

Adrienne Picone
Chief Executive Officer
Tasmanian Council of Social Service Inc
GPO Box 291
HOBART TAS 7001

via email: Adrienne@tascoss.org.au

Dear Adrienne,

Supporting a Sustainable Community Services Industry

Thank you for inviting me to speak to your members at the TasCOSS Community Services Industry Networking Function on Tuesday 17 June 2025.

In your opening address, you outlined the estimated \$1.9 billion annual contribution to the Tasmanian economy that the community services industry provides. I am writing to re-iterate that Labor is committed to supporting the 28 000 Tasmanians employed in the industry and the 46 000 (formally recognised) volunteers that support it.

The Tasmanian Labor Party has always valued your sector. It is run by incredible staff and volunteers who put so much skill, dedication and love into what they do. The State would be far worst off without you.

As I outlined to your members, the current transition to **five year funding arrangements will be prioritised in 2025-26** under a Labor government. This is to provide with sector with greater consistency and certainty of funding, so that community organisations can deliver continuity of care to Tasmanians and invest in their long-term wellbeing without the threat of cancellation. It is clear to me that the current scattergun approach to funding the sector is not working, nor is the last-minute approach to confirming the renewal of contracts. Where contracts are scheduled to end, we will ensure that decisions about their future are made at least six months before they are to end, to avoid the uncertainty I know your staff and volunteers have felt about the programs they run and love.

A fresh start for Tasmania.

@ dean.winter@taslabor.org.au ☎ 03 6212 2361 ✉ PO Box 313 Kingston TAS 7051
📍 Shop 86 Channel Court Shopping Centre Kingston TAS 7050 🌐 taslabor.org.au

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DEAN WINTER

TASMANIAN LABOR LEADER

Tasmanian
Labor

A Dean Winter Labor government will **establish a Premier's Community Services Partnership Agreement** so we can work together collaboratively, to increase the sustainability, effectiveness and capacity of the community services industry and futureproof the delivery of these services to Tasmanians. As part of this I would like to meet quarterly with representatives from the sector alongside my Minister for Community Services.

A Labor government will provide **\$150 000 in 2025-26** to enable TasCOSS, in partnership with the peaks, to support sustainability, efficiency and governance activities and to inform the work that will be undertaken through the partnership agreement.

We need to fix this mess once and for all and re-set the relationship the government has with the community sector. It is my intent that the partnership will include a range of community services industry representatives; relevant portfolio Ministers; and representatives of the various government agencies currently involved in the provision of funding to community sector organisations, including the Department of Treasury and Finance to assist in helping to define the scope of organisations receiving funding, the amount of funding they are currently provided and advice on a solution for providing timely notice to organisations regarding the renewal of funding.

A government I lead will do things differently. Your members deserve better than the broken promises of the Liberal government over the past 11 years. I am committed to doing everything I can to advocate for the community services sector, but I can't do it from Opposition.

I look forward working in partnership with the community services industry, to futureproof the provision of essential community services to Tasmanians.

Kind regards



Dean Winter MP
TASMANIAN LABOR LEADER

23 June 2025

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