



Jeremy Rockliff

Liberal Member for **Braddon**
Premier of **Tasmania**



7 July 2025

Ms Adrienne Picone
Chief Executive Officer
Tasmanian Council of Social Services (TasCOSS)
By Email: adrienne@tascoss.org.au

Dear Adrienne

Unfortunately, we find ourselves in an election that Tasmanians did not want or need.

However, I wanted to take a moment to reaffirm our commitment to the Community Services sector and let you know about some of the additional initiatives we will be implementing to support families with the cost of living.

First and foremost, a re-elected Tasmanian Liberal Government will always support a well-resourced, sustainable community sector, which in turn can support our communities in every corner of the State.

We acknowledge that certainty, sustainability and reducing administrative burden are your priorities, and we share them.

That is why we are undertaking significant reforms to community services, which began in 2024 with the implementation of a four-year indexation commitment for community services organisations.

To further support long-term confidence, a re-elected Liberal Government will review the level of indexation for community service organisations to provide ongoing certainty before the conclusion of current indexation commitments in 2027-28.

Together, we have begun the journey to implement longer-term funding agreements and an outcomes framework, providing more stability and certainty for community services organisations. We have agreed with you to stage this comprehensive work, and stage one has begun.

The next stage of this project will focus on transitioning organisations with recurrent, ongoing funding agreements to longer-term agreements.

We will accelerate completion of this work in consultation with the sector and organisations, who I know want this work to be expedited, and will be directing the Department of Premier and Cabinet to undertake this work as a priority.

Jeremy Rockliff MP | Liberal Member for Braddon, Premier of Tasmania

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A re-elected Liberal Government will also commit to reviewing the community budget submission process to provide funding certainty earlier in the budget cycle, although longer-term contracts should help address this issue.

We can also commit to working to streamline multi-deed arrangements across government. We understand and appreciate that multi-deed arrangements are time-consuming and add a layer of red tape that is an added administrative burden for the sector.

The Tasmanian Liberal Government has a strong history of working in partnership with the community services sector, including to develop the Community Services Industry Plan 2021-2031.

We are committed to continuing our partnership with the sector and considering recommendations from the Community Services Industry Plan Governance Review, which has been interrupted by this election.

A re-elected Tasmanian Liberal Government will work with TasCOSS and the Tasmanian Coalition of Community Services Peaks to consider the recommendations from the Governance Review and establish a shared vision for Government and the community services industry working together.

To address the costs of doing business and increased complexity, a re-elected Liberal Government will invest \$150,000 to develop sustainability solutions that reduce operational costs and risks for community services organisations, including exploring potential shared services models.

This funding was included in the 2025-26 Budget and we reaffirm that support today.

Community services organisations are seeing insurance costs rising to a point of unaffordability.

Under a re-elected Liberal Government's new State-owned TasInsure, community services organisations will be able to access affordable insurance covering business, public liability, workers' compensation and events, saving more on operating and project costs and reducing under-insurance risks for the sector.

I can also reaffirm our 2025-26 Budget commitments, including those related to participation in employment and training, such as 26Ten, Area Connect, our Jobs Hubs, Transition to Independence, Hamlet, and TroubleSmiths, as well as to education, including Lifting Literacy.

We reconfirm our \$550 million cost of living relief in the 2025-26 Budget, including:

- \$356.7 million in concessions for eligible Tasmanians including across rates, water, transport and energy.
- Expanding our healthy school lunch program, saving families up to \$950 a year.
- Our Ticket to Play and Ticket to Wellbeing voucher programs for students and seniors, targeting those who genuinely need support.
- An Energy Hardship Fund, providing targeted support to Tasmanians struggling to pay their energy bills boosted with a further \$150,000 each year for the four years
- Continuing support for Neighbourhood Houses.

- Funding of \$7.1 million for our Food Resilience Strategy and continuing emergency food relief.
- Removing the Working with Vulnerable People registration fee for volunteers.

In this election, and building on those commitments, a re-elected Liberal Government has also announced:

- Half price bus fares continuing for a further year, for all passengers on all routes. We had previously committed to halving fares for students and on regional routes but have listened to concerns and will extend this further, so all passengers on public transport can benefit, like the previous year. That has already kicked off from 1 July 2025, for 12 months.
- Enabling GPs to diagnose, treat and manage ADHD for both children and adults, allowing faster access to medication, significantly reducing costs for patients and providing better continuity of care.
- Protecting kids by providing a free meningococcal B vaccination program for all newborn children from six weeks to two months, and catch-up immunisation for children over 12 months and under two years who have not completed a course, saving families money.
- Four brand-new permanent BreastScreen clinics to be located in Kingborough, Devonport, Triabunna, and Glenorchy, providing free breast screening for eligible Tasmanians, closer to where you live, cutting transport costs.
- Establishing five 100% bulk billing GP Clinics, with the Liberals supporting a no-interest loan for the first to be opened in the fast-growing Legana community.
- Introducing Paramedic Practitioner roles to allow treatment on the spot in your own home, as well as scholarships for nurses to train as Nurse Practitioners, and incentivising GP practices to provide opportunities for Nurse Practitioners to work, especially in rural and regional areas – providing greater access to healthcare.
- Providing subsidised training so local pharmacies can expand their scope of practice and treat 23 common health conditions, like UTIs, ear infections and eczema, making access to health services more accessible and cheaper for many. We are also supporting local community pharmacies to open longer.
- A \$30,000 First Home Owner Grant, supporting Tasmanians into their first home, adding to housing supply and in turn, freeing up rentals.
- An expansion to our successful ModHomes Program, to deliver an extra 200 smaller and more affordable homes.
- Mental health support for young people, including expanding the Youth Hospital in the Home in the North-West, the State's first Youth Mental Health program Statewide for young people with severe and complex mental health needs, and an expansion and enhance of the previous Multi-Systemic Therapy model, into a Divert and Connect program, providing early intervention and mental health support to divert young people from the youth justice system.
- Significantly increased beds, capacity and new hospital services delivered in an upgrade to our northern hospitals, at the LGH, the North West Regional Hospital and the Mersey Community Hospital for the benefit of all Tasmanians.

We've got more to do.

But we can't finish the job without a majority Liberal Government.

It's the only way we can keep Tasmania moving forward with certainty, stability, and efficiency.

Adrienne, I'd be grateful if you could share our initiatives through your sector network. All our policies can be found at <https://tas.liberal.org.au/our-plan>

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Rockliff'.

Jeremy Rockliff MP
Premier