
PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

2026-27 Budget Overview

Current as at: 25-May-2026

KEY MESSAGES

- As part of the 2026-27 State Budget, the government has provided the Department of Justice with additional operating services funding of \$143.1 million in 2026-27 and across the Forward Estimates.

Additional permanent funding

- Additional permanent funding has been provided to the department to address a number of existing funding risks which have arisen or been exacerbated in recent years due to increasing demand for services.
- This includes \$40 million in 2026-27 for the Tasmania Prison Service, decreasing to \$30 million in 2027-28, and \$20 million per annum from 2028-29, to assist in addressing correctional staffing costs to maintain the safety and security of staff, inmates and facilities; and other non-salary costs associated with increasing prisoner and remandee numbers including food, clothing and other inmate related consumables.
- \$2.4 million per annum for Community Corrections to support the delivery of the government's existing sentencing and parole reforms, including the expansion of electronic monitoring and home detention programs.
- \$2.2 million in 2026-27 for the Magistrates Court, with \$2 million per annum from 2027-28, to support continued increases in demand for services, case complexity and court security costs. The department will be undertaking a review of Magistrates Court fees and will implement the *Magistrates Court (Criminal and General Division) Act 2019*.
- \$1 million per annum for TASCAT to support continuing increases in demand and oversight of new jurisdictions.

- \$1 million per annum for Crown Law in 2026-27 and 2027-28 and \$750,000 per annum from 2028-29 to support continued increased demand for services provided by the State Litigation Office and the Office of the Solicitor-General in relation to workers compensation, planning and environment, collections, medical negligence and administrative law matters.
- \$250,000 in 2026-27 for the Office of the Public Guardian, increasing to \$375,000 per annum from 2027-28 onwards, to support continued increased demand for services due to growing case complexities, state legislative reform to the *Guardianship and Administration Act 1995*, federal legislative reforms and initiatives related to the Aged Care and NDIS systems, and recommendations of the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability. The department will undertake a review of the activities of the Office of the Public Guardian with the aim of streamlining processes and improving service delivery.

KEY FIGURES

- The 2026-27 Budget includes appropriation funding of:
 - \$433.7 million for the operational activities of the department
 - \$76.4 million for capital projects including Burnie Court Complex (\$41.8m), Risdon Prison Complex - Additional Maximum Security Accommodation (\$20.7m), Electronic Security and Mobile Duress Alarm System Replacement (\$11.7m), Risdon Prison Critical Infrastructure Maintenance (\$1.4m) and the Risdon Prison Construction Program (\$780,000)
 - \$28.5 million Reserved by Law funding for payments to victims of crime (\$7.5 million), salaries and allowances of magistrates (\$7.2 million), judges (\$4.7 million), the solicitor-general (\$657,000), the associate judge (\$560,000) and the implementation monitor (\$367,000), electoral related expenditure (\$7.1 million) and funding for activity under the new *Judicial Commissions Act 2024* (\$220,000).

Additional temporary funding

- \$4 million in initial funding has been provided to establish the Historical Forced Adoption Redress Scheme in 2026-27, for mothers who were subject to historical forced adoption practices. The department will undertake an actuarial assessment of the future estimated costs of the scheme.
- \$450,000 additional funding has also been allocated for the Keeping Women Safe in their Homes initiative to support the Commonwealth funded program in 2026-27. Continuation of this program is contingent on the ongoing provision of funding from the Australian Government.

Other funding

- The department will also receive \$3.4 million from Finance-General for the following projects – some of which have been re-cash flowed from 2025-26:
 - \$2 million over two years to support the PlanBuild program in 2026-27 and 2027-28
 - \$505,000 to deliver enhancements to the TASCAT case management system including the introduction of new functionality to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the registry and hearing processes.
 - \$450,000 to develop a detailed business case for a new reception prison with contemporary prisoner accommodation and accompanying recreation, support and training spaces within the Launceston CBD.
 - \$450,000 to develop a business case to construct a purpose-built dedicated facility at the Risdon Prison site for physical and operational training of Tasmania Prison Service and other Department of Justice staff.

2026-27 Operational Efficiencies

- Due to the need for ongoing budget repair, the 2026-27 State Budget also includes additional savings measures the department is required to achieve.

- The department will need to find operational efficiencies of \$7.4 million in 2026-27, increasing to \$21.3 million per annum from 2029-30.
- These efficiencies will be achieved through various initiatives to be implemented across all areas of the department, including restructuring and combining related functions to achieve management and operational efficiencies, removing one deputy secretary position, investment in digital and AI solutions to streamline processes within the department and services delivered to the community, and reviewing and reprioritising activities and service delivery models to maximise value for money and focus on frontline service delivery. (See separate brief, 2026-27 Operational Efficiencies).

BACKGROUND

- Allocations for the Department's 2026-27 Key Deliverables are as follows:

	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
	Budget	Forward Estimate	Forward Estimate	Forward Estimate
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Community Corrections - increasing demand and case complexity	2 400	2 400	2 400	2 400
Crown Law - increased demand	1 000	1 000	750	750
Historical Forced Adoptions Redress Scheme	4 000	....	....	....
Keeping Women Safe ¹	450	....	....	....
Launceston Reception Prison Replacement ²	300	150	....	....
Magistrates Court - increased demand and cost pressures	2 200	2 000	2 000	2 000
Office of the Public Guardian	250	375	375	375
Operational Efficiencies	(7 439)	(17 527)	(21 333)	(21 333)
PlanBuild ³	1 000	1 000	....	....
Specialist Training Facilities ²	400	50	....	....
TASCAT	1 000	1 000	1 000	1 000
TASCAT Access to Justice Program ⁴	505	....	....	....
Tasmanian Prison Service – Cost Pressures	40 000	30 000	20 000	20 000

Notes:

- Continuing funding is being sought from the Australian Government for this program.
- This reflects a reprofile of funding previously allocated through the Infrastructure Investment Project Planning Output within Finance-General.
- Funding for this initiative is provided through the Digital Transformation Priority Expenditure Program within Finance-General.
- This reflects a reprofile of the funding previously allocated through the Digital Transformation Priority Expenditure Program within Finance-General.

- Cashflows for existing capital projects were revised in 2025-26 as part of the 2026-27 Budget development process as detailed below:
 - Burnie Court Complex - \$8 million reallocated from 2025-26 into 2027-28.
 - Risdon Prison Complex - Additional Maximum Security Accommodation - \$5.7 million reallocated from 2025-26 into 2027-28.
 - Risdon Prison Construction Program - \$4.4 million reallocation from 2025-26 into 2027-28.
 - Critical Infrastructure Maintenance - \$406,000 reallocated from 2025-26 into 2026-27.
- As part of the 2026-27 Budget process, \$6 million was transferred from the Risdon Prison Critical Infrastructure Maintenance Program to the Electronic Security and Mobile Alarm System Replacement project and \$9.7 million was transferred from the Risdon Prison Construction Program into the Risdon Prison Complex Additional

Maximum Security Accommodation (\$7.9 million) and the Electronic Security and Mobile Alarm System Replacement (\$1.8 million) projects

- Total capital funding in 2026-27 and across the forward estimates is \$133 million. The revised capital services cashflows are summarised in the table below:

	2025-26 Budget \$'000	2025-26 Estimated Outcome \$'000	2026-27 Budget \$'000	2027-28 Forward Estimate \$'000	2028-29 Forward Estimate \$'000	2029-30 Forward Estimate \$'000
Existing Projects¹						
<i>Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation</i>						
Burnie Court Complex	15 438	7 438	41 825	27 476	....	....
Electronic Security and Mobile Duress Alarm System Replacement ^{2,4}	9 916	9 916	11 672	....	....	....
Improvements to Audiovisual Equipment in Courts ³	520	520	....	....	....	....
New Southern Remand Centre ³	10 100	11 300	....	....	....	....
Risdon Prison Critical Infrastructure Maintenance ⁴	3 018	1 412	1 426	2 510	2 510	....
Risdon Prison Complex Additional Max Security Accommodation ⁵	6 387	732	20 705	21 600	2 000	....
Risdon Prison Construction Program ^{2,5}	4 660	250	780	488	....	....
Total CIP Allocations	50 039	31 568	76 408	52 074	4 510	....

Notes:

1. The funding allocations for the Capital Investment Program have been revised to present a more accurate expenditure forecast.
2. The 2026-27 Budget transfers \$1.8 million from the Risdon Construction Program to the Electronic Security and Mobile Duress Alarm System Replacement.
3. This project was completed in 2025-26.
4. The 2026-27 Budget transfers \$6 million from Risdon Prison Critical Infrastructure Maintenance to Electronic Security and Mobile Duress Alarm System Replacement.
5. The 2026-27 Budget transfers \$7.9 million from the Risdon Prison Construction Program to Risdon Prison Complex Additional Maximum Security Accommodation.

Prepared by:		Cleared by:	
Position:	Director Finance	Position:	A/Deputy Secretary
Phone:	Exempt - s 36	Phone:	Exempt - s 36
Date:	12 May 2026	Date:	25 May 2026

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

2026-27 Operational Efficiencies

Current as at: 26-May-2026

KEY MESSAGES AND FIGURES

- As part of the government's commitment to budget sustainability, the Department of Justice is required to find operational efficiencies of \$7.4 million in 2026-27, increasing to \$21.3 million per annum from 2029-30.
- These efficiencies will be achieved through various initiatives to be implemented across all areas of the department, including:
 - restructuring and combining related functions to achieve management and operational efficiencies
 - investing in digital and AI solutions to streamline processes within the department and services delivered to the community
 - reviewing and reprioritising activities and service delivery models to maximise value for money and focus on frontline service delivery.
- The department will be taking a strategic view to the implementation of its operational efficiencies, which will initially include:
 - prioritisation of service delivery taking into account community expectations, legislative and policy requirements, government priorities and statutory functions
 - executive meetings with output managers and Ministers to identify what a future state for the department, its individual outputs and service delivery models, looks like
 - redesign of output and departmental organisational structures to fit future service delivery model requirements within budget constraints
 - establishing a voluntary redundancy and Workforce Renewal Incentive Program for eligible staff who are interested in leaving the department

- tighter management of vacant positions in order to achieve salary savings
- strong oversight of staff skills and experience to ensure that we can transition our staff, where necessary into other important departmental positions and provide those staff with support, development and on the job training where required.
- As part of the government's commitment to rightsizing the public service the Department of Justice, as with most other state service agencies will need to reduce its staffing numbers in the coming years.
- The Department is considering how this can be achieved in a planned and managed way and will progress this as part of its wider program of work to implement operational efficiencies.
- The Department established an Expenditure Review Team earlier this year, comprising members from Human Resources, Finance and the Office of the Secretary. This team has commenced work to identify and progress operational efficiencies, and will continue to lead, oversee and report on the Department's progress in implementing these initiatives.
- The Department's Executive and Expenditure Review Team have worked with output managers, to identify operational efficiencies across all departmental outputs.
- The Department has a number of approved specific operational efficiencies, including:
 - abolishing the position of Deputy Secretary Strategy, Governance and Major Projects
 - undertaking a review of fees charged across all outputs
 - general staffing efficiencies including process changes, digitisation and the introduction of AI where appropriate
 - increased vacancy control measures and a voluntary redundancy and workforce renewal incentive program.

- A number of additional potential efficiencies have been identified but not yet progressed to more detailed consideration and consultation with internal and external stakeholders.
- In considering each of its operational efficiencies, the Department is prioritising service delivery and seeking to minimise impacts on the community wherever possible.
- As previously mentioned, the Department's executive will work with outputs and Ministers to further scope these efficiencies as well as identify opportunities for additional efficiencies.

Prepared by:	[REDACTED]	Cleared by:	[REDACTED]
Position:	Director Finance	Position:	A/Deputy Secretary
Phone:	Exempt - s 36	Phone:	Exempt - s 36
Date:	18 May 2026	Date:	26 May 2026

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

Advertising Expenditure

Current as at: 15-May-2026

KEY MESSAGES

- The Department of Justice's total expenditure on operational advertising for the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026 was \$292,144.
- This figure includes expenditure on general operational advertising, public notices and recruitment advertising.
- The total expenditure on operational advertising in the 2025-26 financial year is significantly lower than both 2024-25 and 2023-24.
- This is consistent with our expectation that there is tighter budget control in areas like this.
- The department did not incur any campaign advertising expenditure in 2025-26.

Key Figures

- The department's total spend on operational advertising for each of the last three financial years is set out in the table below.

Operational advertising	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26*
Public notices (inc tenders, board and tribunal recruitment, and statutory advertising requirements)	\$23,134	\$12,106	\$4,354
General advertising	\$220,158	\$144,702	\$126,775
Employment advertising (Print and online)	\$212,187	\$358,239	\$161,015
TOTAL	\$455,479	\$515,047	\$292,144

* Up to 31 March 2026

- The Tasmanian Electoral Commission's advertising spend was lower this year at \$277,930 compared to \$407,317 in 2024-25. This is due to the timing of the last state election.

	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26*
Election Advertising	\$578,572	\$407,317	\$277,930
TOTAL	\$578,572	\$407,317	\$277,930

* Up to 31 March 2026

BACKGROUND

- The 2025-26 data is not directly comparable with previous years' figures, as, due to the timing of the Budget Estimates process, it reflects only nine months of expenditure compared to the full year figures included for 2024-25 and 2023-24.
- The department's total advertising expenditure for the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026 was \$570,075. This includes expenditure on election advertising (incurred by the Tasmanian Electoral Commission), general/operational advertising, recruitment advertising and public notices.
- This is a 38% decrease on the figure reported for 2024-25 (\$922,364); which was in turn lower than the total for 2023-24 (\$1,034,051).
- All other advertising conducted in the 2025-26 financial year was considered operational.
- Employment advertising decreased by 55% in 2025-26 totalling \$161,015 (compared to \$358,239 in 2024-25). This includes newspaper advertising (in both local and, in the case of key senior roles and some niche skillsets, also in national publications) as well as online advertising through seek.com.au, Facebook, LinkedIn and digital display advertising.
- General advertising decreased by 12% in 2025-26, with \$126,775 spent compared to \$144,702 during 2024-25. General advertising includes non-campaign, standalone advertisements, which are used for a range of purposes - including to promote consultation processes and provide updates on projects and initiatives.
- The department's expenditure on public notices in 2025-26 (\$4,354) was the lowest it has been across the last three financial years, and less than half the amount spent during 2024-25 (\$12,106).
- Expenditure on public notices is non-discretionary and includes the advertising of tenders, recruitment notices for board and tribunal member vacancies, and statutory advertising requirements - such as in relation to land use planning matters - in both newspapers and the Tasmanian Government Gazette.

Prepared by:	[REDACTED]	Cleared by:	[REDACTED]
Position:	A/Director Strategic Communications	Position:	A/Deputy Secretary
Phone:	Exempt - s 36	Phone:	Exempt - s 36
Date:	9 April 2026	Date:	15 May 2026

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

Assaults in Prison

Current as at: 22-May-2026

KEY MESSAGES

- The Tasmanian Government will continue to prioritise investment in the correctional system to keep the community safe, support the wellbeing of frontline staff, and strengthen both the security and rehabilitation of offenders – delivering safer outcomes for all Tasmanians.
- A safe prison environment is critical for both staff and prisoners.
- **Assaults against prisoners and staff are never acceptable and are taken very seriously by prison management.**
- All incidents are followed up through the prisoner disciplinary process or by referral to Tasmania Police (where appropriate), as well as being reviewed from a workplace health and safety perspective.
- In 2024-25, there were no serious assaults on officers, down from one in 2023-24. However, there were 23 assaults (resulting in physical injury) and 65 ‘other’ assaults (where no injuries were sustained) recorded on officers.

Talking Points

- Correctional officers are trained in negotiation, conflict resolution and the use of verbal communication techniques to de-escalate aggression.
- Officers are also trained in self-defence and physical restraint techniques, and physical force is only be used as a last resort.
- The Government has taken a range of actions to improve safety and security for both staff and prisoners, including:
 - the recruitment of additional correctional staff
 - the provision of funding to meet increased demand for rehabilitative and intervention programs, education and therapeutic support services

- the introduction of body scanning technology to detect objects on or inside a person's body and clothing that prevents contraband from entering the prisons
 - providing funding to build a new maximum security (Correa) unit on the Risdon Prison site
 - providing funding for a range of electronic security upgrades in RPC and MHWP, including new radios and mobile duress alarms
 - investment in a pilot of body-worn cameras in all reception prisons
 - the opening of the new \$70 million 156-bed Southern Remand Centre.
- Assaults against prisoners and staff are never acceptable. The safety of staff and prisoners is of the highest priority for the Tasmania Prison Service.
 - Victims of assault receive immediate medical assessment and treatment as required and are provided with ongoing care and support.

Key Figures

2026 Report on Government Services

- Each year, the Tasmania Prison Service reports assaults on prisoners and staff through my department's annual report and the Productivity Commission's Report on Government Services (RoGS).
- For national comparability purposes, the figures do not include assaults by watch-house detainees.
- The 2024-25 RoGS data was made available to the public on 3 February 2026.
- The rate of prisoner-on-officer assaults per 100 prisoners increased from 2.61 in 2023-24 to 2.93 in 2024-25. The rate of serious assaults on officers decreased from 0.13 to 0.
- The rate of prisoner-on-prisoner assaults per 100 prisoners resulting in injury decreased from 18.77 to 16.46. The rate of serious assaults also decreased from 1.43 to 1.15.

- The RoGS notes that there are different reporting practices and variations in service delivery arrangements that make the data reported not entirely comparable across jurisdictions.

2025-26 to date (to 31 March 2026)

- For prisoner on officer assaults, there have been 3 serious assaults (rate 0.36), 8 assaults (resulting in physical injury) (rate 0.95) and 41 'other' assaults (no injuries recorded) (rate 4.87).
 - serious assault is defined as one requiring overnight hospitalisation, ongoing medical treatment or any sexual assault. Additionally, injuries that result in stitches or broken teeth are automatically classified as 'serious'.
- For prisoner-on-prisoner assaults, there have been 9 serious assaults (rate 1.07), 78 assaults (resulting in physical injury) (rate 9.27) and 198 'other' assaults (no injuries recorded) (rate 23.52).

**2025-26 assault data is subject to further quality control checks, which could impact the final figures.*

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

Australian Consumer Law Compliance

Current as at: 18-May-2026

KEY MESSAGES

- Consumer, Building and Occupational Services (CBOS) administers a range of legislation relevant to consumer matters, including the:
 - *Australian Consumer Law (Tasmania) Act 2010*
 - *Retirement Villages Act 2004*
 - *Consumer Affairs Act 1998*
 - *Security and Investigations Agents Act 2002*
 - *Motor Vehicle Traders Act 2011*
 - *Conveyancing Act 2004*.
- In relation to complaints and enquiries regarding consumer protection matters in Tasmania, CBOS:
 - provides advice to consumers, manufacturers, and traders to assist in conciliating disputes in trade or commerce
 - investigates allegations of unlawful conduct
 - imposes penalties by issuing infringement notices or commencing prosecutions
 - engages with interstate and national regulators on matters relevant to consumers, including product safety and scams.

Key figures

Complaints and Enquiries

- As at 31 March 2026, CBOS has received 1,316 complaints or enquiries in the 2025-26 financial year from consumers, industry, or government stakeholders in relation to consumer protection matters. This compares with 1,485 received during 2024-25.

- Of the enquiries received, the majority of Australian Consumer Law matters related to:
 - consumer guarantees including faulty goods, replacements, refunds, and repairs (724)
 - unfair business practices (224)
 - sales practices including non-supply of goods or services, pricing, disputed invoices and availability of advertised goods (109).
- 89% of consumer enquiries and complaints were resolved prior to final compliance actions (formal warnings, infringement notices or prosecution).

Infringement Notices

- CBOS has powers to issue infringement notices for unlawful conduct under consumer law. Penalties are normally issued when offenders have committed offences that cause at least a moderate risk to consumer interests in terms of safety or financial loss.
- As at 31 March 2026, CBOS has issued 6 infringement notices this financial year for breaches of consumer law for a total value of \$12,150. Following subsequent submissions from a trader one of these penalties valued at \$2,050 was withdrawn.
- Most penalties (3) were issued against traders who accepted payment to provide goods and/or services and then failed to provide or deliver them.

Prepared by:	[REDACTED]	Cleared by:	[REDACTED]
Position:	Acting Executive Director	Position:	Acting Deputy Secretary
Phone:	Exempt - s 36	Phone:	Exempt - s 36
Date:	11 April 2026	Date:	11 May 2026

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

Births, Deaths and Marriages Budget and Performance

Current as at: 10-April-2026

KEY MESSAGES

- Registration activity and demand for certificates remain constant, with the demand for certificates increasing slightly during 2025-26.
- Births, Deaths and Marriages (BDM) revenue remains stable due to the ongoing demand for certificates for evidence of identity and other legal purposes.
- There is no cost for the registration of a birth, death or marriage.
- Record searches, the issue of certificates and other BDM services are prescribed as fee units. The cost of a standard certificate is \$59.21. Applicants suffering financial hardship can apply for a fee waiver.
- BDM expenses include a high proportion of fixed costs, such as salaries, system support and maintenance, national certificate paper and postage, which are subject to regular increases.

Key Figures

Registrations

	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26 (to 31 March)
Births registered	5,558	5,600	4,430
Deaths registered	5,184	5,193	4,151
Mixed sex/gender marriages registered	2,237	2,617	1,811
Same sex/gender marriages registered	115	120	90
Relationships registered	247	324	223
Relationships revoked	78	69	45
Miscellaneous*	1,343	1,962	1,597
Total registrations	14,762	15,885	12,347

* This includes adoptions, changes of name and amendments to records.

