders, to minimise their likelihood of breaching conditions and entering detention.
12.28	<p>The Tasmanian Government should ensure:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> any new facilities intended to replace Ashley Youth Detention Centre are co-designed with Aboriginal communities and include culturally enriching environments for Aboriginal children and young people that promote connection to family, community and Country the Aboriginal youth justice strategy (Recommendation 12.27) considers whether a small, homelike facility that has Aboriginal staff, provides trauma-informed care and enables Aboriginal children and young people to connect with culture through the involvement of local Aboriginal communities, should be established specifically for Aboriginal children and young people who are remanded or serving a custodial sentence. Careful consideration should be given to the most appropriate management model for such a facility.
12.29	<p>The Tasmanian Government should take steps to ensure Ashley Youth Detention Centre and any replacement facilities are culturally safe for Aboriginal children and young people. These steps should include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> updating admission procedures and case management guidelines to require staff to <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ask children and young people who identify as Aboriginal whether they would like the support of an Aboriginal organisation or an Aboriginal community member while they are detained notify the nominated organisation or individual within 12 hours of the child or young person's admission facilitate the involvement of the child or young person's nominated representative in case planning, case management and exit planning in respect of the child or young person updating relevant guidelines and procedures to require staff to consult with an Aboriginal child or young person's community to determine how best to provide individual cultural support to the child or young person while they are in detention working with Aboriginal communities to establish ongoing cultural programs for Aboriginal children and young people in detention, such as visiting Elders programs, on-Country programs and cultural mentoring programs ensuring the new policy on supporting children and young people in detention to maintain connections to their families and communities (Recommendation 12.23) emphasises the central importance of connection to family, community and culture for the wellbeing of Aboriginal children and young people in detention establishing the role of Aboriginal liaison officer in youth detention to support Aboriginal children and young people, including by facilitating cultural support and becoming involved in case planning, case management and exit planning ensuring the updated Ashley Youth Detention Centre Learning and Development Framework is designed to equip staff with the knowledge and skills to provide a culturally safe environment for Aboriginal children and young people, including providing trauma-informed and culturally safe responses to children and young people engaging in self-harm or other challenging behaviours.
Independent oversight of youth detention	
12.36	<p>The Tasmanian Government, in establishing and resourcing the new independent community visitor scheme (Recommendation 9.34), should ensure:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> independent community visitors visit children and young people in detention facilities weekly, at a minimum Aboriginal children and young people in detention or other residential youth justice facilities have access, wherever possible, to visits from an Aboriginal independent community visitor or from the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People, depending on the child's preference independent community visitors have the necessary statutory powers to perform their functions, including the power to enter the facility, have access to children and young people in the facility and inspect the facility each facility where children and young people are detained or reside has a safe, dedicated space where independent community visitors can meet with children and young people and discuss concerns without being observed or overheard by staff or other children and young people.

