



State Budget 26/27 - Response Statement

The Tasmanian Budget announcement regrettably sees Palliative Care Tasmania moving to a revised phase of funding under a new three-year Agreement with the Department of Health. This will begin on 1 July 2026.

Since 2025, PCT has been aware that its primary funding would be dramatically reduced at the end of the previous three-year Agreement, which was extended in July 2025 for a further year under the former model.

This finds PCT facing a 42% reduction in funding each year for the next three years.

While the important work of PCT as a peak body representing the sector and community continues, during the next chapter of its work, which commenced in 1989, the equally vital project activity of PCT will be considerably constrained.

The successful projects that have made strong impact across the community and sector over the past four years provide a sound base which the dedicated small team of PCT can leverage in the future. Programs to support grief, loss and bereavement, such as Learning Through Loss, will continue to be delivered across the state where we know they have delivered deep value to thousands of Tasmanians already.

However, in the future, any new project work designed to respond with innovation to the palliative care needs of our community, whether this is focused on supporting those diagnosed with life-limiting conditions and/or those facing the frailty of advancing age, will need to be carefully moderated in the face of much more limited resourcing.

This cut in funding comes when we know that those needs are increasing year on year and when hospital and residential aged care settings are challenged further in the face of similar budgetary constraints and escalating pressures. As a result, that pressure is felt statewide. It is felt by those facing the most vulnerable time of their lives - not only families and friends, but often this impacts whole communities.

The need for good quality palliative care across Tasmania has never been felt so deeply, we know this will not ease in times to come.

The Board and team of PCT continues to show compassion and determination in equal measure, striving to continue this vital work, delivering dignity and comfort to those facing the most vulnerable and challenging of times.

Heather Kent
Chief Executive Officer

21 May 2026