Number of certificates issued

	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26 (to 31 March)
Certificates issued	36,339	36,365	32,736

Performance

	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26 (to 31 March)
% Life events registered within seven days	84	86	90
Average time taken to register an event (days)	5	4	3
% Certificates issued within seven days	89	90	90
Average time taken to issue a certificate (days)	3.5	3.5	3
BDM error rate (%)	<1	<1	<1
Approx. unit cost per transaction (\$)	21.00	21.00	24.00

Use of BDM online services

	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26 (to 31 March)
% of marriages registered electronically by marriage celebrants	70	70	79
% of deaths registered electronically by funeral directors	99	99	99
% births registered by parents online	92	92	92
% of certificate applications lodged online	60	62	65

Staff

- 9.1 FTE at 31 March 2026.

BACKGROUND

Key Developments

- During 2025-26, all 1900-2014 marriage registers were scanned, so the records can now be accessed more easily, and the fragile registers can be safely archived.
- In November 2025, the online change of name registration portal was upgraded to enable the electronic lodgement of applications for children.
- In December 2025, BDM launched three new decorative certificates and updated the online birth registration promotional material, based on the "[Little Tasmanian](#)" theme, developed by Brand Tasmania.
- Work has commenced to improve registration information and resources to support parents who sadly lose a baby through miscarriage, stillbirth or shortly after birth.

Additional Details

- BDM continues to collaborate with Libraries Tasmania to improve access to historical records via the [Tasmanian Names Index](#).
- Family history certificate applications are declining due to the increase in information available on the Internet. BDM continues to provide advice to genealogists and issue certified copies of certificates when requested.
- BDM offers a priority (same day service) for urgent requests. This costs an additional \$42.
- Certificates are sent by registered post, so they can be tracked during the delivery process. Express post is also recommended to minimise delays.
- The fees charged for a standard certificate by other Australian BDM Registries ranges from \$52.00 to \$69.50.
- The registration and certificate processing time targets are based on recent averages across all Australian BDM Registries. The time taken to process certificate applications by other Australian BDM Registries ranges from approximately 2 days to 4 weeks.
- Throughout the year, staff supported individuals and organisations concerned about identity and data security, through the use of privacy alerts, verification of certificates and data-cleansing activities.

Prepared by:	██████████	Cleared by:	██████████
Position:	Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages	Position:	A/Deputy Secretary
Phone:	Exempt - s 36	Phone:	Exempt - s 36
Date:	10/04/2026	Date:	27 April 2026

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

CBOS Budget and Performance

Current as at: 18-May-2026

KEY MESSAGES

Appropriation from the Public Account

- For the 2025-26 financial year, Consumer, Building and Occupational Services (CBOS) was allocated \$6.854 million from the Public Account, of which \$3.5 million was allocated for financial support for consumers affected by building company insolvency.
- The 2026-27 allocation is \$6.196 million (including Financial Assistance Package allocation of \$2.5 million).
- For the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026, \$1.976 million has been paid to consumers under the Financial Assistance Package.
- For the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026, CBOS returned \$256,986 in revenue to the Public Account from the licensing of motor vehicle traders and the registration of incorporated associations and cooperatives. (By comparison, the amount for the full year 2024-25 was \$391,342.)

Building Administration Fund

- The Building Administration Fund (BAF) derives its income from the building administration fee charged for all building work valued at or over \$20,000.
- Revenue of \$1.603 million was raised to 31 March 2026 (2024-25 was \$1.923 million).
- Revenues are used to administer the *Building Act 2016*.

Occupational Licensing

- CBOS processed 5,242 occupational licensing applications for 2025-26 (as at 31 March 2026), with 95.23% of occupational licensing applications processed within 21 days.

- As at 31 March 2026, the number of licensed people under the *Occupational Licensing Act 2005* totalled 13,048 for 2025-26 (the total for the 2024-25 financial year was 13,939). This includes practitioners and contractors in electrical, plumbing and gas-fitting trades, and building services providers including licensed architects, builders, designers, engineers and building surveyors.
- The Occupational Licensing Administration Fund has received \$2.686 million in licence fees to 31 March 2026 (the total for the 2024-25 financial year was \$3.768 million).
- Revenue of \$3.70 million was budgeted for 2025-26. The forecast was informed by prior year fee revenue and expectations of sustained activity in the building and construction sector. Automatic mutual recognition is expected to result in decreasing revenue over time.
- Revenue was used to maintain licensing operations, undertake compliance functions, and provide technical advice.

The Rental Deposit Authority

- The Rental Deposit Authority holds and manages rental bonds on behalf of tenants and landlords.
- The Rental Deposit Authority, including the Residential Tenancy Commissioner, is funded from the interest received from the rental bonds held in trust.
- Interest of \$1.988 million has been received to 31 March 2026. A total of \$3.146 million was received in 2024-25.

Registration of Security Agents

- CBOS licenses security agents under the *Security and Investigations Agents Act 2002*.
- The Registration of Security Agents Trust holds security agent licence fees.
- There were 1,204 security agent licences issued to 31 March 2026.

- Revenue to 31 March 2026 was \$309,326 (2024-25 was \$450,802 for the full financial year). This trust funds the administration of the security agents licensing regime.

Electrical Standards and Safety

- The Electrical Standards and Safety Unit manages the compliance of electrical standards, electrical products, electrical installations and private poles in Tasmania.
- The Electrical Standards and Safety Unit is supported by the Electrical Safety Inspection Service Fund.
- The opening balance of the fund in 2025-26 was \$1.449 million.
- The revenue to 31 March 2026 was \$4.028 million (2024-25 was \$5.603 million for the full financial year) and the fund has paid out approximately \$3.458 million for the electrical inspection service.

Gas Standards and Safety

- The Gas Standards and Safety Unit manages the compliance of gas installations in Tasmania.
- In 2025-26, as at 31 March, the Gas Standards and Safety Unit carried out 23 incident investigations, 640 gas installation inspections and 153 complex gas assessments.
- The Gas Administration Trust Fund receives gas entity licencing fees to undertake gas compliance inspections.
- The 2025-26 revenue for the fund was \$659,535 (2024-25 revenue was \$591,989).

Infringement notices

- 40 infringement notices have been issued in 2025-26 (as at 31 March), to a value of \$62,231. (119 infringement notices were issued for 2024-25, at a value of \$155,349.)

Legislation – issue of infringement	Number (Terminated)	Sum of Fines
<i>Australian Consumer Law (Tasmania) Act 2010</i>	6	\$12,150
<i>Building Act 2016</i>	1	\$1,590
<i>Gas Safety Act 2019 and Gas Safety Regulations 2021</i>	7	\$1,533.75
<i>Occupational Licensing Act 2005</i>	19	\$38,382.50
Occupational Licensing (Electrical Work) Regulations 2018	5	\$2,455
<i>Residential Building Work Contracts and Dispute Resolution Act 2016</i>	1	\$4,100
<i>Residential Tenancy Act 1997</i>	1	\$2,020
<i>Security and Investigations Agents Act 2002</i>	0	
Total	40	\$62,231.25

Staff

- As at 31 March 2026, CBOS employed 69 staff, the fulltime equivalent position is 66.1.

Performance Information

- CBOS reports against key performance indicators.

Table 1: CBOS Key Performance Indicators

Measure	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26#	Target
Consumer complaints resolved within 60 days	91.2%	82.4%	80.5%	89%	90%
Rental bond claims paid within 30 days	88.8%	88.7%	88.2%	91%	90%
Matters resolved before final compliance action	96%	98.6%	97.9%	97%	95%
Number of occupational licence application assessments made within 21 days	92.4%	99.6%	99.1%	95.2%	95%

to 31 March 2026.

Prepared by:		Cleared by:	
Position:	Acting Executive Director	Position:	Acting Deputy Secretary
Phone:	Exempt - s 36	Phone:	Exempt - s 36
Date:	17 April 2026	Date:	12 May 2026

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

Community Corrections Budget and Performance

Current as at: 20-May-2026

KEY MESSAGES

- The Tasmanian Government continues to invest in Community Corrections to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes for the Tasmanian community.
- Community Corrections works with offenders on community-based orders to reduce re-offending and contribute to a safer Tasmania.
- The depth of the Community Corrections portfolio and the organisation's role in achieving community safety outcomes has changed significantly in recent years, particularly with the introduction of home detention orders, high risk offender orders and the electronic monitoring program.
- Community Corrections delivers frontline services state-wide. Officers with the variety of skills needed to manage the different order types are recruited to each of the 5 permanently staffed offices across the state, to meet local demand from the courts and Parole Board.

Key Figures

Caseloads

- Community Corrections officers' operational caseloads vary markedly between operational units, reflecting the degree of intervention required to manage different orders and community risks. High risk and complex cases are allocated to more experienced staff. Less experienced staff are allocated the less complex cases.
- Outside of the Court Mandated Diversion teams, there is no specified maximum caseload for individual probation officers. Caseloads are closely monitored by senior management and remedial action is taken where individual workloads are judged to be too high.

- In the Court Mandated Diversion teams, caseloads are capped at 10 to support the high intensity case management required for the program.
- Supervision teams are responsible for managing community correction orders, parole orders, home detention orders, mental health treatment orders and high-risk offender orders. Community Corrections seeks to ensure average caseloads are below 45 offenders per FTE.
- With community service, case management is less intensive and as a result caseloads are generally much higher than in other units.

BUDGET INFORMATION

- The 2026-27 appropriation for Community Corrections is \$28.34 million.
- This represents an increase of \$3.802 million on 2025-26, including an additional \$2.4 million per annum to respond to growing demand and increasing case complexity, and to support delivery of the Government's sentencing and parole reforms, including the expansion of electronic monitoring and home detention programs.
- This builds on the funding in the 2024-25 Budget in response to recommendation 16.17 of the Commission of Inquiry for treatment programs targeting offenders and at-risk individuals, with the department to receive \$1.2 million in 2026-27 to establish preventative group and individual counselling programs for:
 - convicted child sexual abuse offenders (statutory clients)
 - individuals who identify themselves as being at risk of such offending
 - individuals who are no longer subject to a correctional order but require ongoing treatment or maintenance support to reduce the risk of escalation.
- The 2025-26 Budget also provided \$1.4 million to manage High Risk Offenders orders and to case manage and monitor dangerous criminals and high-risk offenders post release, including psychological assessments and secretariat services.

Operating cost per offender per day

- The operating cost per day for an offender in Tasmania in 2024-25 was \$29.10. This is comparable to the national average of \$31.18.
- Costs per day for 2025-26 will be published in RoGS in January 2027.

Prepared by:	[REDACTED]	Cleared by:	[REDACTED]
Position:	Executive Director, Community Corrections	Position:	Deputy Secretary
Phone:	Exempt - s 36	Phone:	Exempt - s 36
Date:	17 April 2026	Date:	19 May 2026

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

Community Corrections Staffing and Culture

Current as at: 20-May-2026

KEY MESSAGES

- Community Corrections works with offenders on community-based orders to support their rehabilitation and reduce reoffending, facilitating significant outcomes for a safer Tasmania.
- Community Corrections delivers frontline services statewide. To achieve this, officers with specialist skills are required to be recruited to each of the 5 permanently staffed offices.
- Community Corrections maintains sufficient, well-trained staff to meet fluctuations in demand from the courts and Parole Board.
- The role and depth of the Community Corrections portfolio has changed significantly in recent years, particularly with the introduction of home detention orders, high risk offender orders and the electronic monitoring program. These changes have required recruitment activities to attract and retain staff with appropriate and specialist skills.
- To achieve outcomes against the broadened operational mandate, Community Corrections has invested in building corporate infrastructure that can deliver training, policy, practice, and management support for its growing number of diverse, frontline positions.
- Across the past three financial years, Community Corrections has invested heavily in additional training and performance management activities to support frontline officers increase their skills and capabilities, so that they can continue to deliver best practice outcomes for Tasmania.

Key Figures

Staffing

- As at 31 March 2026, Community Corrections had 130.1 full time equivalent positions across 143 staff.
- RoGS reports the number of people subject to community corrections orders per operational correction officer was 18.8, up from 18.3 the previous year. The Australian average was 18.6.

Separations

- Community Corrections' separation rate for the past 3 financial years has remained relatively stable. From 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026, 25 employees have separated from Community Corrections, with 15 resigning, 4 retiring and 2 transferring from another agency.
- The number of separations in the previous financial year was 27.
- In the 2023-24 financial year, Community Corrections commenced a tailored training and development program for staff to enhance position specific skills, general soft skills and leadership capability across the organisation. This has resulted in staff gaining a number of transferrable skills, increasing their opportunities for advancement in the State Service and in their careers more generally:
 - in the 2021-22 financial year, Community Corrections had 28 staff separate but none of them as a result of promotion
 - in the 2022-23 financial year, Community Corrections again had no staff separate for promotion and there were also no transfers to different agencies across the State Service
 - since the implementation of this training program, an average of 3 staff have left Community Corrections for promotion and 3 staff have transferred to other agencies each financial year. While this creates additional recruitment pressures for Community Corrections, it reflects an important investment the Department is making in our people and in the State Service more generally.

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

Coronial Division Budget and Performance

Current as at: 26-May-2026

KEY MESSAGES

Budget

- As at 31 March 2026, the sum of \$1.729 million had been expended in the Coronial Division during the 2025-26 financial year to date. This amounts to approximately 16% of the Magistrates Court's operating budget.
- This expenditure includes a number of non-discretionary expenses, including the cost of the statewide mortuary ambulance, conveyancing and transports, assessments and the appointment of experts required to give evidence and/or professional medical advice in the course of coronial investigations.
- This year's expenditure is consistent with expenditure in the 2024-25 financial year.
- The Coronial Division is supported by legal practitioners from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP), who act as legal counsel to assist the coroner in most cases. This arrangement:
 - allows the office to provide any Crown counsel to fill the role of counsel assisting the coroner in public inquests and minimises the need to engage private external legal counsel
 - helps to ensure that the court can access counsel with a broad range of skills and experience.
- The Magistrates Court continues to fund the ODPP for the provision of one Crown counsel in an amount of \$191,000 per annum.
- In 2024-25, the Coronial Division closed 864 cases, and achieved a clearance rate of 90%, meaning that it finalised 90% of the number of incoming cases. The clearance rate is an indicator of efficiency in processing the flow of cases through the court and is a measure of whether a court is keeping up with its workload.

- The centralisation of state-wide Forensic Medical Services to the Royal Hobart Hospital in September 2020 requires all bodies from across Tasmania, which are referred to the coroner for examination, are transported to Hobart. This includes deaths that were previously processed at the Launceston General Hospital.
- The consolidation of state-wide forensic pathology services is widely regarded as best-practice nationally and internationally and has been working well for the Coronial Division, as well as for state-wide Forensic Medical Services.

Performance

- The coronial caseload from 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026 has seen 764 cases reported to the coroner, an increase compared to the same period for last year, when there were 720 reported cases. There were 960 total reported cases for the 2024-25 financial year.
- Reportable deaths have averaged 84 per month for the period of 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026, which is a decrease from the same period last year. In 2024-25, an average of 91.8 deaths per calendar month were reported to the coroner.
- In 2024-25, an average of 72 cases were closed each month, down on previous years. In 2023-24, an average of 75 cases were closed per month.

Suicide Data

- Between 1 July 2025 and 31 March 2026, there were 62 suspected suicides reported to the Coroner's Office with a monthly average of 6.9 deaths.
- Data from 2018 to 2025 is preliminary based on the initial police report as investigations are currently underway. The numbers are subject to change based on coronial determinations.

Backlog

- The backlog indicator, which is the number and proportion of pending cases in excess of timeliness standards, increased for all categories. Some of this is due to not having 3 full-time coroners during parts of the financial year.

- Efforts continue to be made to respond to the factors that lead to delays in case completion. Police investigations can be lengthy and complex and criminal proceedings generally need to be finalised before the coronial investigation can proceed. That process can take several years.
- WorkSafe Tasmania also must carry out an investigation for some deaths, and frequently materials are only supplied to the coroner after that investigation concludes.
- Another factor is the number and complexity of medical cases, which can take a significant amount of time to investigate and report on. They require the doctor who assists the coroner to review hospital files and processes and to consider whether, for example, a different course of treatment should have been followed and might have resulted in a different outcome.
- There may also be delays in the receipt of toxicology results, and until those results are received, a forensic pathologist is not able to finalise a post-mortem report.

Staff

- Coroners have the power to inquire into reportable deaths, fires, and explosions. The jurisdiction and operation of the Coronial Division are set out in the *Coroners Act 1995* and the Coroners Rules 2006.
- The Chief Magistrate's functions under the *Coroners Act* are delegated to Magistrate McTaggart.
- There are currently 3 full time magistrates undertaking coronial work, all of whom are based in Hobart, but with state-wide jurisdiction.
- Magistrate Simon Cooper who sat as a coroner full time, retired on 12 September 2025. I thank him for his many years of service and wish him all the best in his retirement.
- Madeleine Wilson SC was appointed as a Magistrate on 12 January 2026 and sits full time as a coroner. I congratulate Magistrate Wilson on her appointment.
- From time to time other magistrates are also called upon to conduct inquests.
- The Coronial Division is currently supported by 15.4 FTE staff:
 - 1.0 FTE manager, a 1.0 FTE team leader, and 4.0 FTE clerks

- 6.0 FTE coroners associates¹ (police officers who are located in the Coronial Division), supplemented at times with other police officers to provide cover for leave, support police operations, etc
 - 1.0 FTE senior administration officer who supports the coroners associates
 - 0.4 FTE consultant doctor (contracted - Hobart)
 - 1.0 FTE Tasmanian Suicide Register (TSR) senior research officer who is charged with maintaining the register and providing research data to assist coroners in their death prevention role. The role also responds to requests for reports from Tasmania Health Service, and requests to access to coronial data on suicide.
 - 0.5 FTE Tasmanian Suicide Register (TSR) research officer. This role supports the Coronial Division by conducting research and project work for the TSR. It involves reviewing coronial files, accurately coding complex information, and maintaining, extracting, and analysing data across the TSR, Overdose Death Register and related death surveillance systems.
 - 1.0 FTE coronial liaison officer (CLO) to assist next of kin, and those who have contact with the Coroner's Office, to understand the coronial process and the role and legal powers of the coroner. The CLO can provide general information about the inquest process. This can include court familiarisation and practical information about attending an inquest and supports available during an inquest.
- The clinical nurse position has been filled and commenced on 25 May 2026.
 - If transcripts cannot be completed by Magistrates Court staff within the time required, where possible, assistance is provided by the pool of transcribers at the Supreme Court on an hourly rate. If the Supreme Court is unable to assist in transcription, the Coroners Court is required to outsource transcription at a significant cost.

¹ The coroner's associates' salaries are paid by Tasmania Police.

Key Figures

- The table below sets out a summary of coronial activity

Description	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26 (to 31/03/26)
Reported Deaths	880	894	1,142	960	764
Reported Fires/Explosions	0	0	0	0	0
Number of inquests completed*	19	10	21	20	4
Number of cases closed	829	954	856	864	719

*Counted in the year findings are handed down.

Suicide Data

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26*
Suicide	70	88	92	85	68	88	98	62	62
Suicides per calendar month	5.8	7.3	7.7	7.1	5.7	7.3	8.2	5.1	6.8

* Data up to 31 March 2026.

Coronial – Backlog Indicator

	2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25		2025-26*	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Pending caseload	725		656		903		997		1001	
Cases < 12 months	402	55.4	344	52.4	612	67.7	496	49.7	460	45.9
Cases >12 to < 24 months	161	22.2	181	27.6	148	16.3	179	17.9	343	34.2
Cases > 24 months	162	22.3	131	20.0	143	16.0	322	32.2	198	19.7

* Data up to 31 March 2026.

Prepared by:		Cleared by:	
Position:	Administrator of Courts	Position:	Deputy Secretary
Phone:	Exempt - s 36	Phone:	Exempt - s 36
Date:	17 April 2026	Date:	25 May 2026

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

Crown Law Budget and Performance

Current as at: 28-May-2026

KEY MESSAGES

- The Offices of the Solicitor-General, State Litigator and Crown Solicitor provide quality and cost-effective legal services and play an essential role in the management of legal risk for government.
- Additional funding of \$750,000 per year, increased to \$1 million per year for the next 2 years, has been provided to Crown Law in the 2026-27 Budget to respond to increased demand for services provided by the State Litigation Office and the Office of the Solicitor-General in relation to workers compensation, planning and environment, collections, medical negligence and administrative law matters.
- For 2026-27, Crown Law has an operational appropriation allocation of \$12.09 million.
- Reserved by Law funding of \$657,000 will be allocated to Crown Law in 2025-26 for the salary and travel allowances of the Solicitor-General under the *Solicitor-General Act 1983*.

Key Figures

- As at 31 March 2026, the Office of the Crown Solicitor had a headcount of 39 (FTE 35.14). As at 30 June 2025, the Office of the Crown Solicitor had a headcount of 36 (FTE 31.9).
- The office provides legal support for commercial transactions across the full range of government activities.
- Major current undertakings for the office include supporting government initiatives such as:
 - Commonwealth funding arrangements, major land release packages and MyHome supported purchases for Homes Tasmania

- Hobart Multipurpose Stadium and Macquarie Point Precinct
- Pontville Youth Justice Facility
- new Launceston and Burnie health facilities
- support for major IT programs Astria, Unify and HRIS.
- From 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026, 1,546 matters were opened. The number of new matters opened in preceding full financial years for comparison are:
 - 2024-25 - 2,307
 - 2023-24 - 1,993
 - 2022-23 - 1,892
 - 2021-22 - 1,760.
- However, it is important to note the number of more complex matters has increased.