12.39	<p>The Tasmanian Government should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> appoint the Commission for Children and Young People (Recommendation 18.6) as an additional National Preventive Mechanism under the United Nations Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT), with expertise in child rights, child trauma, the prevention and identification of child abuse, the needs of Aboriginal children and young people and the needs of children and young people with disability, and with power to inspect places where children and young people are detained resource Tasmanian National Preventive Mechanisms sufficiently to allow them to effectively fulfil their functions under OPCAT.
Empowering children, families and carers	
15.10	<p>The Department of Health should work with relevant stakeholders to consider the needs and backgrounds of children and young people using health services, including Aboriginal children, children from culturally diverse backgrounds, children with disability, children with mental illness and children who identify as LGBTQIA+. The Department should consult with Aboriginal communities on how it can provide culturally safe spaces for Aboriginal children across its health services.</p>
Police responses	
16.1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Tasmanian Government should fund and establish specialist units in Tasmania Police, based on the Victorian Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Teams model, to investigate child sexual abuse and to be based in three locations (Hobart, Launceston and the North-West). The specialist police units should: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> specialise in the investigation of child sexual abuse, including historical child sexual abuse (and potentially adult sexual assault) but not undertake domestic and family violence work unless it is directly connected to child sexual abuse (or adult sexual assault) be staffed by police officers who have undertaken specialised professional development (Recommendation 16.3) and members who have trauma-informed training (Recommendation 19.2) partner with other agencies and support services involved in responding to child sexual abuse to create multidisciplinary teams. These teams do not have to be co-located, although this may be appropriate in some areas have access to a 'soft' interview room, ideally offsite from police stations and potentially in multidisciplinary centres be directed to perform other policing duties only in exceptional circumstances and not as part of a unit's usual roster support the wellbeing of police officers and members working in the specialist unit develop and implement strategies to engage and build trust with marginalised communities, particularly Aboriginal people and people with criminal histories (Recommendation 16.2). Tasmania Police should measure and report on victim-survivor satisfaction with the operation of the specialist units within two years of establishment and regularly thereafter.
16.2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Tasmania Police should establish ways for people to report child sexual abuse online. The Department of Justice and the Department for Education, Children and Young People should review their internal processes to make it easier for people in prison and youth detention to report abuse to the police or other bodies, including online or by phone hotline, and ensure appropriate confidentiality of reports. Specialist police units (Recommendation 16.1) should develop a strategy to engage with 'priority communities', by implementing measures to develop relationships, build trust and encourage reporting of child sexual abuse, and to assist prevention and 'disruptive' policing (Recommendations 9.29 and 9.30). Priority communities include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Aboriginal communities people who are or were in prison or youth detention people who are or were in out of home care (or youth support services).
Monitoring and evaluation	
16.20	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Department of Justice should: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> prioritise collecting and publishing key data about institutional child sexual abuse, including <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the number of reports of child sexual abuse made to police police, prosecution and court outcomes of reports, and reasons for outcomes, including the reasons why cases did not proceed the time between reporting, charging or a decision not to progress, and prosecution whether the abuse took place in an institutional setting basic demographics of victim-survivors and alleged perpetrators (for example, age, gender and Aboriginal status) trends in relation to particular groups, including Aboriginal people support the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions to improve its data collection for child sexual abuse cases so it can effectively monitor <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the cases on which police seek advice, that proceed to court and that are discontinued, including the reasons for discontinuance the number, type and success rate of appeals in child sexual abuse matters cause periodic surveys to be conducted and published with victim-survivors of child sexual abuse on their experience and satisfaction with the criminal justice system, including on whether the victim-survivor <ol style="list-style-type: none"> felt listened to felt believed understood the process was kept informed of the progress of the case.

