



Community Sector

Budget Initiatives and Priorities for 2016-17

1. Community Services Sector 2016-17

With the budget now back on track, we can now invest the dividends of that hard work into core services, like support for Tasmania's most vulnerable.

This Budget will provide over \$260 million in 2016-17 to more than 230 community sector organisations, which provide around 500 services to Tasmanians.

2. Commitment to Maintain Base Grant Indexation

The Tasmanian Government is committed to assisting the community sector to absorb cost increases associated with service provision and the Consumer Price Index. To help with rising costs, indexation will be applied to DHHS base grant funding at a rate of 2.25 per cent in 2016-17.

3. Equal Remuneration Order (ERO) Supplementary Funding

The 2016-17 Budget provides \$21.25 million to enable community sector organisations to fully meet their obligations and requirements under the Fair Work Australia Equal Remuneration Order (ERO). This takes the total ERO for 2016-17 to \$25.5 million, which includes a \$4.3 million contribution from the Australian Government.

In total, the Tasmanian Government has committed \$148.7 million to fund the first eight years of the ERO.

4. Assisting Community Sector Organisations

This Government has committed an additional \$9 million during its first term, to help community sector organisations to further meet the challenges of increased operational costs and capacity building.

In 2014-15 and 2015-16, the Tasmanian Government distributed an extra \$2 million a year. A further \$2.5 million will be distributed in 2016-17 and again in 2017-18.

5. Supporting Neighbourhood Houses

The Tasmanian Government funds 33 Neighbourhood and Community Houses in disadvantaged, rural and remote Tasmanian communities.

As a strong supporter of Neighbourhood Houses, the Hodgman Liberal Government's third Budget includes additional funding of \$30,000 over two years for each of the 33 Neighbourhood Houses, or \$990,000 in total.

This additional funding will support a range of activities, including educational programs like cooking and computer classes, community gardens, breakfast clubs and social groups. These activities improve the lives of families and individuals, reduce social isolation and build communities.

This funding will also build on the election commitment we delivered over the past two years to allow Neighbourhood Houses to expand their services and to improve their facilities.

Like the previous funding, this new commitment is additional to recurrent support, with funding in 2016-17 totalling \$5.76 million.

The Liberal Government is also investing in Tasmania's Neighbourhood Houses infrastructure, with nearly \$1.7 million committed in capital works over the next two years for a new Centre, which will replace the existing Northern Suburbs Community Centre in Rocherlea with a new purpose built centre situated in a more appropriate location to enable easier community access.

A further \$417,000 will also be spent in 2016-17 from the \$4 million Neighbourhood House Program Capital Investment to ensure Neighbourhood Houses are fit for purpose.

6. Supporting Families

6.1. Children, Young People and Families Investment

\$220,000 is provided in 2016-17 for short-term preventative support care, to help keep families together as well as a pre-placement process.

The Keeping Families Together Program provides access to short-term community based respite for children and families, and additional integrated family support when needed for those families accessing Gateways Services – Tasmania's single entry point to all family and disability services.

This support provides an additional 400 community-based respite nights to families across the state each year.

6.2. Kentish Family Support Services

In recognition of the importance of supporting families in local communities, the Tasmanian Government committed \$500 000 over four years to 2017-18 for the Kentish Family Support Service.

The Sheffield service is run by Glenhaven Family Care, which works closely with the Kentish Council and local service providers in consultation with the local community.

The service also works closely with the Gateway Services in the North West.



Kentish Family Support Service began in January 2015 and offers support to at-risk individuals and families, drop-in weekly sessions for parents and children, parenting support, playgroups and tailored family programs.

6.3. Save the Children Bail Program and Post-Detention Transition Program

\$600,000 is being provided in 2016-17 to support the statewide delivery of two Save the Children programs - The Supporting Young People on Bail and Post-Detention Transition Programs both of which have shown outstanding results in helping young people who have offended to re-engage with education and positive influences, and prevent re-offending.

7. Elder Abuse Prevention Strategy

The Government is committed to protecting and preventing older Tasmanians from abuse. In 2016-17, \$150,000 is being provided to support the Elder Abuse Prevention Strategy.

The Elder Abuse Prevention Strategy is the Government's response to elder abuse in Tasmania. The goal is to ensure that all elderly Tasmanians can live safely in their environment, as valued members of society who are treated with respect.

From 2017-18 funding for the Tasmanian Elder Abuse Helpline is now recurrent.