Office of the Solicitor-General

- With the creation of the Office of State Litigator, the Litigation Division of this office transferred in October 2023.
- Reserved by Law funding of \$657,000 will be allocated to Crown Law in 2025-26 for the salary and travel allowances of the Solicitor-General under the *Solicitor-General Act 1983*.
- The Office of the Solicitor-General comprised a total of 7 staff on 31 March 2026.
- From 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026, 427 legal opinions were opened and 410 were finalised. Between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025, 578 legal opinions were opened and finalised. For the 2023-24 financial year, the number of legal opinions that were considered and advice provided was 643 which is close to the annual trend.

Office of State Litigator

- The State Litigation Office was established on 9 October 2023 following recommendations for civil litigation work to be conducted independently as

a fourth branch of Crown Law led by the establishment of a State Litigator role.

- As at 31 March 2026, the office had a headcount of 27 (FTE 25.4). As at 30 June 2025, the office had a headcount of 29 (FTE 27.54).
- For the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March, 734 new matters were opened. 860 new matters were opened for the 2024-25 financial year. In the 2023-24 financial year the State Litigation Office opened 834 matters.
- As at 31 March 2026, 285 abuse in care claim matters were open. As at 30 June 2025, there were 267 abuse in care claim matters open. As at July 2024, there were 220 abuse in care claim matters open (including the AYDC class action).
- As at 31 March 2026, there were 155 workers compensation matters open. As at 30 June 2025, there were 209 workers compensation matters open. As at 30 June 2024, there were 381 workers compensation matters open.

Crown Law Administration

- Crown Law and the ODPP are assisted by a small support business team. It comprises the Director Crown Law and 8 staff by headcount. This includes 2 graduates.

Prepared by:	[REDACTED]	Cleared by:	[REDACTED]
Position:	Director Crown Law	Position:	Secretary
Phone:	Exempt - s 36	Phone:	Exempt - s 36
Date:	17 April 2026	Date:	22 May 2026

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

DPP Budget and Performance

Current as at: 15-May-2026

KEY MESSAGES

- The government's significant investment into the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) is a key part of our commitment to keep Tasmanians safe and provide efficient and timely access to justice.
- In the 2023-24 Budget, the ODPP was provided with \$362,000 per annum for 2 years for the Acting Judges initiative and extended funding of \$750,000 to support the provision of services.
- Additional time limited funding was provided in the 2024-25 financial year of \$1.5 million, increasing to \$2.7 million per annum for the forward estimates, which enabled more resourcing to respond to Commission of Inquiry recommendations and manage the high volume of child safety and criminal matters, including creating a new Family Violence and Sexual Assault unit in Launceston.
- This takes the ODPP's appropriation budget to \$14.791 million for the 2026-27 financial year, plus Reserved by Law appropriation for the salary of the Director of Public Prosecutions of \$658,000.
- The appropriation budget also includes additional funding provided by the government in the 2021-22 Budget to:
 - enable the ODPP to comply with the assessment requirements in the *Dangerous Criminals and High Risk Offenders Act 2021* - \$409,000 per annum
 - expand the Family Violence Sexual Assault Unit (through the provision of additional funding of \$1.017 million per annum for Royal Commission and Commission of Inquiry Response Staffing) by:
 - employing additional prosecutors to deal with sexual assault matters
 - providing early advice so that the correct charges can be laid as early as possible

- providing consistency in terms of the prosecutor assigned to sexual assault matters and supporting the continued use of acting judges in the Supreme Court to enable the court to continue to list additional matters through concentrated trial periods and in the long term assist the ODPP to reduce the backlog.

Performance

- The ODPP cannot control demand for its services. Instead, it must react to the changing demands of the justice system, and this continues to increase.
- Demand for services in the criminal area is driven by the level of offending in the community and the capacity of Tasmania Police to detect crime and ultimately charge an offender with a crime.
- Demand for child protection legal services is driven by the number of orders sought by the Secretary of the Department for Education, Children and Young People for the removal from their homes of children, or the independent examination and review of children.
- Against this background of demand being driven by external forces, the DPP continues to provide high level, efficient and effective legal services.

Key Figures

- For the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026, there were 501 committals. For the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 there were 738 committals. For the financial year 2023-24, there were 689 committals. That was an increase from the previous financial year, which was 544 - an increase of 36% over two years.
- The number of bail applications continues to be high, with a significant increase over the past few years. For the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026, there were 475 bail applications. For the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 there were 578 bail applications. 532 bail applications were received for the financial year 2023-24. For comparison, in the previous 2022-23 year, 367 bail applications were received.
- For the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026, the ODPP finalised 578 matters. For the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, the ODPP finalised

711 matters. In the 2023-24 financial year, the ODPP finalised 536 matters. For the 2022-23 financial year, the number finalised was 515, and in 2021-22 financial year the ODPP finalised 465 matters.

- For the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March the ODPP had 768 matters pending. For the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, the ODPP had 846 matters pending. For the financial year 2023-24 the ODPP had 832 matters pending. The ongoing high number of matters in the pending list is attributable to the high number of committals in recent years.
- The ODPP continues to be challenged by high demand and is doing the best it can with available resources.

Staff

- As at 31 March 2026, the ODPP had 83 by headcount (78.3 FTE).
- As at 30 June 2025, the ODPP had 83 by headcount (80.7 FTE).
- As at 30 June 2024, the ODPP had 73.3 FTE, a head count of 78. As at 30 June 2023, the ODPP had 77.2 FTE with a head count of 81.

Prepared by:	[REDACTED]	Cleared by:	[REDACTED]
Position:	Director Crown Law	Position:	Secretary
Phone:	Exempt - s 36	Phone:	Exempt - s 36
Date:	16 April 2026	Date:	14 May 2026

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

Employment Direction No.5 - Code of Conduct and Reportable Conduct

Current as at: 28-April-2026

KEY MESSAGES

- Employment Direction No. 5 *Procedures for the investigation and determination of whether an employee has breached the code of conduct* provides the framework through which the Department of Justice undertakes investigations into alleged breaches of the State Service Code of Conduct.
- The Reportable Conduct Scheme commenced in January 2024 and from that time the Department of Justice has complied with the legislated reporting requirements and timeframes.
- During the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026, the department commenced 6 investigations in accordance with Employment Direction No. 5. As of 31 March one of these matters had been finalised and 5 remained open.
- In the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026, the department referred 3 matters to the Office of the Independent Regulator under the requirements of the Reportable Conduct Scheme.

Prepared by:	[REDACTED]	Cleared by:	[REDACTED]
Position:	Assistant Director Workplace Relations	Position:	Acting Deputy Secretary
Phone:	Exempt - s 36	Phone:	Exempt - s 36
Date:	30 March 2026	Date:	28 April 2026

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

Entertainment, Hospitality and Gifts

Current as at: 25-May-2026

ENTERTAINMENT

KEY MESSAGES

- Entertainment expenditure includes food and drink, recreation and any accommodation or travel that is associated with 'entertainment'.
- Entertainment cannot be purchased on a Tasmanian Government Card unless authorised by the Secretary of the Department of Treasury and Finance.
- The department does not have any cardholders that have been authorised to purchase entertainment on their cards.
- Any entertainment incurred, must be approved in advance by a senior departmental officer with appropriate authority who is not to receive the particular entertainment.

KEY FIGURES

- Entertainment costs incurred by the Department of Justice for the 2025-26 Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) year were \$25,929 for both departmental employees and external parties. This is a substantial reduction from the previous year where entertainment costs were \$40,606.
- Of this, \$22,080 (or 85%) is attributable to departmental employees (and their family members), while the remaining \$3,849 relates to external attendees.

Additional speaking points, IF REQUIRED

- The department usually hosts and funds a small number of public entertainment events each year. The department held two such events during the 2025-26 FBT year:

- the opening of the Law Year, which is a church service held at St David's Cathedral followed by a reception at the Hobart Supreme Court
- the opening of the annual Artists with Convictions exhibition - showcasing work by Tasmania Prison Service inmates and offenders on probation, parole, or community service orders - was held at Good Grief Studios, located on Argyle Street in Hobart.
- The department also incurs entertainment costs as a result of hosting dinners for visiting interstate and international colleagues and dignitaries.
- In 2025-26, the department funded gym membership fees for a number of Launceston based correctional officers in the Tasmania Prison Service for health and fitness related purposes due to the provision of a gym for southern based staff located on the Risdon Prison site.

GIFTS

KEY MESSAGE

- The department has its own Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy outlining how staff should behave in relation to the offer, acceptance or refusal of a gift, benefit or hospitality. This is based on the whole-of-government Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy and is publicly available on the department's website.
- The policy sets out the broad principles to be applied to and by all departmental officers and employees in relation to the receiving or offering of a gift, benefit or hospitality.
- The department acknowledges that the Tasmanian community expects high standards of integrity, impartiality, transparency and the responsible use of resources from all state service officers and employees. Officers and employees should not expect to receive gifts, benefits or hospitality for doing a job they are paid by the public to do. In most situations, 'thanks' is enough.

- In accordance with the policy, the department maintains a register of all declarations made and publishes information regularly on the department's website relating to declared gifts, benefits and hospitality received and given to the value of \$100 or more (or with a cumulative annual value of \$100 or more from a single supplier).
- All gifts received are required to be included on the register and approved by a member of the department's executive.

KEY FIGURES

- From 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026 a total of 11 gifts and benefits were declared by Department of Justice staff. The total value of gifts received is estimated at \$1,910.
- 7 of the 11 gifts declared were valued at less than or equal to \$100.
- The largest gifts declared were valued at approximately:
 - \$200 per person for attendance (3 staff) at the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) Awards of Excellence, comprising a three-course dinner with wine, provided as part of a CBOS-funded silver sponsorship package, which included complimentary tickets and participation in the presentation of awards.
 - \$200 per person for attendance (3 staff) at the Master Builders Tasmania Awards of Excellence, comprising a two-course dinner with wine, provided as part of a CBOS-funded silver sponsorship package, including complimentary tickets and sponsorship of an award.
 - \$180 per person for attendance (2 staff) at the Housing Industry Association (HIA) Awards, comprising a dinner with wine, provided as part of a CBOS-funded sponsorship arrangement supporting the event.

Prepared by:	[REDACTED]	Cleared by:	[REDACTED]
Position:	Director Finance	Position:	A/Deputy Secretary
Phone:	Exempt - s 36	Phone:	Exempt - s 36
Date:	14 May 2026	Date:	15 May 2026

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

Family Violence Matters in Magistrates Court

Current as at: 18-May-2026

KEY MESSAGES

- Action to prevent and respond to family violence is a top priority for the government. We are making sure all our efforts are geared towards keeping our community safe and that perpetrators are held to account.
- Family violence and the serious negative effects for individuals and families who experience family violence are completely unacceptable.
- A significant proportion of the work of the Magistrates Court relates to family violence orders and criminal matters, such as assault and breaches of family violence orders.
- As at 31 March 2026, preliminary figures indicate that the number of family violence related criminal matters has increased by around 3% compared to the same time in 2025. These are matters that are categorised by Tasmania Police as having a family violence element to them.

KEY FIGURES

- Family violence matters in the Magistrates Court include:
 - applications for court-issued family violence orders
 - applications to vary, extend or revoke police family violence orders and court-issued family violence orders
 - applications to register interstate family violence orders
 - criminal matters, such as assault, property damage, and breach of existing family violence orders.

Applications related to family violence orders

- As at 31 March 2026, the number of family violence applications lodged increased by 11% from 1,685 to 1,871 compared to the same time last

year. In the 5 years to 30 June 2025, applications have increased by 63% from 1,370 in 2019-20 to 2,236 in 2024-25.

- The preliminary number of applications for court-issued family violence orders increased by 5% in 2025-26, from 901 in 2024-25 to 946 in 2025-26 as at 31 March 2026.
- In the 2025-26 period (as at 31 March 2026), the number of applications to extend or vary a family violence order increased by 17%.
- As at 31 March 2026, finalisations for family violence-related applications increased by 11.9% in 2025-26, compared to the same time in 2024-25.

Criminal matters involving family violence

- Matters involving family violence make up a substantial proportion of the work of the criminal jurisdiction of the Magistrates Court.
- Preliminary figures for the 2025-26 financial year to 31 March 2026, indicate that the overall number of family violence-related criminal matters has increased by around 3% compared to 2024-25. These are matters that are flagged by Tasmania Police as having a family violence element to them.

Finalisations

- Cases with breaches of family violence orders are also a substantial proportion of the Magistrates Court's work. In 2024-25 (as at 31 March), there were 997 finalisations in the Magistrates Court involving a breach of family violence order or police family violence order.
- As at 30 June 2025, finalisations of applications involving family violence orders have increased by 17% (from 1,921 to 2,248) in comparison to the same period in 2023-24. In the 2025-26 financial year to 31 March 2026, 1,868 family violence order applications have been finalised.

Lodgements

- Lodgements of matters involving breach of family violence orders in 2024-25 increased by 40.3% compared to 2023-24. In the 2025-26 financial year to 31 March 2026, total lodgements were 1,090, an increase of 0.8% compared to the same period in 2024-25.

Serial family violence perpetrator declaration

- From July 2024, Tasmanian courts have the power to declare a person convicted of a family violence offence, a serial family violence perpetrator through changes to the *Family Violence Act 2004*.
- As at 31 March 2026, the Magistrates Court in 2025-26 had declared 191 individuals serial family violence perpetrators, an increase of 42.5% (from 134 to 191) compared to the same period in 2024-25. Of those 191, 179 are males and 12 are females.

BACKGROUND

Fees

- On 7 December 2020, the Tasmanian Government announced that it would remove fees, which can be a barrier for people, for all documents relating to proceedings under the *Family Violence Act 2004*.
- Application fees associated with family violence proceedings arising in the Magistrates Court are made under the Justices Regulations 2013.
- In accordance with the government's policy, and prior to legislative amendment, the Magistrates Court stopped charging filing fees for the lodgement of the following applications:
 - for a family violence order
 - to vary a family violence order or police family violence order; to extend a family violence order or police family violence order
 - to revoke a family violence order or police family violence order.
- Fees have also been removed for the court registry making copies of the above applications.
- At the point at which an application is lodged it is neither possible, nor appropriate, for an assessment to be made as to whether the applicant is a victim or a perpetrator. The removal of fees is therefore applied on the basis of the type of application, not an assessment of the applicant.
- In the 2024-25 financial year, the Magistrates Court received 2,236 applications for a family violence order, including applications to vary, extend or revoke a family violence or police family violence order. In the 2025-26 financial year as of end of March, the number was 1,871.
- The Magistrates Court estimates that in the 2019-20 year, it received fees of \$38,265 from family violence order applications, including copying fees. The fees were subsequently removed.

Reasoning for removal of fees

- The government's announcement in relation to the removal of fees for family violence matters is understood to have arisen in response to an Examiner article, by [REDACTED], 'Fighting Back: Why are Tasmanian women still being murdered by their partners?' in which it was suggested that women may refrain from making a family violence order application where they have to pay a fee, such as due to financial hardship or coercive control. In effect, it was suggested that the mere existence of a fee may discourage applications. The article advocated removing application fees for victims.
- Prior to the removal of fees, the fee for lodging a family violence application was \$32.40. Where an applicant does not file copies of the application a flat fee of \$15 was charged for the registry to make the five copies required.
- A fee was not charged where a fee waiver application was lodged and approved pursuant to the fee waiver provisions of the *Justices Act 1959* (section 141).

Family Violence Figures - 2024-25 financial year

Family Violence Orders (FVOs)	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	% Change from 2023-24
Application to grant a FVO							
Lodgements	771	814	883	921	1001	1193	19.2%
Finalisations	648	916	929	982	1117	1244	11.4%
Applications to extend or vary a FVO							
Lodgements	312	272	347	373 ²³	399	537	34.6%
Finalisations	242	292	352	350 ²³	400	491	22.8%
Applications to extend or vary a Police FVO							
Lodgements	186	190	239	236	259	324	25.1%
Finalisations	164	207	234	247	249	327	31.3%
Applications to revoke a FVO							
Lodgements	28	43	45	46	57	68	19.3%
Finalisations	25	39	40	39	57	68	19.3%
Applications to revoke a Police FVO							
Lodgements	70	78	76	105	104	108	3.8%
Finalisations	65	73	70	110	95	113	18.9%
Applications to register an Interstate FVO							
Lodgements	2	2	0	1	1	0	-100.0%
Finalisations	1	2	0	0	2	0	-100.0%
FVOs made on Family Violence offences							
Lodgements	1	5	4	1	1	6	500.0%
Finalisations	0	5	3	2	1	5	400.0%
Serial Family Violence Perpetrator Declarations²⁴							
Declarations	-	-	-	-	-	190	-
Breach of FVOs and Police FVOs²⁵							
Lodgements	804	845	947	947	1,040	1,459	40.3%
Finalisations	752	873	839	905	1,024	1,169	14.2%

²³ Incorrect figures for the period 2022 to 23 were reported in the 2022-23 Annual Report

²⁴ A category for the new legislation Serial Family Violence Perpetrator Declarations (FV29A) has been added in the 2024-25 Annual Report

²⁵ For Breach of FVOs and Police FVOs from 2020-21 to 2023-24, the categories below have been added:

- Section 35(1) – Attempt to breach of Family Violence Order
- Section 35(1) – Breach of Interim Family Violence Order
- Section 35(1) – Breach of Police Family Violence Order
- Section 35(1) and Section 74(2) of Justices Act 1959 – Attempt to Breach of Family Violence Order

To ensure comparability, prior year figures from 2020-21 to 2023-24 have been updated in the 2023-24 Annual Report.

Source: CRIMESStats database

Prepared by		Cleared by:	
Position:	Administrator of Courts	Position:	Deputy Secretary
Phone:	Exempt - s 36	Phone:	Exempt - s 36
Date:	17 April 2026	Date:	18 May 2026

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

Grants

Current as at: 19-May-2026

KEY MESSAGES

- Between 1 July 2025 and 31 March 2026, the department has provided \$34.3 million in grant funding to various organisations and individuals in 2025-26.
- This is primarily made up of grant payments to Tasmania Legal Aid (TLA), Community Legal Centres (CLCs) and the Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service (TALS), made in accordance with the Australian Government National Access to Justice Partnership 2025-30 (NAJP). As at 31 March 2026, the department has provided funding of \$17.5 million under this partnership agreement.
- The government has provided a further \$10.6 million to TLA, CLCs and other members of the legal assistance sector in legal assistance State funding.
- Grants of \$1.3 million have been paid under the Safe Homes, Families and Communities program to various organisations in 2025-26. The department also transferred funding of \$1.1 million to TLA and other government departments (Department for Education, Children and Young People and Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management) to deliver services through the Safe at Home program in 2025-26.
- Grants of \$1.6 million have been paid to various organisations for prisoner education, rehabilitation and reintegration services for the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026, including:
 - TasTAFE for coordination and delivery of VET services (\$518,490)
 - Brain Injury Association of Tasmania for delivery of JustACE program (\$275,664)

- Salvation Army for Specialist Throughcare (\$219,101)
 - Department for Education, Children and Young People for adult literacy support (\$218,040)
 - Homes Tasmania for Prisoner Rapid Rehousing (\$180,000)
 - Men's Resources Tasmania for Peer Support Program (\$123,730)
 - Dress for Success Hobart for Welcome Back(Pack) (\$30,000)
 - Hart Cultural Connections (\$19,470)
 - Launceston City Mission for family transport services (\$13,000)
 - Sexual Assault Support Service (\$10,000)
 - Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service for aboriginal support services (\$27,402).
- The department has also paid the following additional grants for the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026:
 - University of Tasmania for annual funding of the Tasmanian Law Reform Institute (\$200,000)
 - Master Builders Association of Tasmania in relation to the Liveable Housing Design Standard (\$25,000)
 - Financial assistance of \$2.0 million has been paid in 2025-26 under the Financial Assistance Package for consumers affected by construction company failures. These payments are available to consumers affected by a builder or building company having died, disappeared or become insolvent since 1 July 2022.

Prepared by:	[REDACTED]	Cleared by:	[REDACTED]
Position:	Director Finance	Position:	A/Deputy Secretary
Phone:	Exempt - s 36	Phone:	Exempt - s 36
Date:	11 May 2026	Date:	19 May 2026

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

Lockdowns / cancelled visits

Current as at: 24-May-2026

KEY MESSAGES

- The Tasmanian Government is focused on reducing the amount of time prisoners spend in lockdown, across all our correctional facilities.
- The TPS works to ensure that lockdowns occur as infrequently as possible, while recognising that they are an essential operational tool used in prisons to ensure a safe and secure correctional environment for prisoners, staff and visitors.
- Lockdowns occur for many reasons, including managing prisoner behaviour, security protocols, to facilitate medical transfers of prisoners and unplanned staff absences.
- I am certainly aware and have been briefed by the Tasmanian Prison Service (TPS) that the month of April was a particularly challenging month as it relates to lockdowns.
- And this is why we are investing heavily in recruiting more staff and building more capacity within the system.
- We are continually recruiting more correctional officers and I want to welcome the 11 new Correctional Officers who last week graduated from the most recent recruit school and are commencing work in our prisons.
- We are also currently undertaking another major recruitment campaign with applications now open.
- I encourage anyone considering a career change, seeking meaningful work, or wanting to make a difference in their community to consider a career in corrections.
- I want to thank our Correctional Officers who do a very important job playing a core role in keeping our community safe.