	2. The Sentencing Advisory Council should periodically review trends in sentencing for child sexual abuse offences in Tasmania and compare them with sentencing outcomes for equivalent offences in other Australian jurisdictions.
Child and Youth Safe Organisations Act 2023	
18.5	<p>The Tasmanian Government should ensure its independent three-year review of the <i>Child and Youth Safe Organisations Act 2023</i> has a particular focus on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> whether the Independent Regulator is sufficiently resourced and empowered to perform its functions effectively, and new or additional resourcing, functions and powers are necessary to support compliance how effectively the Independent Regulator is working with other agencies, including the Ombudsman or other oversight bodies, Registrar of the Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Scheme, Tasmania Police, professional regulatory bodies and other peak bodies, to support compliance, share information and manage active risks to children and young people how organisations captured by the Child and Youth Safe Standards and the Reportable Conduct Scheme have experienced the new regulatory requirements, and in particular whether they have felt sufficiently supported to comply analysing data emerging from the operation of the schemes, particularly as they relate to complaints and notifications and trends within and across sectors whether the Universal Principle requiring organisations to uphold cultural safety is achieving its intended objective, and whether it should become an additional Child and Youth Safe Standard, mirroring the approach in Victoria whether any further legislative changes are required to ensure appropriate information sharing between the Independent Regulator and other agencies.
Oversight and safeguards supporting a child safe system	
18.6	<p>1. The Tasmanian Government should establish a statutory Commission for Children and Young People, which includes the following roles, each appointed for a term of five years:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a Commissioner for Children and Young People a Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People a Child Advocate (Deputy Commissioner). <p>2. The Commission for Children and Young People should, in addition to the functions of the current Commissioner for Children and Young People under the <i>Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2016</i>, have the following functions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> educating relevant entities on the Child and Youth Safe Standards and overseeing and enforcing compliance with those standards as Independent Regulator under the <i>Child and Youth Safe Organisations Act 2023</i> administering the Reportable Conduct Scheme as Independent Regulator under the <i>Child and Youth Safe Organisations Act 2023</i> administering the independent community visitor scheme for children in out of home care, youth detention and other residential youth justice facilities (Recommendations 9.34 and 12.36) advocating for individual children in out of home care, youth detention and other residential youth justice facilities monitoring the operation of the out of home care and youth justice systems and the provision of out of home care and youth justice services to children (Recommendations 9.38 and 12.38) conducting inquiries into the out of home care and youth justice systems and the services provided to individual children in those systems, including own motion inquiries (Recommendations 9.38 and 12.38) making recommendations to government for out of home care and youth justice system improvements promoting the participation of children in out of home care and youth justice in decision making that affects their lives upholding and promoting the rights of children in the out of home care and youth justice systems. <p>3. The Commission for Children and Young People should have all necessary powers to perform its functions.</p>
18.7	<p>The Tasmanian Government should ensure the process for appointing future Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners for Children and Young People adopts the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> future Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners be appointed following an externally advertised merit-based selection process to ensure they have relevant professional qualifications and substantive experience in matters affecting vulnerable children the recruitment process for these roles include a non-partisan adult selection panel with at least one member external to the Tasmanian State Service, and a separate children's selection panel the adult and children's selection panels for the role of Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People have a majority of Aboriginal members before making a recommendation to the Governor for an appointment to the Commission for Children and Young People, the Minister be required to consult with the leader of any political party with at least two members in Parliament.
Developing a child sexual abuse reform strategy	
19.1	<p>1. The Tasmanian Government should develop a whole of government child sexual abuse reform strategy for preventing, identifying and responding to child sexual abuse, including child sexual abuse in institutions and harmful sexual behaviours. The strategy should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> describe the system that Tasmania seeks to achieve, including the component parts of that system, how Tasmanians will know it is working, and the role of key initiatives, reforms and recommendations in achieving the intended outcomes be separate from, but complement, the Government's Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan be informed by the voices of children and young people and adult victim survivors of child sexual abuse (Recommendation 19.5) include agreed definitions of child sexual abuse, institutional child sexual abuse and harmful sexual behaviours set out guiding principles and objectives to inform preventing, identifying and responding to child sexual abuse identify the agencies, including statutory bodies and non-government organisations, involved in preventing, identifying and responding to child sexual abuse set out processes through which government agencies, statutory bodies and non-government organisations can consult on child sexual abuse reform set out considerations relevant to particular cohorts of children and young people, including Aboriginal children, children with disability, children with mental illness, children who identify as LGBTQIA+ and children from culturally and linguistically diverse communities outline the sources of funding for key initiatives and reforms set out in the strategy

