



TasCOSS 2026/27 Tasmanian Budget Briefing

22 May 2026



INTEGRITY
COMPASSION
INFLUENCE



Adrienne Picone

Chief Executive Officer

Tasmanian Council of Social Service (TasCOSS)



Political Representatives:

Hon Madeleine Ogilvie MP, Minister for Community and Multicultural Affairs

Hon Josh Willie MP, Leader of the Opposition (Tasmanian Labor)

Dr Rosalie Woodruff MP, Leader of the Tasmanian Greens

Tabatha Badger MP, Tasmanian Greens Member for Lyons

Vica Bayley MP, Tasmanians Greens Member for Clark

Cecily Rosol MP, Tasmanian Greens Member for Bass

Helen Burnet MP, Independent Member for Clark

Carlo Di Falco MP, Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Member for Lyons (*online*)

Kristie Johnston MP, Independent Member for Clark

David O'Byrne MP, Independent Member for Franklin

Hon Meg Webb MLC, Independent Member for Nelson

Budget Theme/Context



- *"Building a strong economy and a caring community."*
- Tasmanians have told us they need targeted investments that protect those experiencing vulnerability and real reforms that build our economic and social resilience:
 - A sustainable community services industry;
 - Preventative health;
 - Affordable housing;
 - Digital inclusion;
 - Energy support; and
 - Supporting children and families through prevention and early intervention.

Budget Headlines

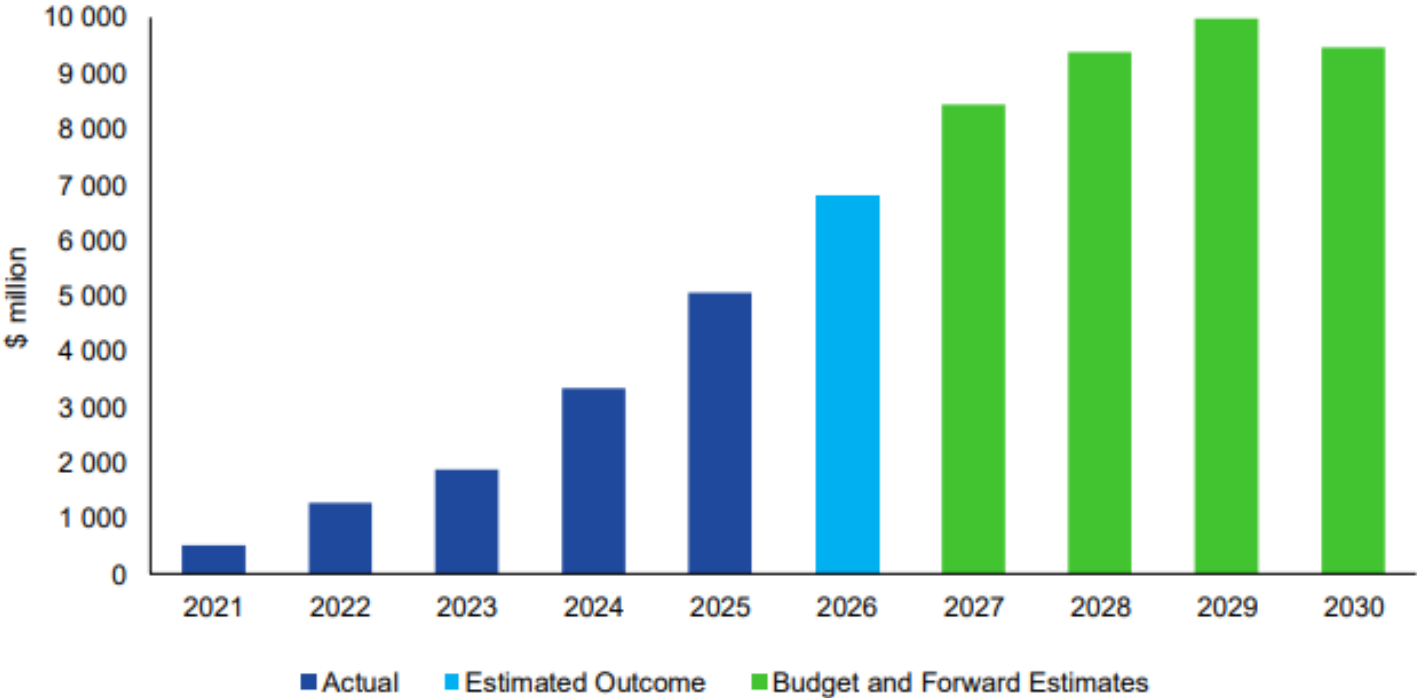


- 1,700 public sector job cuts.
- \$1.47bn spending cuts from 'efficiencies,' including:
 - Health (\$702m);
 - Education (\$228m);
 - Justice (\$68m);
 - State Growth (\$227m);
 - Police, Fire and Emergency Management (\$72m); and
 - Premier and Cabinet (\$21m).