- **It's important to note that lockdowns do not always necessitate prisoners being confined to their cells, often they may only be limited to their accommodation units or divisions.**
- It is also important to note that when lockdowns do occur, essential services and inmate supports (including personal visits) are still maintained wherever possible and when it is safe to do so.
- However, I absolutely can say that this is an area where I want to see improvement.
- The Tasmanian Prison Service is working to implement an updated staffing strategy at the Risdon Prison complex, which will focus on continued access to services.
- TPS senior managers are heavily focused on addressing the causes of lockdowns and the Director of Prisons is leading work to implement specific solutions to issues which cause lockdowns.

IF ASKED – WILL YOU REDUCE PRISON SENTENCES

- **The Tasmanian Government is not considering reducing prison sentences for those restricted by lockdowns.**
- Tasmanians rightly expect that when someone commits a serious crime and is sentenced to imprisonment by a court, they will serve that sentence behind bars.
- It is important to note that the Corrections system has a specific function that it is required to fulfil, after a person has been charged and remanded or convicted and sentenced.
- If people commit crimes and are placed in prison by a Court, then the TPS is required to detain that person in accordance with the Court's direction.
- While I will not reflect on the Courts and their independent decision-making, it is fair to say that our Justice system generally sees prison as a last resort, reserved for those who have committed **serious crimes**.
- As a society there is always more we can do to prevent people from becoming involved in crime.

- But ultimately it is up to every individual to comply with the law, and if people of any background commit serious crimes and are a risk to community safety, they may well be sentenced by a Court to prison and I think all members would agree that should be the case.

IF ASKED – HOW MANY LOCKDOWNS HAVE THERE BEEN?

- I am certainly aware and have been briefed by the Tasmania Prison Service (TPS) that the month of April was a particularly challenging month as it relates to lockdowns.
- **As lockdowns can be in different units for different times there is some work required by TPS in collating a full up-to-date list of occurrences, so I will take that on notice in relation to the specific numbers and come back to the Member with an answer as soon as we have that information.**

ADDITIONAL TALKING POINTS

- Not all facilities are also being impacted by lockdowns in the same way, in fact prisoners in our minimum security Ron Barwick Prison, including in our O'Hara pre-release cottages, spend significant time out of their cells with daily averages around 14-16 hrs.
- The reasons for these increased levels of lockdowns are complex, but they have been heavily impacted by the numbers of prisoners requiring medical treatment in hospital and the number of staff required to supervise those prisoners away from the prison, as well as staff absences.
- When there are situations where staff resources are diverted to tasks such as medical transfers to hospital, as you would expect safety of both staff and prisoners is the top priority and that can mean prisoners in some parts of the facility need to remain in their cells.

Recruitment and funding

- The Tasmanian Government is recruiting more officers to build more capacity within the system.
- And the Government is delivering. Since March 2014, 497 new correctional officers have been recruited, resulting in a **net increase of 234 correctional officers.**

- There is significant additional funding for the TPS in the 2025-26 budget – not only for additional staff and better infrastructure, but also for rehabilitation and intervention programs.
- Through the 25-26 Budget, an additional **\$25 million** in funding is being delivered to address rising cost pressures within the TPS.
- We are investing over **\$100 million** in funding for a coordinated program of capital and maintenance works at the Risdon Prison site to support safe, efficient, and contemporary custodial operations.
- This investment includes:
 - approximately **\$23 million** on the fully operational Risdon Prison complex (Ron Barwick) commercial kitchen facility, which incorporates a bakery and dedicated training facilities
 - **\$45.9 million** for additional maximum security – designed to support rehabilitation and program delivery
 - **\$23 million** for the delivery of an upgraded electronic security and mobile duress alarm system replacement
 - **\$7.6 million** on critical infrastructure maintenance and
 - **\$1.7 million** for the renewal and replacement of critical infrastructure assets.
- The Government understands the importance of connection with family for prisoners in custody and works hard to support those connections.
- Keeping in contact with people in the community can help to support prisoners while in custody and is also important in helping prisoners readjust to life in the community when they are released.
- Prisoners can stay in touch with friends and family through mail, telephone, email, virtual (Zoom) visits and in-person visits - ensuring that there are flexible contact options that cater for almost everyone.
- Since virtual visits were first introduced in 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, they have proved so popular that they have continued alongside face-to-face visits, with some people preferring them, for many different reasons.

- New wireless access points have been installed as part of the Video Conferencing Upgrade Project that provide quality Wi-Fi connections for prisoners to access Zoom visits.
- Popular time slots will generally book up quickly, however, in most weeks there continue to be sessions that go unused, and it is very uncommon for all sessions to be utilised.
- Some prisoners will exhaust all their visits, and some prisoners have very few visits.
- I am keen to explore the greater use of technology to improve (amongst other things) prisoners' access to family outside unlock hours, which is why our Government has funding an in-cell technology project.

Key Figures

- On a weekly basis the Tasmania Prison Service currently offers approximately 279 contact visits and 522 non-contact/Zoom visits. This does not include the facilitation of compassionate or inter-prison Zoom visits.

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

Magistrates Court Budget and Performance

Current as at: 18-May-2026

KEY MESSAGES

- The government is committed to ensuring that all Tasmanians have access to an efficient and effective criminal and civil justice system in which court proceedings can be finalised in a timely manner.
- The Magistrates Court is the highest volume court in Tasmania, dealing with over 27,000 lodgements and more than 165,000 individual listings, as at 31 March 2026, across a range of jurisdictions including criminal, civil, youth justice, child protection, family violence and coronial. This is an increase on listings from the same period last year.
- The court has 4 registries located in Hobart, Launceston, Devonport and Burnie. It conducts sittings regularly, or as required, in regional locations at Queenstown, St Helens, Scottsdale, Currie, Whitemark and from May 2026, Smithton.
- The court has seen a continued growth in workload due to increased lodgements, legislative changes resulting in more complex sentencing options which require multiple appearances, availability of defence counsel and timely disclosure.
- In recognition of the increasing demand pressures on the court, the government is providing additional funding of \$2.2 million in 2026-27 and \$2 million on an ongoing basis.
- This follows additional funding of \$800,000 per year for 2 years provided in the 2025-26 to address continued growth in demand for services and complexity of cases.
- The government has also funded projects which will benefit the operations of the Magistrates Court in the long term, including providing funding of \$1.4 million over 2 years for improvements to audiovisual

equipment in courts. These initiatives will improve access to justice for the Tasmanian community.

- I was pleased to announce in January that Mr Lloyd Babb SC has been appointed to help ensure that all Tasmanians have access to an efficient and effective criminal and civil justice system, with court proceedings finalised in a timely manner.
- Mr Babb will focus on applying a systems approach to managing existing court backlogs, identifying strategies and mechanisms to support case flow, and developing a framework to measure the effectiveness of any new strategies.
- While the Government and Courts have implemented various strategies to reduce backlogs, ongoing pressures remain and require a sustained, system-wide response.
- Mr Lloyd Babb SC, is a very experienced Barrister and a former Director of Public Prosecutions in New South Wales and in the Northern Territory, has been appointed to improve the backlogs.
- He is highly qualified for this work and holds current and relevant experience.

Digital upgrades

- In March 2026, the Magistrates Court, in consultation with the Department, completed upgrades to digital recording systems across all 17 courtrooms in Devonport, Burnie, Launceston and Hobart, in addition to portable recording systems to service all country courts in the North and North-West. These upgrades form part of the response to Commission of Inquiry Recommendation 16.12, supporting the department's broader commitment to safe, reliable and accountable justice services through improved functionality in the court rooms.

BUDGET INFORMATION

- Several components of the Magistrates Court budget are subject to fluctuations that are outside the court's control. These include the cost of the mortuary ambulance which is used to transport bodies for the purposes of the Coronial Division; the cost of engaging counsel

assisting the coroner both from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) and private counsel if necessary; witness expenses; interpreters; security costs; and transcribing services.

- Costs associated with maintaining and improving facilities across 4 court registries and 14 permanent courtrooms are also a significant part of the court's budget.
- Expenses associated with the operation of the Coronial Division also vary from year to year according to the type of matters that are being investigated and the need for external legal counsel or specialist evidence.
- Costs related to contracted court security have increased due to the requirement for additional staff to meet increases in court sittings, in addition to changes in the employee classifications for security officers from levels 2/3 to 4/5 rates under the *Security Services Industry Award 2020* in order to attract better candidates.
- As at 31 March 2026, the total expenditure for statewide contracted security services for As at 31 March 2026, the total expenditure for statewide contracted security services for the Magistrates Court has been just over \$2.6 million. An increased presence of security ensures timely assistance and thorough screening is undertaken to mitigate incidents and risks.
- Notable building expenses include a refit and upgrade of the Launceston registry, which had to be refurbished due to the presence of asbestos and other work health and safety issues.

Fees and other income

- The court collects fees in the form of filing fees for civil claims, various applications, mediation fees, and in some cases, fees for filing complaints. If a person is convicted of an offence, a magistrate may order the payment of court costs (\$33.00). A portion of the fees a paid into the Public Account with the balance of the fees retained by the court to support its operations.

- Court registrars have the power to waive fees on receipt of an application from a party. This process enables the impecunious to access justice without first having to overcome the hurdle of paying a fee.
- As at 31 March 2026, the Magistrates Court had seen a drop in fee revenue, seeing a 6% drop in revenue from civil fees, and a drop in overall revenue due to the transfer of the court's Administrative Appeals Division to the Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal on 1 July 2025, and the changes to s58C of the *Coroners Act 1995* which was proclaimed on 1 December 2025, which removed the ability of the court to charge fees relating to documents requested under that section.

Staffing

- At 31 March 2026, the Magistrates Court had 100 staff, representing 93.7 FTEs, including 17 magistrates.

Prepared by:	[REDACTED]	Cleared by:	[REDACTED]
Position:	Administrator of Courts	Position:	Deputy Secretary
Phone:	Exempt - s 36	Phone:	Exempt - s 36
Date:	17 April 2026	Date:	18 May 2026

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

Motor Vehicle Usage

Current as at: 25-May-2026

KEY MESSAGES

- As at 31 March 2026, the department had 145 light motor vehicles leased from LeasePlan, which is 5 fewer than at 30 June 2025.
- The department has a further 13 commercial vehicles some of which are owned and some leased. These include 8 trucks, 3 buses, 1 commercial van and 2 tractors used by the Tasmania Prison Service, taking the total number of departmental vehicles to 158.
- 59 of the 145 light motor vehicles are private plated:
 - 24 are provided to departmental senior executive service or equivalent staff in accordance with their employment contract, noting that some staff have been approved to receive an allowance in lieu of a vehicle
 - 35 are supplied to statutory office holders including magistrates and judges.
- The remaining 86 motor vehicles are government plated 'pool cars', of which 53 are light passenger and 33 are light commercial vehicles such as utes and vans.
- The department currently has 31 hybrids, 3 plug in hybrids and 1 electric vehicle in its fleet.
- All private plated vehicles are home garaged.
- 16 government plated vehicles are currently home garaged on a regular basis for security, on-call or operational business reasons.
- Monthly hire costs of vehicles with LeasePlan vary depending on the type of vehicle, operating costs, estimated resale value etc. On average the department pays about \$178,000 per month, ex GST, which

includes fuel, servicing and repairs, registration, management and lease costs.

- As at 31 March 2026, there had been 37 speed camera infringement notices issued to drivers of departmental vehicles this financial year.
- As at 31 March 2026, there had been 1 accident this financial year that resulted in vehicle damage costs greater than \$10,000.
- The department's fleet requirements are continually assessed against its business needs as lease renewals occur.
- The department has a budget efficiency dividend to reduce its pool fleet size by 5 vehicles. As at 31 March 2026, 3 vehicles had been returned - 2 in 2024-25 and 1 in 2025-26.

KEY FIGURES

- Departmental vehicles were involved in 22 accidents causing damage from 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026. 12 of those accidents incurred repair costs in excess of \$1,500, with the largest being a total loss valued at \$57,400. The department's vehicle insurance excess is \$1,500.
- The department's 86 government plated pool cars are allocated to the following outputs:
 - WorkSafe Tasmania (29, 10 of which are home garaged)
 - Community Corrections (18)
 - Tasmania Prison Service (16)
 - Consumer, Building and Occupational Services (10, 6 of which home garaged)
 - Supreme Court (2)
 - Public Guardian (2)
 - Corporate Services (2)
 - Magistrates Court (1)
 - Monetary Penalties Enforcement Service (1)

- Victims Support Services (1)
- Office of the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner (1)
- Tasmanian Electoral Office (1)
- Victims of Crime Assistance and Redress (1)
- TASCAT (1).

Prepared by:	[REDACTED]	Cleared by:	[REDACTED]
Position:	Director Finance	Position:	A/Deputy Secretary
Phone:	Exempt - s 36	Phone:	Exempt - s 36
Date:	14 May 2026	Date:	25 May 2026

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

MPES Budget and Performance

Current as at: 26-May-2026

KEY MESSAGES

- As members of the Committee will be aware, the Monetary Penalties Enforcement Amendment Bill 2026 was tabled in the House on 5 May 2026. This Bill is designed to improve aspects of the Act to help MPES to better collect and enforce monetary penalties.
- MPES continues to experience a significant increase in demand for the collection and enforcement of monetary penalties.

Increased demand

- For example, for the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026, more than \$11.9 million in speed camera infringements were referred to MPES compared to \$10.5 million for the same period in 2024-25.
- For the 12-month period to 30 June 2025, more than \$14 million in speed camera infringements were referred to MPES (compared to \$9.9 million in 2024-25).

Performance

Amount collected

- The total amount of monetary penalties collected by MPES for the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026 was \$21.4 million. (This was an increase of \$2.8 million or 13% on the same period to March 2025).
- **The total amount collected by MPES for the 12 month period to 30 June 2025 was a record high amount of \$26.3 million.**

Amount outstanding

- The total debt outstanding at 31 March 2026 was \$76.6 million. This was \$3.5 million higher than at 31 March 2025. This amount is significantly impacted by increased referrals and high-value debts, which are generally more difficult to collect and more difficult for debtors to pay.

- \$34.3 million of the overall debt was subject to payment plans as at 31-March 2026. This allows debtors who are unable to pay immediately to pay by instalments over time. Two key performance measures are:
 - collection rate (value)
 - debt finalisation rate (volume).

Collection rate

- Collection rate is the value of debt collected as a percentage of the value of debt referred to MPES.
- The collection rate for all debt for the 9 months to 31 March 2026 was 89% (compared to 87% to March 2025).
- The collection rate for amounts due to the Public Account for the 9 months to 31 March 2026 was 96% (compared 95% for the 9 months to 31 March 2025).

Debt finalisation rates

- Debt finalisation rate is the number of debts finalised (paid, withdrawn, or deemed uncollectable) as a percentage of the number of debts referred.
- The debt finalisation rate for the 9 months to 31 March 2026 was 91% (compared to 87% to 31 March 2025).
- Debt paid finalisation rate is the number of debts finalised by payment, as a percentage of the number of debts collectable (referred, less withdrawn). The debt paid finalisation rate for the 9 months to 31 March 2026 was 87% (compared to 80% to 31 March 2025).
- The Monetary Penalties Enforcement Amendment Bill 2026 aims to further improve the debt finalisation rate by improving provisions around redirection orders and providing better mechanisms to collect debts from interstate enforcement debtors.

Referral of debts to MPES

- 140,170 monetary penalties with a total value of \$24 million were referred to MPES for collection in the 9 months to 31 March 2026 (compared to 135,654 penalties referred in the same period to 31 March 2025 with a value of \$21 million).

- Amounts totalling \$1.1 million were deemed uncollectable to 31 March 2026 (compared to \$864,441 for the same period to 31 March 2025).
- The reasons debts are sometimes deemed uncollectable include:
 - when an offender cannot be found after reasonable inquiry
 - when an offender is deceased or is in liquidation
 - where an offender resides outside Australia and has no assets in Australia
 - where the amount outstanding is less than \$10 and the cost of enforcing is more than \$10.

Staff

- The staffing establishment as at 31 March 2026 was 25.5 FTE (head count of 27).
- Staff are currently based at Rosny although all staff will relocate to 199 Collins Street, Hobart, in August 2026.

Prepared by:		Cleared by:	
Position:	Director MPES	Position:	Acting Deputy Secretary
Phone:	Exempt - s 36	Phone:	Exempt - s 36
Date:	14/04/2026	Date:	25 May 2026

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

MPES - Interstate Debts

Current as at: 26-May-2026

KEY MESSAGES

- As at 31 March 2026, approximately \$11.5 million was owed by persons believed to be residing interstate or overseas.
- The ability to collect these amounts is more challenging because enforcement options are more limited outside Tasmanian's jurisdiction.
- This is an area specifically addressed by the Monetary Penalties Enforcement Amendment Bill 2026 (MPE Bill) tabled on 5 May 2026. The Bill provides the Director of MPES the ability to make interstate fine enforcement orders to collect fines from an enforcement debtor who has a connection to another participating Australian jurisdiction.
- At present, Part 9 of the *Monetary Penalties Enforcement Act 2005* states that a request can be given to a reciprocating court to enforce a Tasmanian monetary penalty; **Exempt - s 31**
[REDACTED]
- Queensland, for example, has also legislated for reciprocal enforcement arrangements but their legislation requires a request come from the relevant officer of a reciprocating court, which is the registrar of the court, not the Director of Monetary Penalties Enforcement Service (MPES).
- The Director of MPES can apply to a magistrate for a warrant of commitment for a term of imprisonment; however, this is a last resort and is rarely used (there is no-one in prison in Tasmania because they have failed to pay their fines). There is also the difficulty in locating debtors once they leave Tasmania.
- Sections 112-114 of the *Service and Execution of Process Act 1992* (Cth) allow for the registration of fines in another state; however, Part 7 of that

Act means that it only applies to fines imposed by courts of summary jurisdiction.

- This means that the provisions do not apply to any Supreme Court fines or any infringement notices, e.g. infringements issued by Tasmania Police or councils. The MPE Bill however, will make such fines subject to interstate fine enforcement orders.
- Notwithstanding the currently limited enforcement options, legislative and practical hurdles, MPES has an overall collection rate for all debts of 89% for the 9 months to 31 March 2026.
- Table of interstate and overseas debts as at 31 March 2026:

State	No. Debtors	Value outstanding (\$)
VIC	2,904	4,672,911
QLD	2,251	2,504,567
NSW	2,118	1,791,791
WA	774	585,110
SA	387	295,640
NT	138	142,445
ACT	96	45,782
TOTAL INTERSTATE	8,668	10,038,246
Overseas or location unknown	1,706	1,472,817
TOTAL	10,374	11,511,063

Prepared by:	[REDACTED]	Cleared by:	[REDACTED]
Position:	Director MPES	Position:	Acting Deputy Secretary
Phone:	Exempt - s 36	Phone:	Exempt - s 36
Date:	14 April 2026	Date:	25 May 2026

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

New Future AYDC Site

Current as at: 26-May-2026

KEY MESSAGES

- The Tasmanian Government has announced our intention to repurpose the Ashley Youth Detention Centre site into a minimum-security adult prison and agriculture-based prisoner rehabilitation and training facility.
- The transfer will occur after the site is vacated by the Department for Education, Children and Young People.
- The repurposed facility is expected to accommodate approximately 40-minimum-security prisoners and be contained entirely within the current AYDC footprint, with the option to use the farmland attached to the site for farm and agriculture-based training.
- The community will be closely consulted on the plan.
- The former Labor-Green Government's decision to close the Hayes Prison Farm in 2012 is widely acknowledged as a major misstep which diverted all prisoners to prison facilities at Risdon, reducing rehabilitation opportunities for low-security prisoners.
- This decision corrects that error, which will not only offer an environment conducive to rehabilitation and training for prisoners who have earned the right to finish their sentence in a lower-security setting, but also to sustain and create jobs in Meander Valley and career pathways for Northern-based Correctional Officers.
- The Government has taken into account feedback received during the previous community consultation phase.
- Repurposing the existing AYDC facilities presents a unique opportunity for the Tasmania Prison Service to accommodate minimum-security prisoners in a setting focused on rehabilitation and education.

- This decision builds on our Government's ongoing commitment to greater rehabilitation opportunities for offenders.
- Establishing a minimum-security prison in this setting will support rural training and employment initiatives alongside serving as an important pathway for offender reintegration.
- The Government remains committed to delivering on the recommendations of the Col regarding AYDC, to establish a memorial on the site in consultation with the victim-survivors, and ensuring that no former detainee would be detained in a prison facility at the AYDC site, other than with their consent and agreement.
- This is a practical and responsible pathway to ensuring the significant investment already made in the AYDC site continues to deliver value for Tasmanians, while strengthening our corrections system more broadly.

Questions and Answers

How much will the AYDC cost to repurpose?

- The transfer will occur after the site is vacated by DECYP. It will ensure that we are utilising the significant taxpayer funding invested in facilitating the site.
- We will consider any costs through the next Budget process but I emphasise that the intention is to utilise the existing facilities to the greatest extent possible.
- However, detailed planning and assessment work will be undertaken to ensure the project is delivered effectively and represents value for taxpayers, with overall costs to be considered as part of that process.

What led to the Government's position to transition the facility?

- The former Minister was clear in her previous announcement that the future use of this site as a minimum security prison would be considered.

- Preliminary investigations of the AYDC site, undertaken by the Department of Justice, indicate that the site appears to be well suited as a location for a modern, fit for purpose correctional facility in northern Tasmania, with a custodial facility already a permitted use within the current zoning of the site under the Tasmanian Planning Scheme for the Meander Valley.
- This is a practical and responsible approach that ensures the significant investment already made at the Ashley Youth Detention Centre continues to deliver value for Tasmanians, while strengthening the broader corrections system.