	<p>j. outline the governance, monitoring, review and evaluation arrangements for child sexual abuse reform, including that the Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, as Chair of the Secretaries Board, is responsible for endorsing, overseeing, coordinating and reporting on the strategy and action plan (Recommendation 19.3).</p> <p>2. The Tasmanian Government should develop an action plan for the implementation of the child sexual abuse reform strategy. The action plan should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> prioritise all recommendations and reforms for implementation over the short, medium and long term and include expected timeframes for implementing each recommendation identify the role holders and agencies that have responsibility for implementation of each recommendation and reform describe the actions to be taken to implement the recommendations and reforms, including any milestones, sequencing and dependencies identify the status of each recommendation and reform (that is, complete, under way or not commenced) and whether it is progressing on time be endorsed and overseen by the governance structure identified in the strategy. <p>3. The child sexual abuse reform strategy and action plan should be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> tabled in each House of Parliament published on a dedicated website supported by a communication plan that seeks to inform and provide visibility of reform work to stakeholders and the community periodically reviewed and updated by the Secretaries Board through the Department of Premier and Cabinet.
Improving the therapeutic service system	
21.7	<p>The Tasmanian Government should improve healing services for Aboriginal victim survivors and their families and communities by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> fully resourcing and supporting recognised Aboriginal organisations across the state to design, develop and deliver Aboriginal-led healing approaches targeted to victim-survivors of child sexual abuse ensuring Aboriginal representation on the boards of management or in the executive structures of sexual assault services.
Strengthening services for children who have displayed harmful sexual behaviours	
21.8	<p>1. The Tasmanian Government, in collaboration with key stakeholders, should develop a statewide framework and plan for preventing, identifying and responding to harmful sexual behaviours. The framework should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> agree on a common definition and understanding of harmful sexual behaviours, including adopting a recognised, contemporary continuum of sexual behaviours from 'developmentally expected' to 'harmful' use an evidence-informed framework for understanding, preventing, identifying and responding to harmful sexual behaviours clarify the roles and responsibilities of the various agencies and departments involved in preventing and responding to the full continuum of harmful sexual behaviours, including programs delivered by non-government providers meet the needs of particular groups of children (Recommendation 21.6) include structures to support ongoing engagement with emerging evidence regarding harmful sexual behaviours include an evaluation framework. <p>2. The Tasmanian Government should ensure the therapeutic service system for children who have displayed harmful sexual behaviours:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> provides sufficient therapeutic services that can be accessed in a timely manner ensures timely access to therapeutic services for all children who need them, regardless of their age, identity or location in the state (including in youth detention) ensures specialist interventions for children with disability ensures all providers of therapeutic interventions for harmful sexual behaviours have Aboriginal representation in their governance structure. <p>3. The Tasmanian Government should provide ongoing and increased funding for specialist therapeutic interventions for harmful sexual behaviours that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ensures children who have displayed abusive or violent harmful sexual behaviours and their families need not wait more than two weeks for support when therapeutic treatment is required provides an advisory service for child-facing organisations, such as independent schools, childcare, disability and at-risk youth services and Tasmania Police (this service is not intended for the Department for Education, Children and Young People, which will have access to an internal Harmful Sexual Behaviours Support Unit (Recommendation 9.28)) contributes to the statewide plan for preventing harmful sexual behaviours and its agencies' responses to children who have displayed such behaviours.

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

Output Group 1 - Policy, Reform and Government Priorities
Output – 1.6 Aboriginal Affairs

Eligibility Policy

Current as at: **01-October-2025**

Talking Points

- The Tasmanian Government has an Eligibility Policy for people that want to access the Tasmanian Government's Aboriginal programs and services.
- The Eligibility Policy was developed and implemented from the 2016 Resetting the Relationship with Tasmanian Aboriginal people.
- The Eligibility Policy is not confirmation of Aboriginality as this is for Aboriginal people to determine.
- Managing eligibility to dedicated Aboriginal programs and services is important for ensuring that Aboriginal people receive these services.
- The Department of Premier and Cabinet has an information-sharing arrangement with other Tasmanian Government agencies to share information and ensure that eligibility is only required to be established once.
- This is achieved through a central register accessible by relevant officers in Government agencies.
- Since its development and implementation, the Eligibility Policy has not been reviewed. *Tasmania's Plan for Closing the Gap 2025-2028* has an action for the policy to be reviewed.

- The Tasmanian Government understands the sensitivity of its Eligibility Policy and will work at a pace with the Aboriginal community to ensure continuous improvement.

Background

- As one pillar of the 2016 Resetting the Relationship with Tasmanian Aboriginal people, the Tasmanian Government reviewed its approach to determining eligibility for Aboriginal programs and services to make it consistent with the process used by the Australian Government.
- *Tasmania's Plan for Closing the Gap 2025-2028* includes an action to review the Eligibility Policy and deliver updated guidelines; this action is carried over from the Closing the Gap Implementation Plan 2021-2023 and will be undertaken over the coming year.

