



TasCOSS 2025/26 Interim Tasmanian Budget Information Session

7 November 2025



INTEGRITY
COMPASSION
INFLUENCE



Adrienne Picone

Chief Executive Officer

Tasmanian Council of Social Service (TasCOSS)



Political Representatives:

- **Meg Brown MP, Labor Shadow Minister for Housing**
- **Dr Rosalie Woodruff MP, Leader of the Tasmanian Greens**
- **Cecily Rosol MP, Greens Spokesperson for Community Services**
 - **Vica Bayley MP, Deputy Leader of the Tasmanian Greens**
 - **The Hon Meg Webb MLC, Independent Member for Nelson**
- **The Hon Michael Gaffney MP, Independent Member for Mersey**

Interim Budget Context



- Poverty in Tasmania has risen 16% in two (2) years, with 81,500 Tasmanians living below the poverty line.
- Tasmanians living on low and inadequate incomes are being priced out of the rental market.
- 34% rise in people seeking housing support and an 88% rise in rough-sleeping.
- A record 5,336 applicants on the housing register, with average wait times for social housing exceeding 18 months.
- One-in-three households are food insecure.
- Tasmania placed last in the Australian Digital Inclusion Index, with major affordability and digital skills issues.
- The Woolcott Review called for more collaboration and genuine Government and community partnerships to ensure children are safe.

Interim Budget State Finances



- **\$5.04bn net debt** this year, increasing to **\$7.08bn** next year and to **\$10.4bn** in 2028/29 (\$0.4bn lower than May).
- **\$352.9m interest** in 2025/26 (\$2.3m higher than May), increasing to **\$618m** in 2028/29 (\$31.3m lower than May).
- **\$1.97bn** in interest payments over the Forward Estimates (\$89m lower than May).

Key Budget (Re)announcements



- \$9.9bn invested into education, children and young people over four (4) years, representing 23% of budget expenditure.
- \$354m over four (4) years for concessions (i.e. energy, water, rates).
- \$1m to Hamlet for employment and training of people with disability.
- \$520k for Camp Clayton infrastructure upgrades.
- \$132k to support and expand Beyond the Rainbow services.
- \$600k to provide free Working with Vulnerable People Cards for the next two (2) years and implementation of a Volunteering Strategy (down from \$700k in May Budget).
- \$4.25m for 12 month extension to the half-price bus fares initiative.

Key Budget (Re)announcements (2)



- \$1.4m for Community Participation and Appeals Fund.
- \$500k for Troublesmiths to support highly disadvantaged young people with employment.
- \$239k for the development of the next Carer Action Plan.
- \$202k for LGBTQIA+ Strategy Implementation.
- \$200k for Multicultural Action Plan implementation.
- \$1.3m for Neighbourhood Houses Community Connector Program.
- \$853k for Older Tasmanians Action Plan implementation.
- \$9.62m for Sexual Assault Support Services and Laurel House to provide specialist therapeutic services to victim-survivors of sexual violence.

Government Priorities



- 2,800 public sector job cuts.
- \$74.5m to support TT-Line.
- \$22.5m to support Nystar.
- \$135m for AFL high performance infrastructure at Kingborough.
- \$191m for TasNetworks to support Marinus Link.
- \$609m for Macquarie Point stadium development.

Health



Budget Asks:

- Allocate 5% of health spending to a preventative health budget.
- Increase investment in community mental health.
- Develop a coordinated state mental health workforce strategy.

Key Announcements:

- \$14.5bn invested into the health system over the next four (4) years — 34% of the budget.
- \$915m to meet increased demand for health and mental health services.
- \$70.2m to deliver Elective Surgery Four Year Plan.

Affording the Basics — Housing



Budget Asks:

- Bring forward review of the *Residential Tenancy Act*.
- Investment pathway to increasing social housing to 10% of stock; increased spending on homelessness services.
- Better regulation of short-stay accommodation, including limiting transfer of whole-homes.
- Increase funding for statewide tenancy advocacy services.