Why didn't you consult with the community before the announcement?

- The Government has now announced its intention to repurpose the AYDC site into a minimum-security prison and the community will be closely consulted on the plan.
- The Government has taken into account previous feedback by the community, including previous investigations found that the AYDC site was well suited for an adult correctional facility.
- The Government has also taken into account the strong sentiment that closing the Hayes Prison Farm was a major error by the former Labor-Greens government.

How big is the site? Is it appropriate for a farm minimum-security adult prison and agriculture-based prisoner rehab and training facility

- The AYDC facility is set on approximately 36.5 hectares of land, with some land run as a small farm.
- Under its current building envelope, AYDC can accommodate up to 50 male and female young offenders, spread across 4 accommodation units.
- It is anticipated that once repurposed, the new facility could house up to 40 minimum-security adult prisoners.

When will AYDC be ready for occupation by adult prisoners?

- The Development application for the new Tasmanian Youth Justice Facility in Pontville was approved by the Southern Midlands Council in December 2025.
- The appeals process is currently being considered by the Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (TASCAT). As the appeals are still ongoing, the Government is not able to provide an expected completion date.
- Once the new Youth Justice facility is safely providing care for children and youth, the facility will be repurposed to accommodate adult prisoners.

Will the new repurposed facility accommodate women

- The proposal is for a male, minimum-security facility. However, the Government will consider all aspects of the project before making any final commitments.

When will the Government close AYDC

- The Government is committed to closing Ashley Youth Detention Centre (AYDC) as soon as possible.
- The decision to close AYDC and build a new facility aligns with the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry and the Tasmanian Youth Justice Blueprint which prioritises therapeutic approaches and long-term reduction in crime.
- A new youth justice facility at Pontville (new facility) is being designed to deliver a child-centred and therapeutic model of care that addresses the individual needs and risk factors of young offenders, while keeping the community safe.
- Young people in the new facility will have access to education, skills pathways and services that will support them to change their lives and avoid re-offending when they return to the community, which is better for community safety.

- The Development application for the new Tasmanian Youth Justice Facility in Pontville was approved by the Southern Midlands Council in December 2025.
- The appeals process is currently being considered by the Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (TASCAT). As the appeals are still ongoing, the Government is not able to provide an expected completion date.

Why is Pontville delayed?

- Our Government worked hard to get the new Pontville facility underway as soon as possible.
- We put legislation through Parliament to see it happen.
- But the Greens blocked it in the Legislative Council.
- The Development application for Pontville was approved by the Southern Midlands Council in December 2025.
- There is currently an appeals process being considered by TASCAT, and we are watching this closely.

Are you breaking COI commitments?

- Absolutely not.
- We remain committed to building a memorial in consultation with victim-survivors.
- And we remain committed to ensuring no former detainee is put into prison at the site, without their consent to be accommodated in the repurposed facility.

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

Office of the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner Budget and Performance

Current as at: 26-May-2026

KEY MESSAGES

- As Attorney-General, I am committed to preserving the freedoms of parliamentary democracy, the freedom of thought, worship, speech and association.
- Tasmania's *Anti-Discrimination Act 1998* provides a legislative framework to protect community members from discrimination and allow them to enjoy fundamental rights and freedoms.
- The government also continues to provide protection under the Act as well as through other legislation, which improves the lives of Tasmanians with disability, children and young people.
- The Office of the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner (OADC) plays a vital role in ensuring that the objectives of the Act are upheld and promoted, and I am extremely appreciative of the extraordinary work that is undertaken by everyone who is employed in that Office.
- I would also like to again congratulate [REDACTED] who was recently appointed as Tasmania's new Anti-Discrimination Commissioner.
- [REDACTED] was formerly the Chief Executive Officer of the Northern Territory Council of Social Service and previously served for a decade as Anti-Discrimination Commissioner for the Northern Territory, as well as Principal Community Visitor. I have no doubt that she will bring immense experience and a wealth of knowledge to her new role.

If asked: why was an additional appointment process conducted for the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner?

- I instructed my Department to conduct an expression of interest process to fill the role of Anti-Discrimination Commissioner following the departure of [REDACTED].
- That process yielded a very limited pool of suitable applicants, and I believe one of only two of the shortlisted suitable applicants ultimately pulled out.
- We then went into a period of caretaker due to the Labor-triggered early Election.
- It was then appropriate to readvertise the role using a third party recruitment agency to ensure an exhaustive search for the best candidate.
- This allowed for an extensive and rigorous multi-stage recruitment process which was nationally advertised and resulted in an eventual 20 expressions of interest being received, which included strong candidates from all across the nation.
- I subsequently appointed Ms Sievers, who is a highly experienced statutory office holder with a strong background in anti-discrimination law, and other highly scrutinised operating environments.

If asked: resourcing of Office or complaints handling timeframes

- OADC staff are frequently dealing with matters that are distressing and subject material that can be confronting. People who make complaints have often been traumatised and subjected to inappropriate, humiliating and offensive behaviour by others.
- Section 64(2) of the Act provides that the Commissioner is to decide whether to accept or reject a complaint within 42 days after its receipt.
- I acknowledge that delays in progressing and resolving matters can negatively impact on complainants and other parties. I note that in the period 1 July 2024 to 1 April 2025, nearly 80% of complaint decisions were made within the statutory period, and that more recently I understand that rate of completion has regrettably fallen to 45%.

- In part, this may be attributed to a rising number of complaints to the Office.
- 2025-26 funding for the Office of the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner was \$1.651 million; this is consistent with the funding provided in 2024-25.
- Given the Office receives a consistent and significant amount of funding, their staffing establishment has remained consistent. I understand that there have been some staffing changes at the OADC, but that there have been recent recruitment efforts to support the work of the Commission.
- I am sure that [REDACTED] will bring fresh eyes to the role of Commissioner and will have her own ideas on how to further improve the operation of the Office. I will welcome any suggestions and recommendations she chooses to make and look forward to working with her constructively as she undertakes this important role.

Staffing establishment

- As at 31 March 2026, the Office of the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner had 11 staff equating to 10.1 FTE.

Complaints

- From 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026, the Office of the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner received 194 complaints compared to 205 for the same period the previous year. On the basis of the complaint data to 31 March 2026, it is likely that the total number of complaints will be comparable to that of the 2024-25 reporting year, where 261 complaints were received.
- Disability discrimination continues as the highest attribute of discrimination and prohibited conduct alleged in complaints, followed by the attributes of race and gender. The total number of complaints of disability discrimination have in the past two reporting periods decreased by 15% (from 94 to 80) whereas the total number of complaints of race discrimination has increased (43 to 54) by 26%.
- In relation to inciting hatred, race is the attribute most complained about followed by religious belief or affiliation or activity and then disability.

- 104 of the 194 complaints alleged victimisation.
- The areas of the provision of facilities goods and services and employment remain the main areas of activity where alleged discrimination and/or prohibited conduct occurred.

Enquiries

- 405 enquiries compared to 550 were received from the community in the same period of the previous year. In some instances, one enquiry is recorded for a particular day, however it involved multiple contacts with staff and multiple instances of inputting emails or provided information from a single person.
- 61 *Report its!* were received compared to 68 for the same period last year. The most reported incident was related to race in the areas of provision of facilities, goods and services, training and education and employment.

Community Engagement

- Community engagement and education is a core function of the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner and her staff. The OADC has a specific community engagement officer.
- From 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026, 83 community engagement sessions have been recorded with the core goal of raising awareness in the community of discrimination and other unlawful conduct protected by the Act, the ways the community can report, enquire or complain and procedural information about the complaint process.
- Community engagement has included, but not limited to, events organised by:
 - local governments
 - state and private educational institutions
 - not for profit organisations
 - community organisations.

Training and Education

- Under section 6(b) and (d) of the Act, the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner's functions are:
 - (b) to promote the recognition and approval of acceptable attitudes, acts and practices relating to discrimination and prohibited conduct;
 - (d) to disseminate information about discrimination and prohibited conduct and the effects of discrimination and prohibited conduct.
- In the reporting period, 58 training and community education sessions have been delivered to 665 people in public, private, local government, not for profit organisations, schools and tertiary institutions.
- In the reporting period, a review of the training programs offered by OADC was completed. The offering of training through a public training calendar as well as a corporate package of training is available. OADC has entered into a partnership with the Tasmanian Training Consortium to provide greater access to education and training in discrimination and other prohibited conduct that is covered by the Act.
- In undertaking these functions effectively, the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner and the training and education team seek to develop and deliver training programs that focus on being accessible and meaningful, providing a safe learning environment and encouraging courageous conversations and the exploration of beliefs and values that support and reflect comprehensive coverage of all relevant topics under the Act.

If needed – increase in referrals to TASCAT

- An increased demand for the work performed by the Office of the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner, alongside staff changes, has led to a higher percentage of assessment decisions and investigations not being completed within the statutory timeframes.
 - From 1 July 2025, 45% assessments were completed within the 42-day date in comparison with 79% for the previous year. 17 complaints where the investigation was not completed were referred to the Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

BACKGROUND

- On 23 April 2026 the then Acting Anti-Discrimination Commissioner, [REDACTED], wrote to you to advise that she had recently responded to a request from [REDACTED] MP, Shadow Attorney-General, seeking information about the timeframes set by the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1998*. (the Act). [REDACTED] request had been prompted by a constituent whose complaint had not been assessed within the statutory time period under the Act.
- The Acting Commissioner provided you with a copy of her response to [REDACTED], dated 9 April. In summary, that response noted that:
 - While s 64(2) of the Act provides for the Commissioner to decide to accept or reject a complaint within 42 days after its receipt, cases have held that a decision made after that time period is not invalid.
 - There has been a significant increase in the timeframes for completing assessment decisions for all complaints due to a high complaint load and reduced workforce within the Office of the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner (OADC).
 - In 2024-25, a total of 261 complaints were received, compared to 242 complaints in 2023-24 and 190 complaints in 2022-23.
 - The OADC is currently operating with only 3.07 FTE complaint handlers employed (including a very recent law graduate recruit) compared to the full complement of 5.67 FTE who were employed in November 2024. **Exempt - s 27**
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 - The appointment of a permanent Commissioner may assist in the OADC returning to a full complement of complaint handling staff.
 - Between 1 July 2025 and 1 April 2026, 77 complaint assessment decisions (45%) were completed within the 42-day statutory period. This compares to 79% during the period 1 July 2024 to 1 April 2025.
- **Exempt - s 27**
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
- The response to [REDACTED] also referred to measures the OADC has taken to inform clients of expected delays, including through autoreplies to emails and changes to the OADC website and letters acknowledging receipt of complaints.

- The then Acting Commissioner advised [REDACTED] of her intention to bring this to your attention and the attention of the Secretary of the Department of Justice, and to provide you with a copy of her response to Ms Haddad.
- On 10 April 2026 you publicly announced the appointment of [REDACTED] as Tasmania's new Anti-Discrimination Commissioner for a period of 5 years.
- [REDACTED] was formerly the Chief Executive Officer of the Northern Territory Council of Social Service and previously served for a decade as Anti-Discrimination Commissioner for the Northern Territory, as well as Principal Community Visitor.

Prepared by:	[REDACTED]	Cleared by:	[REDACTED]
Position:	A/Anti-Discrimination Commissioner	Position:	Deputy Secretary
Phone:	Exempt - s 36	Phone:	Exempt - s 36
Date:	16 April 2026	Date:	25 May 2026

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

Office of the Implementation Monitor Budget and Performance

Current as at: 24-May-2026

KEY MESSAGES

- The recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse included reform to provide significant oversight and increased accountability.
- A key oversight reform was recommendation 22.1, to establish an Implementation Monitor, to report publicly on the progress, and effectiveness, of the implementation of the Commission of Inquiry recommendations.
- The Office of the Implementation Monitor (OIM) is now well established, delivering its first annual report to parliament by 30 September 2025.
- As required under the *Child Safety Reform Implementation Monitor Act 2025* (the Act), the Implementation Monitor developed and published a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework by 2 December 2025.
- The Implementation Framework outlines in detail a guide to the monitoring approach over the lifespan of the OIM and is designed to drive transparency.
- The OIM's focus this year is to stand up the framework, which means:
 - appraising and publicly reporting on government agencies responsible for reform implementation
 - introducing indicators (measures) used to track progress towards reform outcomes over time
 - building respectful engagement with stakeholders especially children and young people, victim-survivors and Aboriginal people
 - publicly reporting to parliament in their annual report, due 30 September 2026.

- The government remains committed to funding the OIM to ensure it can effectively and efficiently monitor, evaluate and report on child safety reform and ensure it results in meaningful and lasting reform for children and young people in Tasmania.
- We've made a commitment to the Implementation Monitor that the funding will be available to support his work and that will be worked through in terms of being reflected in the next budget.
- The government has committed to the referral of relevant recommendations of the Woolcott Review under Section 13 of the Act to the Implementation Monitor, to ensure ongoing transparent monitoring of the child safety reform program.

Key Figures

- As at 31 March 2026, the OIM consists of 6 full time employees (excluding the Implementation Monitor). These staff provide a range of skills, knowledge and expertise in policy, monitoring, evaluation, communications, stakeholder engagement and administration to support the Implementation Monitor fulfill his statutory obligations under the Act.

BUDGET INFORMATION

- In 2026-27, the OIM Budget includes appropriation of \$1.129 million and Reserved by Law funding of \$367,000 for the Implementation Monitor's salary and allowances.
- The Implementation Monitor has expressed concern that the funding provided to his Office is insufficient to meet the increasing number of reviews and recommendations which he is responsible for monitoring and reporting on. As a result, the government has given him a commitment to providing sufficient support to enable him to undertake his independent responsibilities.
- As a result of this commitment, the Department will be providing initial supplemental funding to the OIM and funding for subsequent years will be reflected in next year's budget.
- The Implementation Monitor is an independent statutory role established under the Act and funding for the position is Reserved by Law.

BACKGROUND

- The Commission of Inquiry's Final Report made it clear that independent monitoring and public reporting on the implementation of reforms is vital for making real progress on preventing abuse in government settings, improving institutional responses to abuse, and improving outcomes for children and young people who have been abused.
- This is why the Commission recommended a Child Sexual Abuse Reform Implementation Monitor (Recommendation 22.1) be established in legislation by June 2024, which would be independent, report directly to, and be accountable to, the Tasmanian Parliament.
- The COI recommended the Monitor be established to hold the Tasmanian Government to account for the implementation of its recommendations, and notes the overall objective of the Monitor should be to ensure those recommendations result in:
 - sustained systemic improvements towards preventing child sexual abuse in institutions
 - improved institutional responses to such abuse and
 - victim-survivors receiving the supports they need.
- More specifically, the role of the Monitor as recommended by the COI is to monitor and report to parliament by 30 September each year on the implementation of:
 - recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry
 - recommendations of the Independent Inquiry into the Tasmanian Department of Education's Responses to Child Sexual Abuse
 - recommendations of the Department of Health's Child Safe Governance Review into Launceston General Hospital and Human Resources
 - any recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse that were accepted by the Tasmanian Government and have not been implemented
 - recommendations of the Weiss Independent Inquiry into Paul Reynolds
 - other inquiries or reviews referred to the Monitor that relate to child safety and wellbeing in Institutions operated by or on behalf of the State.
- The *Child Safety Reform Implementation Monitor Act 2024* commenced on 6 November 2024 and the Implementation Monitor was appointed on 3 December 2024.

Prepared by:	[REDACTED]	Cleared by:	[REDACTED]
Position:	Director Office of the Implementation Monitor	Position:	Secretary
Phone:	Exempt - s 36	Phone:	Exempt - s 36
Date:	17 April 2026	Date:	24 May 2026

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

Office of the Independent Regulator

Current as at: 25-May-2026

KEY MESSAGES

- The creation of the Office of the Independent Regulator (OIR) and appointment of Louise Coe as Independent Regulator addressed two key recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, namely the Child and Youth Safe Standards and the Reportable Conduct Scheme.
- The OIR has been operational since 1 January 2024 and strives to be a nuanced, pragmatic, and efficient regulator with the following strategic pillars underpinning its regulatory approach - awareness raising, implementation, embedding and consolidation of child safe practices.
- In Tasmania, robust information sharing powers have allowed the OIR to establish solid protocols with key oversight agencies such as the Integrity Commission, the Commission for Children and Young People, the Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Scheme (RWVP), Tasmania Police, the Ombudsman and the Custodial Inspector.
- Information sharing powers have been pivotal to the Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework and have assisted to gain a fuller picture of what is happening within sectors and organisations. The OIR has also engaged in interagency collaboration in high risk or contentious matters to ensure all parties are on the same page.
- The OIR is seeking to extend this ability by prescribing the Teachers Registration Board (TRB) for information sharing purposes to more closely monitor the conduct of teachers across various educational domains
- In April 2026, Tasmania Police were also included into the Reportable Conduct Scheme by Regulation thereby addressing an anomaly within the Act and in accordance with the recommendation of the Woolcott Review.

- The recently released Commission of Inquiry (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2026 will also retrospectively include Police in the Child and Youth Safe Standards and Reportable Conduct Scheme, through the Primary Act.
- The OIR has also worked with the Department of Justice on operational issues which may require legislative amendment to inform the upcoming review of the *Child and Youth Safe Organisations (CYSO) Act 2023*.
- To support all organisations to embed the Child and Youth Safe Standards, the OIR has provided tailored compliance advice to more than 60 policies and procedure documents submitted by organisations across sectors. The highest represented sectors included clubs and associations, government agencies, local councils and neighbourhood houses. The OIR continues to receive positive feedback from agencies who have had their policies reviewed by the OIR.
- From the commencement of engagement sessions in 2024 until 31 March 2026, the OIR has provided 489 engagement sessions across the state (practical workshops, panel discussions, and other interactive education sessions). These engagement sessions reached approximately 4,259 individuals, including over 1,100 participants from this financial year until 31 March 2026.
- This third year of operations will focus on strengthening and refining how the office uses their data to ensure its regulatory response and educational efforts are proportionate to risk posed by entities and individuals. As the data bank grows, the OIR will be able to report on trends within sectors in terms of engagement with the framework and the reporting of reportable conduct allegations.
- In March 2026, the OIR completed its first major Assessment & Monitoring against the Child and Youth Safe Standards (the Standards) and Universal Principal for Cultural Safety. The next assessment will focus on the Out-of-Home-Care providers. The aim of the Assessment & Monitoring program is to provide high risk organisations with guidance and feedback on their implementation of the Standards and Universal Principal within their agency.

Key Figures

Operating costs

- Initial establishment costs for the OIR in 2023-24 were allocated by the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) to the Department of Justice to support implementation of Commission of Inquiry recommendations - \$1.5 million.
- This funding allocation covered the procurement of the OIR's file management system, the initial refit of the office premises and initial recruitment activity to office roles.
- In the 2024-25 Budget, the government allocated permanent funding of \$4.2 million per annum to the OIR, this figure has increased to \$4.3 million in 2025-26 with indexation.

Operational establishment

- Ongoing corporate support for the OIR continues to be provided by the Department of Justice via a Service Level Agreement.
- As at 31 March 2026, the OIR had 20 staff, equating to 19.4 FTE with a total financial expenditure for salaries of \$2.1 million. This establishment includes one employee on parental leave until January 2027.

Substantive recruitment activity

- The OIR has permanent funding of \$4.3 million per annum to support recruitment to the permanent establishment and ongoing operations. This funding allocation does not consider future operations of the Commission for Children and Young People, of which the OIR will be a part.
- As at 31 March 2026, significant recruitment activities in late 2025 to convert initial fixed term appointments to ongoing roles. I am pleased to see that 85% of the OIR's establishment roles have now been filled on an ongoing basis.

Operational performance

- The OIR routinely seeks stakeholders' views on educational resources and training they require to comply with the Child and Youth Safe Framework. The OIR has prioritised requests for training and resources focusing on high-risk sectors and volunteer and community-based organisations. The OIR routinely reviews, evaluates and seek feedback on our educational offerings to ensure they are meeting the needs of the community.
- Across 2025 and 2026, the OIR has actively pursued dedicated engagements with high-risk sectors such as Out of Home Care, Youth Justice, Early Childhood and Health services whilst maintaining a responsive approach to requests for tailored education sessions.
- The OIR has continued to encourage government agencies who are subject to the CYSO framework to create their own child safe action plan which outlines how their agency is implementing the framework and addressing contextual child safety risks within their organisation. The OIR has had positive engagement with these agencies.
- The OIR has expanded online guidance on the Reportable Conduct Scheme and updated practical compliance resources and provided training forums across the state in person and online to guide agencies on how to implement the Child and Youth Safe Standards and the Universal Principal for Aboriginal Cultural Safety.