Process

- The Tasmanian Government's process for establishing eligibility is required by agencies delivering Aboriginal-specific programs and services, and for representation on Tasmanian Government committees, boards and groups where the person is required to be Aboriginal.
- The three-part test requires that the applicant
 - have Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander ancestry
 - self-identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person and
 - be recognised as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person by the Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander community in which they live or have lived.
- In practice, the test is addressed by the statutory declaration in the *Eligibility Form*, which requires the applicant to declare against each part of the test.
- The *Eligibility Form* also contains a Confirmation Statement in which representatives of Aboriginal community organisations testify to the applicant's recognition.
 - There is a register of organisations from which DPAC will accept confirmation statements.

Issues

- The Eligibility Policy is frequently misconstrued as a confirmation of an individual's 'Aboriginality.' The Tasmanian Government does not have an Aboriginality policy.
- The Eligibility Policy relates to the process of accessing Tasmanian Government programs and services that are available to Aboriginal people.

- The Eligibility Policy is not uniformly applied by Tasmanian Government agencies. People can self-identify as an Aboriginal person in the education system, public health services and in the justice system.
- The Eligibility Policy relies on Aboriginal community-controlled organisations to provide communal recognition statements.

Aboriginal Eligibility Register

- The Department of Premier and Cabinet collaborates with the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania to manage the central Register for recording instances of eligibility under the Eligibility Policy.
- The Register shows basic personal information regarding each eligible person, the organisation providing communal recognition and a copy of his or her Eligibility Form. It does not contain family history or ancestral information.
- Aboriginal Partnerships works with agencies to identify previous decisions on eligibility, to ensure the Register is as accurate as possible. There is an ongoing transfer of existing and historical eligibility records to the Register.
- As of 30 September 2025, there were 1,233 people listed on the Register.

Tasmania's Plan for Closing the Gap 2025-2028

- Continuing Action 18 in the Closing the Gap Plan 2025-2028 is to
Review the Tasmanian Government Eligibility for Government Services policy, including processes and guidance relating to provision of communal recognition.
- DPAC and the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs has responsibility for this action.

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Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

Output Group – 1 Policy, Reform and Government Priorities
Output – 1.6 Aboriginal Affairs

Truth-telling and Treaty for Aboriginal Partnerships

Current as at: **12-November-2025**

Talking Points

- I understand the deep significance of Truth-telling and Treaty to Tasmanian Aboriginal people, and that there are mixed views about which should come first or progressing one without the other.
- Following careful consideration and many conversations with Aboriginal people across Tasmania, the Government decided to prioritise a Truth-telling and healing process.
- This process would:
 - be led by Aboriginal people
 - provide Tasmanian Aboriginal people with safe and supported opportunities to speak their truth, and by doing so, help the Tasmanian community understand the ongoing impacts of colonisation and dispossession
 - preserve Tasmanian history and storytelling for the future
 - facilitate healing and reconciliation.
- The announcement of funding for Truth telling and Healing Commissioners was openly welcomed by the Aboriginal Elders Council of Tasmania, the Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania, Marrawah Law, the Tasmanian Regional Aboriginal Communities

Alliance, the Aboriginal Advisory Group for Truth telling and Treaty, and Reconciliation Tasmania.

- As the new Minister, I would like some time to hear from and listen further from Tasmanian Aboriginal people to gain a deeper understanding of an Aboriginal standpoint on Truth-telling and healing.
- The Government is wanting an alignment and a strong focus on Closing the Gap priorities and delivering on those priorities for Tasmanian Aboriginal people.
- To support the progress of Truth-telling and healing this budget is providing funding as committed over two years of approximately \$880,000. This funding will enable organisations including the Elders Council of Tasmania and Reconciliation Tasmania to facilitate understanding, gathering of truths and to input into what will be an Aboriginal-led process. Funding will also support the determination of the form that the Truth-telling and healing process will take.

If asked – TAC media release 13 August 2025

- I am aware of the media release from the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre urging all Tasmanian political parties to commit to land returns, Treaty and new Aboriginal heritage law.
- The Government is committed to progressing our commitments and I acknowledge that we have more to do but it does take time, and we will work at the pace of the Community.