Tasmania's Debt



Chart 1.7: Net Debt as at 30 June, 2021 to 2030



Gender Budget Statement



Positives:

- **Economic Security:** The gender pay gap is improving and equates to 0.4%, but the report cautions that this data is very volatile with Tasmanian wages the lowest of all Australian jurisdictions.
- **Leadership and Participation:** Women on government boards and committees is improving and is close to 50%, comparable to national result of 54.3%.

Persistent Gaps and Concerns:

- **Women's Labour Force Participation:** Worsening at 56.7% compared with male participation rate of 64.2% and is below the national average.
- **Leadership and Participation:** Women's representation in politics is worsening with Tasmanian Parliament being below parity at 46% and also worse than national results.
- **Safety:** Increase of almost 150% in reported sexual assaults from 2014-24 in Tasmania, with women representing 85% of the victims.
- **Health and Wellbeing:** Social Housing Services data is worsening with women making up 57% of primary applicants for social housing.

Key Budget Announcements



- \$20m over four (4) years for Preventive Health Strategy, with additional contribution from other departments.
- \$33.5m for Thriving Kids to support early intervention services for children.
- \$2m for a Community Support Initiative to promote social, cultural and economic development and community cohesion.
- \$1m to establish a new Central Highlands Neighbourhood House.
- \$4m to establish TasInsure and commence the delivery of services and functions for the community.
- Extension of free bus fares to 30 July 2027.

Industry Sustainability/Coalition of Community Service Peaks Campaign



Budget Asks:

- Fast-track five-year contracts, six month renewal notice, a fit-for-purpose indexation formula and a Partnership Agreement with the industry.
- Workforce Reform Program to support organisations through SCHADS Industry Award - Gender Undervaluation Review implementation.
- Tasmanian Coalition of Community Service Peaks' *#PrioritiseallTasmanians* campaign — secure, stable and well-resourced community services, so Tasmanians get the support they need.

Key Announcements:

- 14.5% cut in community services funding next year, and 13.6% less than last year's budget over the Forward Estimates.

Housing



Budget Asks:

- Boost the 10,000 homes and 2,000 social housing homes targets, and progressively increase social housing supply to 10% of all dwellings.
- Strengthen the *Residential Tenancy Act 1997* to provide better protections for renters including ending no-grounds evictions and limiting rental increases.
- Introduce a short-stay levy and direct additional funds to homelessness services.
- Additional funding of \$300k per annum to support the Tenants' Union of Tasmania to deliver essential legal services for renters in the north and north-west of Tasmania.

Key Announcements:

- \$586m over four (4) years for Homes Tasmania to deliver its '10,000 social and affordable homes' strategy.
- \$50m per year in specialist homelessness services, including \$400k for Jireh House and \$800k for McCombe House to support women and children.
- \$20k First Home Owner Grant extended (reduced from \$30k).

Energy



Budget Asks:

- \$380k investment in the *Knock to Stay Connected* program.
- Investment in household energy efficiency upgrades and minimum standards for rental properties.

Key Announcements:

- No Renewable Energy Dividend payments over the Forward Estimates, meaning no energy bill relief for households.
- \$16m to provide relief for major industrials from transmission cost impacts of Project Marinus.
- \$169m for the North West Transmission Developments construction.

Digital Inclusion



Budget Asks:

- Reduce the cost of telecommunications for low income households.
- Invest in improving digital skills and literacy.

Key Announcements:

- Nil.

Preventive Health



Budget Asks:

- Establish a Prevention Fund amounting to 5% of health budget (~\$183m).
- \$2.4m in community services industry-led preventive health measures.

Key Announcements:

- \$20m over four (4) years for Preventive Health Strategy, with additional contribution from other departments.
- \$15bn invested into the health system over the next four (4) years — 35% of the Budget.
- \$1bn for mental health services, including new inpatient units at the Launceston General Hospital, North West Regional Hospital and St Johns Park.

Child and Youth Safety



Budget Asks:

- Extension of Change Lead organisation funding for the implementation of the final Commission of Inquiry recommendations.
- Steps to introduce an early intervention fund.
- Development of a best-practice model for early intervention support.
- Prevention research and program development to support at-risk children and young people.
- Specialist training in child-centred practice delivered across the state.

Key Announcements:

- \$7m over two (2) years for community-led therapeutic services for victim-survivors of sexual violence and child sexual abuse.



Hon Madeleine Ogilvie MP

Minister for Community and Multicultural Affairs
Tasmanian Government



2026/27 Tasmanian Budget

Q&A Session with
Minister Ogilvie

Post-Budget Policy Conversation: Unpacking the Tasmanian Budget



 : 2pm-3pm, Tuesday 26 May 2026, Online (Microsoft Teams)

 : tascoss.org.au/events-training/upcoming/post-budget-policy-conversation

Join TasCOSS for a post-budget webinar with **Professor Richard Eccleston and Dr Robert Hortle (Tasmanian Policy Exchange, University of Tasmania)**. The session will focus on Government spending and debt trajectory, the implications for the community services industry, and how well the Budget addresses key cost of living concerns.





Adrienne Picone

Chief Executive Officer

Tasmanian Council of Social Service (TasCOSS)



TasCOSS 2026/27 Tasmanian Budget Briefing

22 May 2026



INTEGRITY
COMPASSION
INFLUENCE