Reportable Conduct Scheme key data

- As at 31 March 2026, for the first three quarters of 2025-26, the OIR received a total of 466 reportable conduct notifications. Currently, it is projected there will be approximately a 10% increase in the total received for 2025-26 relative to that of 567 for 2024-25.
- The total reportable conduct notifications received since 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2026 was 1,286. Higher proportions of primary reportable conduct types received during that period were:
 - physical violence - 39%
 - sexual misconduct - 20%
 - relevant offences - 12%
 - significant emotional or psychological harm - 11%.
- Consistent with other jurisdictions, Education Services accounts for the largest proportion of notifications - 501 (39%) followed by:
 - Child Protection, Out of Home Care and Children's Contact Services (290 notifications - 23%)
 - Justice and detention services (189 notifications - 15%)
 - Tasmanian Government and state authorities (87 notifications – 7%).
- The predominant reportable conduct type for these sectors was:
 - Educational Services - physical violence (30%) followed by sexual misconduct (28%)
 - Child protection, Out of Home Care and Children's Contact Services - physical violence (46%) followed equally by significant emotional or psychological harm and significant neglect (with each at 18%)
 - Justice and detention services - physical violence (53%) followed by relevant offences (22%).
- Of the 1,268 notifications received from 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2026:
 - 58% have been finalised (749 notifications).
- Of those finalised, 52% were not substantiated:

- 18% were substantiated
- 15% were not in jurisdiction (meaning that the subject of allegation was not a worker, or the victim was not under the age of 18)
- 9% were finalised under s 35(2) (meaning that the Head of Relevant Entity had a valid reason not to proceed to investigation).
- The OIR continues to provide feedback on the quality of investigations and whether it agrees with the finding of the investigations, as well as provide suggestions for improvement in all of the 749 Reportable Conduct matters finalised.

BACKGROUND

- The OIR commenced operations in January 2024 following the Department of Justice supporting its early establishment. It is the third jurisdiction in Australia, behind New South Wales and Victoria, to oversee Reportable Conduct and implementation of Child Safe Standards.
- The OIR has leveraged and continues to engage with other jurisdictions that administer Child Safe Standards and Reportable Conduct Schemes, particularly more mature jurisdictions such as Victoria and New South Wales and readily seek their advice and share experiences related to implementation of the Scheme and Standards.
- The OIR is also part of a large cross jurisdictional initiative to achieve a level of national consistency that will allow cross broader information sharing, development, and shared access to useful educational resources and to achieve definitional alignment to assist organisations with cross border footprints.

Prepared by:	██████████	Cleared by:	██████████
Position:	Independent Regulator	Position:	Secretary
Phone:	Exempt - s 36	Phone:	Exempt - s 36
Date:	17 April 2026	Date:	25 May 2026

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

Office of the Public Guardian Budget and Performance

Current as at: 26-May-2026

KEY MESSAGES

- The Public Guardian has broad functions under the *Guardianship and Administration Act 1995*, including acting as someone's guardian where appointed and mediating and resolving disputes in relation to advance care directives and private substitute decision-making arrangements.
- The Public Guardian is appointed as a 'guardian of last resort' to make personal decisions on behalf of people who do not have the ability to make decisions due to mental illness, intellectual disability, an acquired brain injury or dementia.
- The Public Guardian also advocates for the protection and promotion of the rights and interests of Tasmanians with impaired decision-making.

Key Figures

Indicator	2023-24	2024-25	2024-25	2025-26*
Active appointments as of 30 June	305	280	279	289
Total appointments across financial year	490	501	468	461
New appointments	107	97	103	73
Investigations	10	14	22	22
Continued appointments (OPG)	64	51	43	35
Cases closed	247	273	207	175
Emergency orders	71	117	62	70
Emergency orders – proportion extended for a further 28 days	24%	16%	5%	6%
Emergency orders – proportion continued as ongoing guardianship orders	11%	7%	19%	12%

*as at 31 March 2026

Performance Information – Budget Papers	Unit of Measure	2024-25 Actual	2025-26 Target	2026-27 Target
Meet in person with represented person	%	67	100	100
Tribunal hearing attendance in substantive guardianship applications	%	74	90.0	90.0
Tribunal hearing attendance in emergency guardianship applications	%	94	90.0	90.0
Completion of referrals for investigation within timeframe set by Tribunal in accordance with section 17(2) of the <i>Guardianship and Administration Act 1995</i>	%	77	100	100

BUDGET INFORMATION

- In reflection of the continued increased demand for services due to growing case complexities, state legislative reform to the *Guardianship and Administration Act 1995*, federal legislative reforms and initiatives related to the Aged Care and NDIS systems, and recommendations of the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability, the government will provide the Office of the Public Guardian with additional funding of \$250,000 in 2026-27, with \$375,000 per annum to be provided from 2027-28.
- This is in addition to the \$250,000 per annum for two years provided in the 2025-26 Budget.
- My department will undertake a review of the activities of the Office of the Public Guardian with the aim of streamlining processes and improving service delivery.
- At 31 March 2026, the Office of the Public Guardian consisted of 11.4 FTE equating to 12 positions (including the Public Guardian).

Prepared by:		Cleared by:	
Position:	Public Guardian	Position:	A/Deputy Secretary
Phone:	Exempt - s 36	Phone:	Exempt - s 36
Date:	9 April 2026	Date:	25 May 2026

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

Prison Incidents (Escapes, Deaths in Custody, Self Harm)

Current as at: 20-May-2026

KEY MESSAGES

- As most people would understand, prisons can be inherently risky places.
- The Tasmanian Government is prioritising the safety and security of everyone within our corrections system.
- A safe and secure environment for both staff and prisoners pays dividends once prisoners return to the community, noting that the majority of prisoners will eventually be released and return to the community.
- The Tasmania Prison Service constantly reviews its policies and operational practices to ensure best practice – and particularly whenever there is a serious incident.

Deaths in Custody

- There were no deaths in custody in the 2024-25 reporting year.
- There have sadly been 3 deaths in prison custody in the 2025-26 reporting year to date.
- **Exempt - s 36**
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- In March 2026, 2 elderly males passed away from apparent natural causes.
- Any death in custody is subject to investigation by the coroner, who will determine the cause of death.
- The death of any person in custody is deeply regrettable, and I extend my sincere condolences to the family and friends of the deceased.

- As these matters remain subject to coronial investigation, I am unable to comment further at this stage.
- Prior to the 3 recent deaths, the last death in prison custody reported for Tasmania was in the 2022-23 reporting period. That incident involved an elderly non-Aboriginal male prisoner who passed away from natural causes.

Aboriginal Deaths in custody (IF ASKED)

- The death of the **Exempt - s 36** is the first recorded death of an Aboriginal person in custody in Tasmania in recent years.
- The last known incident of an **unnatural death** in Tasmania of an Aboriginal prisoner was in 1991.
- Prior to the death of the **Exempt - s 36**, the 2 most recent recorded deaths of Aboriginal people in custody were in May 2011 and September 2012, and both were from natural causes.

Escapes from Custody

- There have been no escapes from Tasmanian prisons for over three years.

Self-harm Incidents

- The issue of suicide and self-harm management within our prison facilities is treated with the utmost seriousness. The focus in all cases is to work to prevent incidents of self-harm and suicide attempts from occurring in the first place.
- There are a range of highly trained professional staff to provide support and assistance to prisoners exhibiting signs of distress and agitation or attempting to self-harm. This includes psychologists, counsellors, chaplains, case-managers, medical officers and mental health nursing staff.
- We will continue to do everything we can to ensure that we provide the support and assistance required to prevent these incidents from occurring.

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

Prisoner Employment

Current as at: 18-May-2026

KEY MESSAGES

- The Tasmanian Government has a strong focus on rehabilitation within our corrections system, which is crucial to reduce recidivism, to help successfully reintegrate our prisoners into society and to enhance public safety.
- The TPS continues to build relationships with external stakeholders to provide opportunities for prisoners to engage in paid external work, which allows prisoners to form links to organisations that will help support them upon their return to the community.
- The TPS has arrangements with several local Tasmanian businesses to manufacture and assemble a range of items including lattice work, bed bases and headboards, as well as oyster baskets. These activities engage around 20 prisoners daily.
- The new Risdon kitchen, delivered as part of a broader program of infrastructure renewal, is now operational. This facility significantly enhances hospitality training by providing modern, state-of-the-art equipment, and supports employment and training opportunities for up to 70 prisoners.
- The 2026 Report on Government Services shows the total prisoner employment for 2024-25 sitting at 85.5%, which is a significant increase from the 2023-24 (69%), and 2022-23 (70.3%). However, it should be noted that this data is not directly comparable with previous years due to a different methodology used.
- The total number of employed prisoners saw an increase from 392 to 416 with the employment rate for Indigenous prisoners sitting at 81.5% per cent, lower than non-Indigenous prisoners at 91.7%.
- As at 31 March 2026, the total number of prisoners employed is 396.

- Participation by prisoners in structured activities such as 'work' contributes to a healthier and more stable environment, as well as improved prisoner behaviour.

Talking points

- Where possible, work at the TPS is aligned to the provision of vocational training opportunities for prisoners to improve their potential employability, upon release.
- Some examples of the linkages between work and vocational training are cleaning, food handling, hospitality, construction, horticulture, textiles and woodwork.
- The TPS continues to seek work opportunities to meet the changing needs of the prisoner population. Increasing participation in work remains a key focus – as the TPS endeavours to assist prisoners' community reintegration and to reduce recidivism.
- As part of this commitment, 5 new positions have been established in the Mary Hutchinson Women's Prison, 2 positions in the Southern Remand Centre and 2 in the Ron Barwick Prison.
- Prisoner participation in community service activities supports the concept of giving back to the community and connects them to pro-social people and community groups. This voluntary payback is a form of reparation that contributes to prisoners' rehabilitation.
- During November 2025, 5 prisoners took part in pilot community-based work project through the TPS Work Program. Feedback on the initiative was highly positive, with strong support for continuing and expanding similar programs in the future. Through this external work program, two prisoners secured employment opportunities, conditional on their availability after release.
- Female prisoners in the Mary Hutchinson Women's Prison are employed in the kitchen, laundry, gardening, cleaning and peer support work.

Prisoners - Reached age of Retirement

- Prisoners who have reached retirement age or who are medically assessed as unable to work will receive a 30% increase to their allowance from 13 April 2026.
- This measure strengthens financial support for those with limited capacity to participate in paid work and ensures equitable treatment across the prisoner population.

DoH Laundry Services

- While the Department of Health in 2024 ceased the TPS's agreement with the Royal Hobart Hospital to provide laundry services, the TPS commenced an alternate commercial agreement with a Tasmanian company.
- This has maintained the engagement of 16 prisoners providing commercial laundry services. The TPS is in discussion with this company to establish processes supporting pre and post release employment opportunities.

Prepared by:	[REDACTED]	Cleared by:	[REDACTED]
Position:	A/Manager, Prisoner Activities	Position:	Deputy Secretary
Phone:	Exempt - s 36	Phone:	Exempt - s 36
Date:	16 April 2026	Date:	19 May 2026

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

Prisoner Numbers and Prison Capacity

Current as at: 20-May-2026

KEY MESSAGES

- Over the past 5 years there has been a 22.4% increase in prisoner numbers (from 640.4 in 2020-21 to 783.8 in 2024-25) which has been primarily driven by an upsurge in male remand prisoners.
- Prisoner numbers have continued to grow in 2025-26 with an average population of 841 prisoners (1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026), with the overall capacity rate sitting generally around 95-98%.
- The government is determined to ensure that the TPS has modern, fit-for-purpose correctional facilities that will not only provide secure and safe accommodation and facilities for the offender population and our staff, but also allow for a strong focus on rehabilitation.
- As a Government, we make no apology for being tough on crime.
- Protecting the Tasmanian community remains a top priority for the Tasmanian Government. It is a good thing that people committing serious offences are apprehended and dealt with by the court in accordance with the law.
- While prisoners are in custody, we want to support them in their rehabilitation and help them develop new skills.
- Supporting the rehabilitation of prisoners and helping them develop new skills while in custody is an important part of reducing offending and improving long-term community safety.

Investment in Infrastructure

- Our Government has committed over **\$100 million** in funding for a coordinated program of capital and maintenance works at the Risdon Prison site to support safe, efficient, and contemporary custodial operations.

- This includes \$45.9 million for additional maximum-security unit – designed to support rehabilitation and program delivery.
- Once delivered, the project will provide contemporary, secure, and safe facilities for Tasmania Prison Service (TPS) staff and prisoners, helping to address bed pressures for maximum security prisoners/remandees and improving safety, operational efficiency, and cohort management.
- Together, with our Infrastructure investment, the Correa Unit will provide a purpose-built environment to support rehabilitation outcomes, enabling the delivery of criminogenic and personal development programs and intensive residential based interventions, including a dedicated drug and alcohol rehabilitation unit.

Talking Points

- While Tasmania is experiencing significant growth in our prisoner population, the imprisonment rate in Tasmania per 100,000 adults is at 169.4, well below the national rate of 210.8.
- Over the last 18 months, the increase in female numbers has also risen.
- Many of the issues relating to prison capacity pressures at the Risdon Prison site have been associated with conditions within the Risdon Prison Complex maximum security accommodation. To address this, the Government is funding a new maximum-security facility - called the Correa unit - which will incorporate a dedicated alcohol and drug treatment unit.
- In the interim, a number of strategies have been developed to enable the TPS to effectively manage capacity pressures, which include upgrading and refurbishing units that had been previously decommissioned, and the installation of a number of bunk beds to increase surge capacity.
- The Government is also continuing to address staffing pressures, with significant correctional officer recruitment.

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

Procurement and Contracting Overview

Current as at: 27-May-2026

KEY MESSAGES

- The department has let 35 contracts from 33 procurement processes between 1 July 2025 and 31 March 2026, with a total value of \$44,965,247.
- The largest contract is for the Electrical Security System Upgrade and maintenance at Risdon Prison, awarded to a Tasmanian company, BSH electrical, amounting to \$24,881,526.
- The department has awarded 26 contracts (74%) to Tasmanian businesses with a total value of \$39,219,750 (87%) of total procurement processes.
- 9 out of 35 contracts let (26%) have been awarded to non-Tasmanian businesses with a total value of \$5,745,497 (13%) of total procurement processes).
- The majority of contracts have been entered into as part of the department's ongoing operations, in addition to meeting government commitments.
- All procurement processes for the department are made in accordance with the Treasurer's Instructions and other government and departmental procurement policies, with the aim of maximising value for money and enhancing opportunities for local business through the Buy Local Policy.

Key Figures

- Below is a list of publicly advertised tenders completed by the department between 1 July 2025 and 31 March 2026.

Output	Description	Contractor	Estimated Value (exc GST)
Justice Support Services	Registration and Licensing Solution to support Registration for Working with Vulnerable People	Intuit Technologies Pty Ltd	\$3,392,864
Crown Law	Fit out of office accommodation at Level 1 NAB House for the State Litigation Office	Tascon Constructions Pty Ltd	\$1,297,500
Corporate Services	Provision of Internal Audit Services	KPMG	\$677,330
Corporate Services	Fit out of office accommodation at 89 Cambridge Park Drive, Cambridge	Tascon Constructions Pty Ltd	\$3,025,440
Corporate Services	Fit out of office accommodation at 4,22 Wilmot Street, Burnie for Community Corrections	Stubbs Construction Pty Ltd	\$1,086,879
Magistrates Court	Hobart CCTV Upgrade	BSH Electrical	\$300,858
Magistrates Court	Launceston Court Lift Replacement	Kone	\$618,700
Magistrates Court	Provision of cleaning services for the Launceston Magistrates Court and Launceston Reception Prison Restricted Access Areas	Lazaro Pty Ltd	\$276,796
Corporate Services	Enabling works for the Burnie Courts Complex Relocation Project	Batchelor Construction Group	\$1,099,030
Corporate Services	Electronic Security System Upgrade and Maintenance at the Tasmanian Prison Service Risdon Precinct	BSH Electrical Pty Ltd	\$24,881,526
Consumer, Building and Occupational Services	Compliance and Investigation Management System	Investigation Management Australia Pty Ltd (t/a Comtrac)	\$1,232,676
Corporate Services	Implementation of a new Crown Law Practice Management System	Actionstep Operations Australia Pty Ltd	\$1,110,720
		i2 Management Pty Ltd	\$920,594
		WorkCloud	\$211,920

- Below is a list of procurements under \$250,000 completed by the department between 1 July 2025 and 31 March 2026 which are considered to be short-term contracts. The procurement values include all possible extensions.

Output	Description	Contractor	Estimated Value (exc GST)
TPS	Valve Set Replacement at the Ron Barwick Minimum Security Prison	Kellys Civil Contracting Pty Ltd	\$88,700
Corporate Services	HVAC Upgrades Design documentation for the Risdon Prison Complex	Johnson McGee and Gandy Pty Ltd	\$92,700
Corporate Services	Learning@Justice Licensing, Support and Maintenance services	Sprout Labs	\$78,633
Corporate Services	Supply of Quality and Risk Management Services for the Astria Program	Quill Australia Pty Ltd	\$50,000
Crown Law	Furniture for the fit out of Level 1 NAB House for the State Litigation Office	Bentley Workspaces Pty Ltd	\$245,532
Corporate Services	Recruitment Services for the position of Crown Solicitor	Mahlab Recruitment	\$69,000
Corporate Services	Supply of Consultant Services for the Creation and Delivery of Learning Packages for the Senior Leadership Development Program (Leading Justice)	To Evolve	\$138,000
Crown Law	Provision of Consultancy Services for the Building and Construction Precedent Review Project (contractual documentation development)	Exempt - s 36	\$51,500
Corporate Services	Project Management Services for the extension to Visual Files Upgrade Project for Crown Law	2PM Services Pty Ltd	\$166,980
Corporate Services	Provision of cleaning services for 199 Collins Street, Hobart	Fantastique Cleaning	\$147,889
Magistrates Court	Provision of cleaning services for the Devonport Magistrates Court Complex	Lazaro Pty Ltd	\$143,214
Corporate Services	ICT service transition assessment for the Supreme Court	Laconic Partners Pty Ltd	\$159,000

- The Secretary has also approved a number of exemptions from the Treasurer's Instructions to enable the single sourcing procurement of services for which completing an RFT or RFQ process would not provide any benefits to the department.
- Below is a list of exemptions approved by the Secretary between 1 July 2025 and 31 March 2026. The procurement values include all possible extensions.

Output	Description	Contractor	Summary Reason	Estimated Value (exc GST)
Corporate Services	Third Party Review of Backlogs in the Tasmanian Court System 2026		Exceptional Circumstances	\$250,000
Corporate Services	Provision of Solution Architect Services	Ignite Project Services Pty Ltd	Technical reasons	\$135,000
Magistrates Court	Devonport court cell and Tasmania Legal Aid office heating upgrade	Advanced Contracting Pty Ltd	Absence of any timely submissions	\$172,433
Corporate Services	Supply of architectural services for the fit out of Level 1 NAB House	BPSM	Exceptional circumstances - timing	\$115,490
TPS	Primary boiler replacement for the Risdon Prison Complex laundry.	Fairbrother Pty Ltd	Extreme urgency	\$376,471
Community Corrections	Launceston office furniture upgrade	UCI Pty Ltd	Significant inconvenience or substantial duplication of cost to the Agency	\$100,785
Corporate Services	Provision of Electronic Security Services for the Correa Unit Project	Security Consulting Group Pty Ltd	Cost of tender outweighs value for money benefits	\$193,000
Corporate Services	Provision of Web Hosting and Support Services	Squiz Australia Pty Ltd	Technical reasons	\$1,706,087
Magistrates Court	Counsel Assisting with the Hillcrest Inquest	Exempt - s 36	Extreme urgency	\$352,000

- 9 out of the 35 contracts have been awarded to non-Tasmanian business, as follows

Output	Description	Contractor	Reason	Estimated Value (exc GST)
Crown Law	Building and Construction Precedent Review Project (contractual documentation development)	Exempt - s 36	Low Value	\$51,500
Corporate Services	Third Party Review of Backlogs in the Tasmanian Court System 2026		Exemption - Exceptional Circumstances	\$250,000
Corporate Services	Recruitment Services for the position of Crown Solicitor	Mahlab Recruitment	Low Value	\$69,000
Consumer, Building and Occupational Services	Compliance and Investigation Management System	Investigation Management Australia Pty Ltd (t/a Comtrac)	RFT	\$1,232,676
Corporate Services	Provision of Electronic Security Services for the Correa Unit Project	Security Consulting Group Pty Ltd	Exemption	\$193,000
Corporate Services	Provision of Web Hosting and Support Services	Squiz Australia Pty Ltd	Exemption	\$1,706,087
Corporate Services	Procurement of a new Crown Law Practice Management System	Actionstep Operations Australia Pty Ltd	RFT	\$1,110,720
		i2 Management Pty Ltd	RFT	\$920,594
		WorkCloud	RFT	\$211,920

- The department has a number of procurements still in varying stages of completion.
- These listings do not include contracts let by the WorkCover Board Tasmania.

BACKGROUND

- The Treasurer's Instructions (TIs) require the department to have a Procurement Review Committee (PRC) which must review all agency evaluations for all procurements with a value of \$250,000 (excluding GST). The department's PRC is chaired by a deputy secretary.
- According to the Buy Local Policy, each procurement process over \$250,000 requires a pre-procurement local impact assessment to be done to ensure local suppliers are given every opportunity to participate and be successful in relation to government contracts. The assessment is to be approved by the Head of Agency (or duly authorised delegate for procurements valued less than \$250,000) prior to the commencement of the procurement process.
- As a result, the department's Procurement Policy requires the PRC to review all procurements in excess of \$100,000 to ensure that all procurement and budget requirements are met. If satisfied with a procurement, the PRC will then approve the procurement process where appropriate or endorse it for approval by the Secretary as necessary.
- All procurements in excess of \$50,000 are required to be reported in the department's annual report and on the Tasmanian Government Tenders' website at www.tenders.tas.gov.au. As a result, advanced approval is sought and recorded to ensure that all procurements in excess of \$50,000 are undertaken and reported correctly.
- The department has its own Procurement Policy, which is in accordance with the Treasurer's Instructions, the Buy Local Policy and all other government policy requirements.
- The department defines a short-term contract as any contract of 2 years or less. 9 of the 35 contracts let between 1 July 2025 and 31 March 2026 are classified as long term, and all have been let for a period of 3 or more years. All other contracts are for 2 years or less.
- The vast majority of long-term contracts relate to essential operational expenditure, which the department cannot discontinue, or specifically funded projects.
- The Department of Treasury and Finance has established several whole of government common use contracts for use by agencies to purchase goods and services including advertising, banking services, computer software, vehicles and petrol. As a result, the department does not need to undertake its own procurements for these goods and services.