Key Announcements:

- \$600m over four (4) years under the '10,000 social and affordable homes' strategy.
- \$2.4m to support women and children at-risk of homelessness (formerly Bethlehem House).
- \$2.8m for new Bethlehem House.
- \$674k for Hobart Women's Shelter — Safe Place, \$467k for Indigo Lodge tenant relocation, and \$100k to Shekinah House to expand homelessness services.

Affording the Basics — Food Security



Budget Asks:

- \$200k p.a. to support Food Secure Tasmania.
- \$800k p.a. for resilience-focussed projects.
- Additional funding to expand the School Lunches Program.
- Map the demand for emergency food relief and funding gap to providers.

Key Announcements:

- \$6.7m over four (4) years to support food security programs across the state.
- \$400k for place-based food pilot to address food insecurity in local communities.
- \$6.5m to deliver free school breakfast program, expanding to 70 schools.
- \$4m to expand the School Lunch Program.

Affording the Basics — Energy



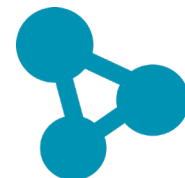
Budget Asks:

- Better targeted Renewable Energy Dividend (RED).
- \$500 Energy Bill Relief Fund payments as electricity costs increase.
- Double funding to the Energy Hardship Fund.
- Substantial investment in household energy efficiency upgrades.
- Fund an energy consumer advocate.

Key Announcements:

- \$150k per year boost to Energy Hardship Fund over four (4) years.
- No energy bill relief announced over the Forward Estimates, despite 26% higher electricity prices.

Affording the Basics — Digital Inclusion



Budget Asks:

- Access — expand free Wi-Fi and internet in regional areas; devices and data for school students.
- Affordability — telecommunications concession; low-cost broadband.
- Ability — double funding for digital skills and literacy; support ICT industry to upskill the community services industry workforce; support ICT industry to deliver scam, cyber security and AI awareness programs for the community.
- Implementation of PESRAC recommendations and establish a digital consumer advisory group.

Key Announcements:

- \$125k for Libraries Tasmania 26TEN Communities Program.
- Digital Ready for Daily Life extended for 12 months to continue 26TEN Local Literacy for Work & Life program in five communities.

Children and Young People



Key Announcements:

- \$155.3m for the new youth detention facility at Pontville.
- \$15.8m over four (4) years for Independent Statutory bodies (CCYP, OIR, OIM).
- \$204m for claims through the National Redress Scheme related to child sexual abuse in state care.
- \$500k for Office of National Preventative Mechanism.
- \$8.3m over three (3) years for enhanced case management for children and young people in detention and out-of-home care.
- \$1m for Huonville childcare and children and family learning centre outreach.
- \$35k for a youth participation and engagement strategy.
- \$4m to support 'community youth justice' (including \$1.5m over two (2) years to support new, local, place-based initiatives targeting the root causes of youth offending).
- \$8m over two (2) years for Intensive Family Engagement Services.

Industry Sustainability



Budget Asks:

- Funding certainty — five (5) year contracts, appropriate indexation, outcomes-based framework.
- Sustainability program — standard contracts, reduced reporting, streamlined processes, shared services.
- 10 year update of *The State of Tasmania's Community Services Industry Report*.
- Mid-term review of the *Community Services Industry Plan (2021-31)*.

Key Announcements:

- \$150k for a community services sustainability initiative.



Dr Robert Hortle

Deputy Director (Impact)

Tasmanian Policy Exchange, University of Tasmania



Q&A Session/Opportunity to Provide Feedback and Budget Insights

End-of-Year Industry Gathering with the Hon Madeleine Ogilvie MP, Minister for Community and Multicultural Affairs



 : 4pm-5:30pm, Wednesday 26 November 2025, AURA Hobart

 : tascoss.org.au/tc-events/madeleine-ogilvie-networking-2025

Join us for an end-of-year industry gathering to celebrate the contributions of our industry in 2025, as well as hear from the newly appointed Minister for Community and Multicultural Affairs, the Hon Madeline Ogilvie MP, who will share her insights and take your questions.





TasCOSS 2025/26 Interim Tasmanian Budget Information Session

7 November 2025



INTEGRITY
COMPASSION
INFLUENCE