Background

- The Truth-telling and Healing initiative formed part of the previous Government's broader commitment to Closing the Gap and improving the lives of Tasmanian Aboriginal people.
- The 2025-2026 State Budget has committed \$4.4 million over four years for Closing the Gap and other Aboriginal projects including Truth-telling and healing. Of this

funding approximately \$880,000 will be dedicated towards progressing Truth-telling and healing in Tasmania for Tasmanian Aboriginal people.

- In response to the Government announcement of funding for Truth-telling and Healing, five Aboriginal stakeholders issued media releases supporting the announcement, including progressing Truth-Telling and Healing before Treaty. These stakeholders were the Elders Council of Tasmania, the Tasmanian Regional Aboriginal Communities Alliance, the Aboriginal Advisory Group on Truth-telling and Treaty, Marrawah Law and Reconciliation Tasmania.
- The Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC) – the only Tasmanian member of the Coalition of Peaks and the Tasmanian Government’s main partner on Closing the Gap – also issued a media release following a statewide community meeting that “reaffirmed the Tasmanian Aboriginal community’s unwavering call for action beyond truth-telling, declaring that now is the time for the government to return land, restore decision-making authority, and recognise our cultural sovereignty”.
- The TAC issued a second media release on 13 August 2025, urging all Tasmanian political parties to commit to land returns, Treaty and new Aboriginal heritage law.
- Table 1 lists the organisations that issued media releases, their position on prioritising Truth-telling over Treaty, and a key quote from each media release.

Table 1: Organisations that issued media releases in response to the announcement of funding for Truth-telling and Healing

Who	Date	Position	Key quote
Elders Council of Tasmania	26 May 2025	Supportive	“I can’t emphasise enough how important Truth-telling is to Aboriginal people. It’s the first step on the pathway to healing. We want to take the right first steps and bring everyone along.”
Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania	27 May 2025	Supportive	“Truth Must Precede Justice – and Justice Must Precede Treaty “A Treaty cannot be built on silence or denial. ‘Truth-Telling lays the foundation for Treaty by clearly showing why it is needed.’”
Marrawah Law	27 May 2025	Supportive	“While the decision not to pursue treaty at this time may bring mixed emotions for some, Ms Cameron emphasised the importance of understanding the truth telling and treaty as a <i>journey</i> — and not a single destination.” “This is a step forward on that path. Truth-telling is the right place to begin. It builds the foundation for justice, recognition, and then treaty. We understand the journey — and we will get there.”
Tasmanian Regional Aboriginal Communities Alliance	27 May 2025	Supportive	“As a society, if the failure of the Voice Referendum and the unpleasantness that it dragged to the surface has taught us anything, it is that we need to learn the truth about each other and develop a greater level

			of awareness, respect and mutual understanding.”
Aboriginal Advisory Group on Truth-telling and Treaty	27 May 2025	Supportive	“Through its ongoing deliberations the AAG hold the view Truth-Telling in Tasmania must come first.”
Reconciliation Tasmania	28 May 2025	Supportive	“Truth-telling must point the way towards a better future, one which upholds the sovereignty of Tasmania’s First Peoples and works towards legal recognition and treaty with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community.”
Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre	24 Jun 2025	Critical	“The Statewide community meeting held in Launceston has reaffirmed the Tasmanian Aboriginal community’s unwavering call for action beyond truth-telling, declaring that now is the time for the government to return land, restore decision-making authority, and recognise our cultural sovereignty.”
Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre	13 Aug 2025	Critical	“The TAC is urging all parties and crossbenchers to publicly commit to genuine action on land return, treaty negotiations, and stronger heritage protections — before any deals are struck to determine who governs Tasmania.”