Prepared by:	[REDACTED]	Cleared by:	[REDACTED]
Position:	Director Finance	Position:	A/Deputy Secretary
Phone:	Exempt - s 36	Phone:	Exempt - s 36
Date:	21 May 2026	Date:	26 May 2026

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

Rehabilitation & Reintegration

Current as at: 24-May-2026

KEY MESSAGES

- The government prioritises rehabilitation during incarceration to facilitate positive reintegration outcomes on release into the community. We want our communities safe, and we want to lower the rate of reoffending.
- Causes of offending are many and varied and often include intergenerational crime and adversity, substance abuse and mental health issues.
- Recidivism is a complex challenge that requires long-term investment - something that our government is continuing to invest strongly in.
- Our corrections system provides rehabilitation supports and interventions to offenders in prison, including:
 - case management
 - interventions programs
 - family connection and reunification
 - alcohol and drug counselling
 - crisis and mental health support
 - education and training
 - industry and employment
 - reintegration support and throughcare programs.
- We maintain strong partnerships with many community organisations, and we continue to fund rehabilitation and reintegration based supports for throughcare into community.
- In the 2024-25 Budget we committed \$4.1 million over 4 years to fund the Correctional Improvement Program. The initial focus of this program is improvements to the rehabilitation services at the Risdon Prison site including additional drug and alcohol treatment programs.

- In the **2025-26 Budget, \$496,000** was provided for the *Reduce Reoffending Program*. This funding has enabled our government to stand up 2 additional reintegration, throughcare programs. **Men's Resources Tasmania** are providing the Transition to Community throughcare Program to released men and **Dress for Success** are developing a women's throughcare program, both of which provide case management support, mentoring and coaching of released prisoners.
- A further **\$250,000 per year for two year was provided in the 2025-26 Budget** for *Creating Futures - TPS Education, Rehabilitation and Support Services* to increase the industry relevant education and training opportunities available and providing linkage to achieve job outcomes for prisoners on release.

Rehabilitation & reintegration services

- The Rehabilitation & Reintegration Unit within the TPS provides assessment, case management and interventions programs to sentenced prisoners.
- The TPS's rehabilitation services follow the Risk-Need-Responsivity model (RNR Model) in line with evidence-based correctional practice. The RNR Model is premised on the higher the risk and need of an individual, the higher the 'response' or 'intervention' that is required.
- The TPS partners with community service providers to facilitate services both in and outside of prison including:
 - Tasmania Aboriginal Legal Service for the provision of two Aboriginal Wellbeing Officers at the TPS with a focus on supporting Aboriginal prisoners by providing culturally specific support, and connecting them to the community and families
 - The Salvation Army for the provision of the Beyond the Wire Throughcare Program which offers a multi-partner throughcare service for high and complex needs individuals who are exiting prison and who have chronic accommodation and support needs
 - Men's Resources Tasmania which provides a Peer Support Program inside of the prison and has a Transition to Community Throughcare program with case management and mentorship for prisoners returning to the community

- Brain Injury Awareness Tasmania provide the JustACE Program to remand prisoners with cognitive impairment during incarceration and on release into the community, including case management and brain training, as well as developing linkages with other community organisations
- Karadi are developing a culturally specific throughcare program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners reintegrating into the community
- Dress for Success are continuing the Welcome Backpack Initiative and are also developing a women's throughcare program
- Anglicare offer financial counselling
- Sexual Assault Support Service provide counselling and engagement for victim-survivors of sexual assault
- Engender Equality provides 1:1 counselling in Mary Hutchinson Women's Prison.
- The Rehabilitation and Reintegration Unit also provides:
 - housing referrals
 - drug and alcohol and other pharmacotherapy referrals
 - supports ID, licences and bank accounts for prisoners
 - Medicare card applications
 - supports pre-release Zoom visits
 - sentence plans to provide through care whilst in custody
 - exit plans on release
 - support for prisoners to engage in NDIS meetings
 - case conferencing release care.
- The TPS is uplifting its capacity to deliver industry specific vocational training and education to facilitate positive employment outcomes for community transition. Employment outcomes are critically important to released prisoner's being productive members of our community, which reduces reoffending and keeps our community safe.
- Health & Wellbeing Expos are run across facilities each year. These Expos provide the opportunity for prisoners to gain access to information

to support their reintegration needs and allow them to make links with organisations that will support them on release.

- Kids Days are also run across facilities each year to provide supervised and semi-structured engagement between prisoners and their children to promote family engagement and reunification.

Reintegration

- The TPS's community partners, and Community Corrections, provide foundational throughcare supports to individuals leaving prison.
- Immediate and practical reintegration support is provided to individuals released from prison, including:
 - access to transport
 - food staples
 - information packs for access to housing, health and community services
 - toiletries and hygiene
 - emergency accommodation referrals to temporary housing sites, such as Safe Space and Bethlehem House.

Funding notes

- The TPS's Innovative Perpetrator Response Program *Respectful Men* is available to remandees held in custody for family violence offences, provides a targeted intervention to lay the foundation for addressing the underlying cause of offending through the TPS' criminogenic intervention programs.

Funding for increased therapeutic staff

- The 2025-26 Budget provided funding for 'increased therapeutic support' of \$250,000 for two years.

Reduction of \$1 million to \$500,000 for Brain Injury Association Tasmania for 2026 calendar year

- Brain Injury Awareness Tasmania (BIAT) have been funded for the last 3 years to provide the JustACE program, which involves case management and brain training for individuals in the criminal justice system with cognitive impairment, with \$1.1 million per annum from 1 July 2024 to 30 March 2026.

- We acknowledge and deeply value the work undertaken by BIAT to assist justice involved individuals over this period and appreciate that changes to funding is challenging. Funding within the Corrections and Rehabilitation portfolio must prioritise individuals leaving the custody of the Tasmania Prison Service, who often have complex and varied needs.
- Provision of funding of \$500,000 to BIAT between 1 April 2026 and 31 March 2027 remains a significant investment in supporting prisoners with cognitive impairment to reintegrate into the community.
- We look forward to continuing our strong partnership with BIAT.

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

Section 8A and Dangerous Criminals/High Risk Offenders – Legal Aid Funding

Current as at: 26-May-2026

KEY MESSAGES

- Our government amended section 8A of the *Evidence (Children and Special Witnesses) Act 2001* to prevent a defendant directly cross-examining a witness in prescribed proceedings under the Act. The cross-examination is instead undertaken or funded by Tasmania Legal Aid (TLA).
- The *Dangerous Criminals and High Risk Offenders Act 2021* was proclaimed on 13 December 2021 with the aim of providing protection to the community from persons who have committed offences involving violence, or an element of violence or who have committed serious offences and are determined to be at a high risk of committing further serious offences. The Act provides the legislative basis for declarations and orders relating to Dangerous Criminals (Part 2) and High Risk Offenders (Part 3).
- TLA represents all respondents to Dangerous Criminals applications and represents a number of respondents for High Risk Offenders.

Key Figures

- TLA has worked on three applications to review a Dangerous Criminal Declaration this financial year. TLA has also worked on five High-Risk Offender applications this financial year.
- In 2024-25, there were 88 orders made pursuant to section 8A of the Act. In the 9 months to 31 March 2026, there have been 20 orders made.
- For the 2024-25 financial year, the cost to fund S8A and Dangerous Criminals and High Risk Offenders (DCHRO) was \$214,866.

- For this financial year to date, the total cost to fund S8A and DCHRO is projected to be \$195,223.

BUDGET INFORMATION

- In the 2025-26 State Budget, TLA received an additional \$2 million in funding for 2025-26 and for 2026-27, which is included in TLA's 2026-27 budget allocation of \$11.355 million.

Prepared by:	[REDACTED]	Cleared by:	[REDACTED]
Position:	Director, TLA	Position:	Deputy Secretary
Phone:	Exempt - s 36	Phone:	Exempt - s 36
Date:	17 April 2026	Date:	25 May 2026

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

Senior Executive, Statutory, Judicial Office Holders

Current as at: 19-May-2026

KEY MESSAGES

- The Department of Justice currently has 52 staff holding head of agency, senior executive service, equivalent specialist senior lawyer, prescribed office, or statutory office holder positions, including 7 full-time members of TASCAT.
- As part of the Budget Efficiency measures the Department of Justice will be abolishing a deputy secretary position.
- The department currently has a chief justice, 6 judges and an associate judge. In addition, 2 acting part-time judges were in place for part of the financial year.
- The department currently has a total of 17 magistrates which includes the chief magistrate and the deputy chief magistrate.

Key Figures

- Below is an update on the department's recruitment and filling of SES roles during the 2025-26 financial year:

Deputy Ombudsman	Advertised Oct 2025 - role filled 3 Feb 2026
Executive Director WorkSafe Tasmania	Advertised June 2025 - role filled 19 Jan 2026
Director Strategic Infrastructure and Projects	Advertised May 2025 - role filled 16 Dec 2025
Administrator of Courts	Advertised June 2025 - role filled 30 Oct 2025
Deputy Secretary Corrective Services	Role filled 28 July 2025 by internal transfer

- The salary rates for judicial and magistracy members are fixed by section 7 of the *Supreme Court Act 1887* and section 10 of the *Magistrates Court Act 1987* respectively.

- Notification from the Auditor-General was received on 5 June 2025 determining that the salary of the chief justice would increase to \$583,645 from 1 July 2025.
- As from 1 July 2025, the salary details for judicial and magistracy members and those statutory office positions aligned to the salary of the chief justice is as follows:

Chief Justice	\$583,645
Puisne Judges (6)	\$525,281 (90% of Chief Justice)
Associate Judge	\$446,488 (85% of Puisne Judge)
Chief Magistrate	\$393,960 (75% of Puisne Judge)
Deputy Chief Magistrate	\$367,696 (70% of Puisne Judge)
Magistrates (15)	\$354,564 (67.5% of Puisne Judge)
DPP	\$525,281 (100% of Puisne Judge)
Solicitor-General	\$525,281 (100% of Puisne Judge)
President TASCAT	\$354,564 (67.5% of Puisne Judge)

- In addition to the judges in the table above, there were 2 part-time acting judges engaged on fixed term contracts during part of the financial year.
- The table above excludes the Offices of Crown Solicitor and State Litigator, as both are categorised as Prescribed Office(s) under section 31(1)(b) of the *State Service Act 2000*.

Prepared by:		Cleared by:	
Position:	Manager Recruitment and Staffing Services	Position:	A/Deputy Secretary
Phone:	Exempt - s 36	Phone:	Exempt - s 36
Date:	10 April 2026	Date:	19 May 2026

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

Strategic Infrastructure Projects Budget and Performance

Current as at: 24-May-2026

KEY MESSAGES

- The Strategic Infrastructure Projects (SIP) unit within the Department of Justice is currently delivering various capital and maintenance programs in excess of \$180 million across the Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation portfolio.

Performance

- More recently, the SIP team has:
 - Completed enabling works at the Burnie Courts Complex Wilson Street site in December 2025. These works involved demolishing and removing existing buildings and infrastructure to prepare the site for the new courts complex.
 - Continued to work proactively with the Office of the Commonwealth Attorney-General to ensure that the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia has a permanent presence within the new Burnie Courts Complex.
 - Presented the Burnie Courts Complex project to the Parliamentary Standing Committee for Public works on Tuesday 3 February 2026, with Parliamentary approval received on 1 April 2026.
 - Worked closely with consultants and key stakeholders to complete the design of the Burnie Courts Complex relocation project and released a Request for Tender for the main construction work in November 2025 which closed in February 2026.
 - Progressed Contract Negotiations for the Burnie Courts Complex Project with a preferred tenderer with an expected construction commencement in mid-2026.

- Commenced the upgrade of the electronic security system at the Risdon Prison, with works to date including completing the construction of a new Security Communications Room at the Mary Hutchinson Women's Prison (MHWP), improvements to the MHWP security control room, and a comprehensive, site-wide audit of existing security infrastructure. Further, deployment of new mobile duress alarm and radio communication systems across the Risdon precinct commenced in February 2026.
- Reached practical completion for the New Risdon Kitchen Project in December 2025 with the Tasmania Prison Service (TPS) leading the operational commissioning and transition phase, with full kitchen operations in the new facility achieved on 15 April 2026.
- Continued to progress the design for the new maximum security (Correa) Unit, including the inclusion of a dedicated drug and alcohol rehabilitation unit, additional accommodation for staff and increased activity and education spaces within the Risdon Prison Complex. The project is currently in the Detailed Design Phase.
- Progressed a program of work to address safety and functionality concerns at the Launceston Reception Prison including security system enhancements, upgrades to the control room and other general improvements to the facility including upgrading the laundry and storage areas and addressing heating and cooling issues.
- Progressed preliminary discovery work regarding a new training facility for the TPS, including the assessment of current training models, capacity constraints and future operational needs.
- Continued critical maintenance works at the Risdon Prison site, which to date have included the upgrade and replacement of lighting, mechanical, fire detection, fire panel and air-conditioning assets, as well as upgrades to security systems and hot water infrastructure.
- With the announcement of additional funding of \$10 million in the 2025-26 Budget, have progressed a further program of critical maintenance works.

- This program includes replacement of critical heating, ventilation and cooling (HVAC) systems, replacement of the Building Management System across the Risdon Precinct, and further upgrades to security systems and critical underground site services at the Risdon Prison site.
- Completed documentation and released a request for tender for a new facility asset maintenance contract. The tender is currently in the evaluation phase. The contract covers facility maintenance services for the Risdon Prison Complex, the MHWP, the Southern Remand Centre, and the Wilfred Lopes Centre (a Department of Health owned facility). The new contract is scheduled to commence in October 2026 and will include a transition phase of approximately 2-3 months for the incoming contractor.
- Continued the development of a new Strategic Asset Management Plan and progressed a range of strategic asset management activities, including a comprehensive review of existing asset data and completing a full review and update of the department's asset register.
- Implemented a new Asset Information Management System (AIMS) for the department and transferred the updated asset data into the system which will enable the department to more effectively manage its major infrastructure assets, monitor contractor and asset performance, and better forecast the lifecycle replacement of critical assets.
- Implemented the maintenance module for the new AIMS system that supports the Department to manage the transition to a new facilities maintenance contract model for the TPS, consolidating several existing systems which will significantly improve maintenance reporting and monitoring capabilities.

Key Figures

Staff

- As at 31 March 2026, the SIP team comprised 12 staff - 10.56 FTE.

Project funding

Project	Total \$ million
Burnie Court Complex	86.5
New Southern Remand Centre (New Risdon Prison Kitchen) ¹	23.2
Risdon Prison Complex – Additional Max Security Accommodation (Correa Unit) ²	45.9
Electronic Security and Mobile Duress Alarm System Replacement ³	23.4
Risdon Prison - Critical Infrastructure Maintenance	7.7
Risdon Prison Construction Program ⁴	1.7
TPS Training Facility	0.45
Launceston Reception Prison Replacement	0.45
TOTAL	189.3

BACKGROUND

- Strategic Infrastructure Projects (SIP) is responsible for the planning, management and delivery of major infrastructure projects and strategic asset management activities across the Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation portfolio. The unit was established to manage the implementation of key budget commitments relating to the delivery of significant court and prison infrastructure.
- The unit's work contributes to the department's goals of providing a sustainable, safe, secure, humane and effective corrections system and improving access to justice services.

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

Supreme Court Budget and Performance

Current as at: 18-May-2026

KEY MESSAGES

- The Supreme Court exercises criminal, civil, probate and appellate jurisdictions.
- The Court's services are delivered efficiently and effectively in an environment where an increase in lodgements in all the Court's jurisdictions means the Court's workload has increased significantly over the past five years.
- The Government is committed to ensuring that all Tasmanians have access to an efficient and effective criminal and civil justice system.
- I was pleased to announce in January that [REDACTED] has been appointed to help ensure that all Tasmanians have access to an efficient and effective criminal and civil justice system, with court proceedings finalised in a timely manner.
- [REDACTED] will focus on applying a systems approach to managing existing court backlogs, identifying strategies and mechanisms to support case flow, and developing a framework to measure the effectiveness of any new strategies.
- While the Government and Courts have implemented various strategies to reduce backlogs, ongoing pressures remain and require a sustained, system-wide response.
- [REDACTED] is a very experienced Barrister and a former Director of Public Prosecutions in New South Wales and in the Northern Territory, has been appointed to improve the backlogs.
- He is highly qualified for this work and holds current and relevant experience.

Lodgements

- The number of lodgements received by courts per financial year is a measure of the demand experienced by the courts for their services.
- The number of new criminal cases lodged with the Supreme Court increased a further 4.3% in the 2024-25 reporting year from 742 to 774. This increase follows a 36% cent increase in lodgements in the 2022-23 year and a 21% increase in 2023-24.
- In the five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25 there has been a 32.3% increase in criminal lodgements.
- Civil lodgements decreased by 5.9% from 724 in 2023-24 to 681 in 2024-25. However, in the five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25 there has been a 56.9% increase in civil lodgements.
- This financial year to 31 March 2026 there has been a significant increase in civil lodgements to 572. If this rate continues there will be 760 lodgements for the 2026-27 year, a 75% increase since 2020-21.
- Probate applications decreased slightly by 1.7% from 2,842 in 2023-24 to 2,795 in 2024-25. In the 2025-26 year lodgements are on track to match the 2023-24 figure of 2,842.
- Bail applications increased 28% from 296 in 2022-23 to 380 in 2023-24 followed by a further 15.3% increase to 438 in 2024-25. This financial year to 31 March 2026 there were 310 bail applications.
- Bail applications are usually a preliminary step and are dealt with quickly by the Court (usually within days of filing) but impose additional work at short notice on the Supreme Court, Magistrates Court, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and Tasmania Police.

Clearance Rates

- The clearance rate indicator is a measure that shows whether the Court is keeping up with its workload. The indicator denotes the number of finalisations in the reporting period expressed as a percentage of the number of lodgements for the same period. This indicator does not include cases commenced prior to the reporting period.
- The 2024-25 clearance rate for the criminal jurisdiction of the Supreme Court improved to 97.8% from the 2023-24 rate of 69%.
- The criminal clearance rate at 31 March 2026 was 112.9%.
- In 2024-25 the civil jurisdiction of the Supreme Court reported a clearance rate of 118.1%, significantly higher than the previous year's rate of 98.5%.

This result indicates that more cases were finalised than were lodged. There are some delays in listing civil cases for trial.

- The civil clearance rate at 31 March 2026 dropped to 90%.

Pending

- The number of criminal cases awaiting finalisation (pending caseload) has grown over the past 5 years with an increase of 3.1% from 885 at 30 June 2024 to 912 at 30 June 2025. That figure dropped slightly to 900 at 31 March 2026.

Date	Cases Pending
30 June 2020	688
30 June 2021	711
30 June 2022	652
30 June 2023	743
30 June 2024	885
30 June 2025	912
31 March 2026	900

Backlog - Criminal

See also [Parliamentary Briefing, Supreme Court - Backlogs \(Criminal and Civil\)](#).

- The 'backlog' indicator is a measure of case processing timeliness. It is defined as the number of cases in the nominated age category (i.e. pending for more than 12 months) as a proportion of the total pending caseload.
- The age of the criminal caseload that has been pending in the Supreme Court for more than 12 months is 47%:

Date	Number of Cases Pending for more than 12 months	Percentage of Cases Pending more than 12 months
30 June 2020	267	39%
30 June 2021	313	44%
31 June 2022	351	54%
30 June 2023	287	39%
30 June 2024	352	40%
30 June 2025	424	47%
31 March 2026	420	47%

- The Court's performance target for the criminal backlog in 2024-25 is to have no more than 40% of cases older than 12 months.

- The aim is to bring the criminal backlog of cases older than 12 months closer to the national Report on Government Services target of 10%. However, such a target appears unrealistic because, since 2016-17 no Australian jurisdiction has achieved this 10% target. However, the Supreme Court of Tasmania will continue to strive to bring the pending caseload within manageable limits with the assistance of additional judicial resources and rigorous case management.

Backlog - Civil

- The civil (non-appeal) pending caseload decreased by 0.9% from 935 in 2023-24 to 927 in 2024-25. This caseload includes personal injury compensation claims, professional negligence claims, contractual disputes, testator's family maintenance claims, and other civil disputes.
- The pending civil caseload reflects the fact that the pace of civil litigation is driven by the parties and their lawyers, not by the Supreme Court. There may be many reasons why civil disputes take longer to finalise, such as the time needed for personal injuries to stabilise, the need to obtain expert reports, and allowing time for the parties to negotiate a possible settlement.
- The Supreme Court is experiencing delays in listing civil cases that are ready for trial. Civil matters now await a listing for hearing before a judge for 6 to 8 months after being certified ready for trial, whereas in previous years most matters could be listed within 3 months.
- The delays in listing civil matters are in part due to an increase in matters and in the length of trials. The availability of counsel, including increasing numbers of interstate counsel, makes listing matters difficult, as does the number of long trials (of 7 days or more).

