

Multicultural Council of Tasmania – Statement on the 2026 – 27 Tasmanian Budget

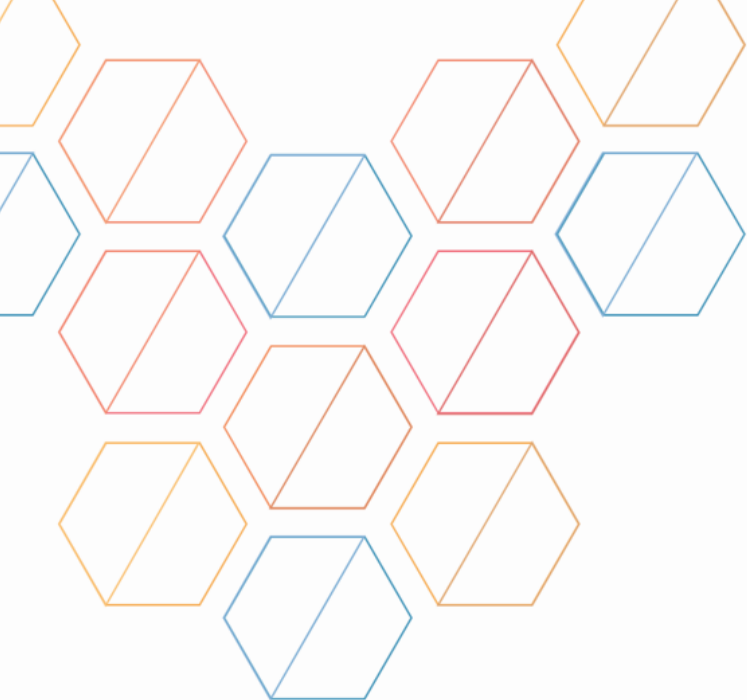
The 2026–27 Tasmanian Budget has some positives for multicultural communities, but The Multicultural Council of Tasmania (MCoT) believes it does not do enough to directly support them.

Tasmania is becoming more diverse, with many people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds living across the state. Because of this, it is important that the Budget includes funding and services that meet their specific needs.

The Budget includes money for Neighbourhood Houses, which can help multicultural communities. However, there is no clear commitment to stronger multicultural support, such as the establishment of dedicated Multicultural Hubs in Tasmania’s three main regions. These hubs could help people feel more connected, reduce social isolation, support new migrants and refugees to share their culture, and make it easier to access government and community services in a culturally safe way.

MCoT is also concerned about planned cuts and savings in areas like health, education, community services, and the public sector. These changes may make it harder for multicultural communities to get the support they need. Whilst efficiencies are not intended to impact front-line services, they could still lead to longer wait times, less culturally responsive services, and less support for people who already face additional barriers.

Reduced services also make it harder for people to stay in Tasmania. As international students, skilled migrants, refugees, permanent residents, or born and bred Tasmanians, we all rely on community services to make Tasmania a great place to live, work, and raise our families.



The expected reduction in community services funding is especially worrying, as many multicultural communities rely on these services for settlement support, housing, family services, and other essential help. Smaller organisations may be hit hardest by these cuts and may not be as well equipped to adapt.

Many of the Budget measures are short-term and without long-term funding, organisations may struggle to keep experienced staff, or to plan and build strong programs for the future.

Overall, while the Budget provides some general benefits, it does not include enough targeted and lasting investment for multicultural Tasmanians. Without that, existing inequalities may continue or get worse.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bruno Ferreira'. The signature is stylized and fluid.

Bruno Ferreira

CEO

Multicultural Council of Tasmania