The Aboriginal Advisory Group on Truth-telling and Treaty

- In response to the Pathway to Truth-Telling and Treaty Report, prepared by Professors Kate Warner and Tim McCormack and tabled in Parliament on 25 November 2021, the Tasmanian Government made a commitment to delivering a pathway to Truth-telling and Treaty, led by Tasmanian Aboriginal people.
- Accordingly, in December 2022, the Government established the Aboriginal Advisory Group on Truth Telling and Treaty (AAG), to advise on a process for Truth-Telling and Treaty.
- The AAG wrote to the former Minister for Aboriginal Affairs in October 2024 providing the following recommendations on the next steps to progress Truth-telling and Treaty:
 1. Consider the introduction of two Truth-telling and Treaty Commissioner positions, one male and one female, to cater for cultural protocols and spread the required workload.
 2. Ensure the Commissioners are recognised Tasmanian Aboriginal people with ancestry linked directly to a Tasmanian Aboriginal traditional owner group/clan.
 3. Have the Commissioner roles in place for a minimum of five years with option for extension for up another 5 years.
 4. Maintain the AAG to work alongside the Commissioners for an initial three-year period with potential to extend if warranted.
 5. Commit to funding the Truth-telling and Treaty process within budget forecasts for up to 10 years.

6. Commit to formalising a policy position for a new Truth-telling and Treaty Commissioner based on the AAG's advice as soon as practicable (ideally no later than the end of 2024).
 7. With support from the AAG, commit to engaging directly with opposition parties and independents to gain tri-partisan support for the new policy position.
 8. Commit to developing the required legislation for Truth-telling and Treaty Commissioner roles as soon as practicable (ideally by mid-2025).
 9. Commit to community consultation on the Truth-telling and Treaty Commissioner legislation and have it ready for tabling in parliament within the second half of 2025.
- Membership of the AAG, through nominations made by Aboriginal organisations, was:
 - Nick Cameron – member of the Tasmanian Regional Aboriginal Communities Alliance (TRACA) and Melaythenner Teeackana Warrana Aboriginal Corporation (MTWAC)
 - Rodney Dillon – member of TRACA and South East Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation (SETAC)
 - David Gough – member of TRACA and Six Rivers Aboriginal Corporation (SRAC)
 - Maxine Roughley – member of TRACA and Flinders Island Aboriginal Association (FIAA)
 - Tasmanian Aboriginal person Ms Theresa Sainty, an initial member of the AAG, resigned in July 2024.
 - The inaugural meeting of the AAG was on 6 February 2023, facilitated by the then Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC), Ms Jenny Gale.
 - The AAG engaged with the Victorian and South Australian counterparts and received detailed briefings from the Victorian Treaty Commissioner (2017–19), the CEO of the First People's Assembly of Victoria, a Commissioner from the Yoorook Justice Commission, and the South Australian Commissioner for First Nations Voice.
 - At its 13 September 2024 meeting, the AAG received presentations from distinguished Professor Maggie Walter (Commissioner Yoorook Justice Commission) and Victorian First People's Assembly Co-Chairs Rueben Berg and Ngarra Murray, on the steps they are taking towards Treaty.
 - Communiques from the meetings were sent to all Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and published on the DPAC website.
 - The AAG met ten times, with its final meeting held in May 2025.
 - The contracts for each member lapsed in July 2025.
 - The AAG continued to get paid up to 12 August 2025 in order to enable preparation of a final closure letter to the government. Payments have now ceased.

tuylupa tunapri draft Lutruwita Treaty Bill 2023

- In the lead up to announcing the AAG, the Government had discussions with representatives of the tuylupa tunapri (too-loo-pa, too-nar-pree) Group, as nominated

by Tasmanian Aboriginal community members through a separate process held at the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre in Launceston.

- The Government was grateful for those discussions and invited members of tuylupa tunapri to nominate for membership on the AAG. The invitation was not taken up.
- Following receipt of the draft Lutruwita Treaty Bill from tuylupa tunapri in late 2022, the Government provided it to the AAG for consideration; it was not considered.

Victorian Government

- The Victorian Government will become the first Australian jurisdiction to finalise a statewide treaty with Victorian Aboriginal people after the Government and the First peoples' Assembly of Victoria reached an in-principle agreement in September 2025.
- The treaty process in Victoria took approximately a decade. Time is important with proper engagement, appropriate resourcing, planning, reporting and negotiations.

	Name	Position
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	Name	Contact number
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