Number of Judicial Officers

- The number of 'judicial officers per 100,000 population' is an indicator of the government's aim to provide access to justice services in an equitable and efficient manner. In 2024-25, which is the most current available data, Tasmania's rate of 1.7 Supreme Court judicial officers per 100,000 population. Of the other two-tier court jurisdictions, the ACT has 1.7, and the NT has 3.9. The ACT is a centralised population, whereas the NT requires more judges to cover a more geographically dispersed population.

- During 2024-25, the Supreme Court had seven permanent judges, one associate judge, and three acting judges. From 31 December 2025, when Acting Justice Porter's appointment expired, there have been no acting judges.

See also [Parliamentary Briefing, Appointments \(Acting Judges\)](#).

Probate staffing

- The Court has a small team which reviews probate applications and produces grants of probate. The probate registry is led by a deputy registrar, a highly experienced probate lawyer, and is staffed with a Band 4 team leader and a Band 3 registry administration officer.
- The administrative staff are responsible for data entry and producing grants, as well as providing procedural advice and assistance to applicants, including legal practitioners.
- There was a turnover in probate registry administrative staff during 2023-24 and 2024-25, both of whom have been replaced. Contract staff assisted in covering gaps while recruitment processes were run, and new staff are trained in this complex and specialised area. The probate registry has operated without interruption.

Cost per case finalisation

- In 2024-25 Tasmania reported the third lowest cost per finalisation nationally for the civil and criminal divisions of the Supreme Court at \$8,611 in a national comparison with other states and territories. This indicator reflects the rate of finalisations against the level of funding.

Court fees paid by litigants (access to justice)

- Court fees paid by litigants are a partial indicator of the direct cost of civil litigation. Court fees reflect only a small part of the total expense faced by litigants, the largest being lawyers' costs. While defendants in criminal cases are not expected to pay any court fees in prosecutions brought by the State, it is accepted that civil litigants should make a contribution to the cost of court services.
- The average civil court fees collected in the Supreme Court of Tasmania in 2024-25 was \$513 per lodgement and amounted to 6.6% of cost recovery. The 2023-24 national average was 26.7% for Supreme and Federal Courts.

- The Supreme Court also allows a waiver, postponement or discount on civil court fees to ensure that fees are not a barrier to access to justice. In 2024-25, the Court waived 2.8% of its total fee revenue.

Attendance indicator/listings

- The attendance indicator is a measure in relation to the efficiency of the court process. Fewer attendances of the parties in court may reflect a potentially more efficient process. Alternatively, a higher attendance indicator may reflect more active case management that leads to faster finalisation of a matter.
- The attendance indicator in the Supreme Court for criminal matters decreased to 14.3 attendances per finalisation in 2024-25 from 16.7 in 2023-24, the highest on record.
- Particular challenges in 2024-25 included continued high lodgements, delays by both prosecution and defence counsel in preparing matters for trial, and delays in the production of reports to inform sentencing decisions. Delays can lead to more attendances as more appearances are required to ensure matters progress.
- In 2025-26 the significant changes associated with the Court taking over criminal listings from the ODPP have meant that all pending matters need to be listed to allow the Court to assess the level of progress to date, and to determine when the matters will be ready to be listed.
- The attendance indicator for civil matters in the Supreme Court in 2024-25 was 2.5 attendances per finalisation.

Staff

- The Supreme Court is comprised of judges and staff located at registries in Hobart, Launceston and Burnie. At 30 June 2025, the Court had:
 - seven permanent full-time judges, one associate judge, and three acting judges
 - 80 staff (including full-time judges) - a number of staff work part-time, so the full-time equivalent staff number is 68.4.
- From 31 December 2025 there have been no acting judges.
- Staff are subject to performance management; and undertake training in relevant areas such as induction, ethics and behaviour, workplace health

and safety, mental health and wellbeing, family violence, and procurement of goods and services.

Business Improvement

- The Court has taken over the listing of criminal matters from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP). This change occurred in September 2025, following legislative amendment to s 372 of the *Criminal Code Act 1924* to empower the Associate Judge to exercise criminal jurisdiction. Until this change, Tasmania was the only Australian jurisdiction where the ODPP controlled the Supreme Court's criminal lists. This created an imbalance between prosecution and defence that is not consistent with the proper administration of justice.
- The Court, rather than the ODPP, now manages the criminal lists, and actively case manages each matter to ensure that it is listed to a date or sittings as soon as possible after the parties are ready to proceed. Listing discussions occur in open court, and decisions about case management are made in court, in the presence of both prosecution and defence counsel. This is a significant change to the system of criminal listings in Tasmania and is being managed carefully by the Court.
- The criminal listing process has been complicated by the fact that the Court has not had access to essential data about each file in a centralised or electronic form, including data as to whether an indictment has been filed, which counsel are acting, and the state of readiness of the matter. This data cannot be reported on from the Court's criminal case management system (CCMS). It has been necessary to collect data for each file and enter it into a spreadsheet to assist with the management of the criminal case management lists (CCML) which are heard by the associate judge.
- In the first two months of the CCML's operation 830 matters were listed in the CCML for mention, 461 in Hobart and 369 in Burnie and Launceston. 240 matters were flagged for trial statewide, with a total estimated hearing time of 969 days.
- Trial grids are now being published to the parties much earlier than was previously the case, with the grids for the rest of 2026 to be published in the next few days. This gives lawyers and their clients much greater

certainty about when a matter will be heard, and the level of certainty also benefits witnesses.

- Matters are overlisted into the grids, meaning backup cases are ready to proceed, with the aim of minimising lost court time if an accused pleads guilty shortly before trial, or a listed matter is unable to proceed for some other reason.
- The Court has an overview of the matters that are awaiting trial and applies a systematic approach to the prioritisation of listing based on factors such as the age of the matter, whether the charge relates to a sexual offence, family violence, has a youth accused, a youth complainant, or involves a fatality.
- While the new system of criminal listing gives the Court better management of its lists, the Court can only manage those factors within its control. Numerous other factors are relevant, including the speed with which files are finalised by police and provided to the ODPP, file disclosure, the availability of counsel and witnesses, and the availability of funding from Tasmania Legal Aid.

Key Figures

- In the 2024-25 reporting year the Supreme Court of Tasmania reported:
 - a 4.3% increase in lodgements in non-appeal criminal cases (from 742 to 774)
 - a 5.9% decrease in civil lodgements (from 724 to 681)
 - a 3.1% increase in the non-appeal criminal pending caseload (912 cases pending compared with 885 at the end of the previous financial year)
 - an improvement of 28.8% in the clearance rate for all criminal cases from 69% in 2023-24 to 97.8% in 2024-25
 - the clearance rate for civil cases increased from 98.5% in 2023-24 to 118.1% in 2024-25.
- In the year to 31 March 2026, criminal lodgements have remained on par with 2024-25 lodgements, but the clearance rate has improved, standing at 112.9% at 31 March 2026.

- The 2024-25 decrease in civil lodgements has not continued in the 2025-26 year. There were 572 lodgements to 31 March, which if the trend continues will lead to 760 civil lodgements for the year, the highest in the past six years.
- At 31 March 2026, the criminal non-appeal pending caseload was 900 matters, 47% of which (or 420 matters) fall into the category of 'backlog' as they are over 12 months old.
- At 31 March 2026, the civil non-appeal pending caseload was 1,055 matters, 45% of which (or 471 matters) fall into the category of 'backlog' as they are over 12 months old.

BUDGET INFORMATION

- The Court has been allocated appropriation revenue of \$11.233 million for 2026-27 including overheads, and \$5.282 million for Reserved by Law for judges' remuneration. The Court also supplements its budget with additional revenue raised from Court filing fees, a part of which are retained and used for the operations of the Court.
- Additional funding of \$600,000 for acting judges has been continued in the 2026-27 Budget. This funding includes \$380,000 for Tasmania Legal Aid, \$170,000 for the Court to provide operational support to the acting judges and manage additional court costs, in addition to \$50,000 Reserved by Law funding to cover the acting judges' salaries.
- Since 31 December 2025 there have been no acting judges, although it is expected appointments will be made this year.

BACKGROUND

Court Projects and Initiatives

- In addition to the procedural developments and quantitative performance measures reported above, the Supreme Court is involved in a variety of projects and initiatives that will improve the quality of the services delivered by the Court for the benefit of the Tasmanian community. For example:
 - review and refining criminal case management processes following the expansion of the Associate Judge’s jurisdiction to include criminal matters
 - continual refinement of the Court’s procedural rules for its civil, criminal and probate jurisdictions
 - documenting all business processes within the Court to ensure high quality services are delivered consistently around the State, and to train and encourage multi-skilling amongst staff
 - refinement of in-court technology (such as videoconferencing, digital audio-recording etc.) to enable parties and witnesses to give evidence from remote locations at less cost and more conveniently, and to ensure that the Court has a reliable, accurate record of proceedings
 - a range of building improvements including improvements to juror management and an additional remote witness room in Hobart
 - improvement of the Court’s communication and information systems for clients, staff and judges such as website and intranet resources, and Wi-Fi connections for lawyers and parties
 - community engagement programs including special events to celebrate the retirement and appointments of judges, Law Week, Open House Hobart, delivering court information sessions, and sentencing workshops to educate the general public, community and school groups about the role of the Court, its purposes, and the principles of sentencing.

Prepared by:		Cleared by:	
Position:	Registrar, Supreme Court	Position:	Deputy Secretary
Phone:	Exempt - s 36	Phone:	Exempt - s 36
Date:	18 April 2026	Date:	18 May 2026

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal Budget and Performance (inc Mental Health Stream)

Current as at: 18-May-2026

KEY MESSAGES

- The government is committed to improving access to justice for all Tasmanians. The establishment of the Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (TASCAT) on 5 November 2021 was a significant step forward in serving the needs of the community by enabling efficient and low-cost dispute resolution under a broad range of legislative provisions where required by law.
- TASCAT has a broad range of jurisdictions conferred upon it. On 1 July 2025, the *Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (Additional Jurisdictions) Act 2025* came into effect which modified the legislative structure of the Tribunal. The Tribunal now has nine streams under two Divisions:
 - the Protective Division houses the Guardianship, Mental Health and Community, Children and Families Streams
 - the General Division houses the Anti-Discrimination, Administrative, Civil and Consumer, Occupational and Disciplinary, Personal Compensation and Resource and Planning Streams.
- New jurisdictions have been conferred on TASCAT since establishment and the transfer of further jurisdictions is imminent.
- From 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 the Tribunal had received 6,776 lodgements, held 5,352 hearings and made 6,406 finalisations. There were 11,822 telephone enquiries received by the Tribunal through its interactive voice response system. It received 287,237 visits to its website.

Increase in Mental Health Stream Applications

- Over multiple years the Tribunal has experienced a continuing increase in applications in the Mental Health Stream.
- In 2024-25, the Tribunal received a significant increase in applications for Treatment Orders in the Mental Health Stream. From 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, the Tribunal received 874 applications, a 30.25% increase in filings compared to the previous financial year.
- From 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026, the Tribunal has received an overall increase in the number of all application types under the *Mental Health Act 2013* of 7.38% compared to the same period last year (1,149). There has been a slight decline in the number of applications for Treatment Orders (649 compared to 655 or -1%) for the same period in the previous year but an increase in renewal applications for Treatment Orders (19.16%).
- Due to the significant increase in applications for Treatment Orders, the Tribunal has had to prioritise the hearing of matters where Treatment Orders would lapse if they were not heard in the required statutory timeframes.
- These procedures were trialled from April 2025 until January 2026. Relevant stakeholders were notified of the trial process. In January 2026, the Tribunal determined to continue with the procedures to allow appropriate matters to be determined on the papers while also ensuring that parties have the opportunity for a hearing if they request one and they have an opportunity to provide written submissions if they wish. The procedures support the objectives set out in section 10 of the *Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2020* by ensuring reviews are resolved in a timely fashion while achieving a just outcome, providing flexibility and accessibility in the determination of reviews, and affording procedural fairness.
- The Tribunal has notified relevant stakeholders of its intention to continue these procedures and invited stakeholders to provide any feedback or concerns, if they arise, through the Tribunal's feedback process and through its consultative forum which is held twice a year.

Decisions

- From 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026, TASCAT has published 138 decisions. Since establishment in 2021 TASCAT has published over 800 decisions which are publicly available.

BUDGET INFORMATION

- TASCAT is due to receive appropriation funding of \$9.834 million including overheads in 2026-27.
- This funding includes additional funding of \$720,000 provided by the government in the 2024-25 Budget as part of our response to the Commission of Inquiry to resource TASCAT as it is conferred with new jurisdictions, as recommended by the Commission of Inquiry.
- This funding enables reviews of decisions by the Registration to Work with Vulnerable People scheme and by Criminal Injuries Compensation Commissioners and ensure there are resources to meet the increased administrative and decision-making demands. This funding will resource the government's response to recommendations 18.13, 17.7, 17.8 and 9.36 of the Commission of Inquiry.
- As part of the 2025-26 Budget the Government committed \$505,000 from the Digital Transformation Priority Expenditure Program in Finance-General to deliver enhancements to the TASCAT case management system with the introduction of new functionality to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the registry and hearing processes.
- TASCAT also receives funding through an agreement with the WorkCover Board Tasmania to fund the decision-making functions of TASCAT under the *Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988*, totalling \$2.151 million in 2025-26.

Prepared by:		Cleared by:	
Position:	Principal Registrar	Position:	Deputy Secretary
Phone:		Phone:	Exempt - s 36
Date:	17 April 2026	Date:	18 May 2026

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

Tasmanian Government Cards

Current as at: 22-May-2026

KEY MESSAGES

- As at 31 March 2026, 180 staff (including statutory office holders) have been issued with Tasmanian Government Cards (corporate credit cards).
- Analysis of the use of Tasmanian Government Cards in the department indicates that this remains a very cost-effective method for making small value purchases, as well as providing a convenient tool for paying suppliers without incurring processing delays.
- The department maintains a Corporate Credit Card Policy in accordance with Treasurer's Instruction FC-9 Tasmanian Government Card.
- All corporate cardholders are required to familiarise themselves with the content of the policy, as well as the relevant Treasurer's Instruction, and confirm their understanding and acceptance of the conditions for the use of the card through the return of a signed 'Agreement and Acknowledgement by Cardholder' form.
- Card usage compliance is a high priority for the department with regular reviews of transactions, recording and actioning of breaches, internal audit support and review and education of cardholders all being conducted on an ongoing basis.
- The department engaged its internal audit contractor to undertake an audit of its Tasmanian Government Card processes, procedures and activities which was delivered in December 2020.
- Importantly, no transactions of concern were uncovered as part of the transaction activity audit.

- 145 staff have a limit of \$5,000 or less, which is the default card limit. The staff who require a higher limit receive a specific delegation and are responsible for purchasing or making frequent travel bookings or other regular routine purchases (e.g. for witness travel or within the prison store and canteen).
- Before a credit card can be used, the officer must sign a statement confirming that they agree to the terms of use. The terms are set out in the department's Tasmanian Government Card Policy and in accordance with Treasurer's Instruction FC-9 - *Tasmanian Government Card*.
- A tax invoice is required for all purchases. All documentation, including the tax invoice, must be compiled and finalised in a timely manner to ensure the department's financial expenditure records are up to date. Staff who repeatedly do not comply with this requirement have their cards suspended or cancelled.
- Nocards have had to be revoked due to misuse.
- All card users have their monthly statement of activity reviewed by their manager to ensure compliance with policy and business rules.
- All card users require a specific financial delegation which can only be approved by the Secretary. This delegation must be provided before cards are issued to staff.

KEY FIGURES

- The number of cards in each output is as follows:

Output	30-Jun-25	31-Mar-26
1.1 Supreme Court Services	10	10
1.2 Magisterial Court Services	24	24
1.3 Births Deaths Marriages	1	1
1.4 Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal	15	16
1.7 Office of the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner	1	1
1.8 Elections and Referendums	8	14
1.9 Tasmanian Industrial Commission	2	2
1.10 Office of the Independent Regulator	5	5
1.11 Office of the Implementation Monitor	1	1
2.1 Crown Law	10	10

Output	30-Jun-25	31-Mar-26
2.2 Legislation Development and Review	2	2
3.1 Prison Services	18	15
3.2 Community Corrective Services	12	11
3.3 Enforcement of Monetary Penalties	5	5
4.1 WorkSafe Tasmania	21	24
4.2 Tasmanian Planning Commission	2	2
4.3 Consumer, Building and Occupational Services	13	8
1.12 Child Abuse Royal Commission Response Unit	0	0
5.1 Victims Support	0	3
5.2 Victims of Crime Assistance and Redress	3	2
5.3 Office of the Public Guardian	3	2
5.4 Safe at Home	1	1
5.5 Working with Vulnerable People	0	1
Overheads - Corporate Support and Strategy	18	20
	175	180

Prepared by:		Cleared by:	
Position:	Director Finance	Position:	A/Deputy Secretary
Phone:	Exempt - s 36	Phone:	Exempt - s 36
Date:	13 May 2026	Date:	22 May 2026

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

Tasmanian Industrial Commission Budget, Performance and Reform Options

Current as at: 29-May-2026

KEY MESSAGES

Budget and Performance

- I've been asked both in Budget Estimates and in Question Time previously about unacceptable delays for Tasmania workers to have important matters heard by the TIC.
- The Honourable Member for Franklin, [REDACTED], raised with me a case of a worker who has been waiting more than three years, and had not even been able to get a progress update from the TIC.
- This is not an isolated case. Others have also raised with me examples of lengthy and frustrating delays with matters before the TIC.
- I will soon be writing to stakeholders and we will be conducting targeted consultation, including public sector unions, in respect of potential reform to the TIC to improve performance and efficiency in the interests of the unions and all of those parties who appear or have matters in this jurisdiction.
- We have put a proposal to move the industrial matters to TASCAT. I continue to believe that proposal has a lot of merit. However, I am open to other proposals and I will write to stakeholders accordingly.
- I am very much focused on solutions to unacceptable delays and continue to explore options. We want the right outcome for workers and for all parties and will continue to work on solutions – noting that it is the TIC that needs to be accountable for delays.

Key Figures

- A total of 210 applications were lodged with the TIC during the reporting period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026 (up from 197 applications in the same period in 2024-25):
 - 100 industrial matter applications were lodged pursuant to the *Industrial Relations Act 1984*. Within the reporting period 54 industrial matter files were finalised and closed within 3 months, and 11 finalised and closed within 6 months. Of the 35 files remaining, 5 of these have had a hearing conducted and a decision is pending.
 - 40 applications were lodged pursuant to the *State Service Act 2000* s 50(1)(a) for a review of a selection. Within the reporting period, 38 applications were finalised and closed within 3 months. Of the remaining applications (2), conciliation is ongoing.
 - 70 applications were lodged pursuant to the *State Service Act 2000* s 50(1)(b) for a review of an action. Within the reporting period, 32 applications were finalised and closed within 3 months, with 4 finalised and closed within 6 months. Of the remaining applications (34), some proceeded to arbitration, some took time for the parties to reach agreement, and conciliation is ongoing for some.
 - 124 applications were finalised within 3 months
 - 139 applications were finalised in total within the reporting period.
- The number of matters which are currently before the Tasmanian Industrial Commission which have been pending for more than 12 months, 2 years, and 3 years.

Timeframe	Number
Between 12 months and 2 years	35
Between 2 years and 3 years	7

More than 3 years	20
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- **The number of matters which have been finalised by the Tasmanian Industrial Commission within the last 12 months.**

Member	Number
President [REDACTED]	79
Deputy President [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	60

- Members of the TIC sat a combined total of 123 days (down from 152 days in 2024-25), noting that many matters are heard on the papers.
- There is no delay in the Commission offering parties a date for conciliation at first instance.
 - As at 31 March 2026, the Commission had 5 staff equating to 5 FTEs, including a president and deputy president.
 - It occupies its own accommodation.
 - The transfer of functions from the Commission to TASCAT was estimated to result in a potential ongoing annual budget saving of \$535,000 from 2026-27.

BUDGET INFORMATION

- The Commission will receive appropriation funding of \$731,000 in 2026-27, including overheads. This is a reduction compared with the 2025-26 allocation which reflects the intended transfer of TIC functions to TASCAT.

BACKGROUND

- The Tasmanian Industrial Commission (TIC) is Tasmania's workplace relations tribunal for state service employees employed essentially in accordance with the *State Service Act 2000*.
- A private sector jurisdiction exists for long service leave matters.
- The TIC has four roles:
 - to hear and determine matters and things arising from, or relating to, industrial matters under the *Industrial Relations Act 1984*
 - to meet its obligations under the *State Service Act 2000* in relation to the review of applications by State public service employees, relating to selection and other actions involving their employment
 - to inquire into, and report to parliament on the amount of salary and allowances to be paid to each member of parliament pursuant to the *Parliamentary Salaries, Superannuation and Allowances Act 2012*
 - to undertake such other inquiries and references that may be referred to the TIC or its members from time to time.

Matters lodged with the TIC

- The lodgement of applications remains consistent with the previous year.
- The complexity of matters before the TIC remains. Often more than one decision is required to be made for a single matter. The employer continues to be regularly represented by the State Litigator where formerly that had been rare. Consequently, the way in which proceedings are being determined now resembles proceedings in a court. There is nothing wrong with that, indeed it contributes to the orderly disposition of matters and ensures that procedural fairness is provided to the parties. It is also apparent that employees are becoming more adept at representing themselves.
- The first response of the TIC with respect to disputes remains conciliation conducted in as informal a way (and usually within two weeks of the filing of matters) as each matter permits and the success of conciliation remains high.

Industrial Relations Act 1984 applications

- Under this jurisdiction, the TIC is responsible for hearing and determining matters arising from, or relating to, industrial matters, including the making of awards, the conduct of hearings and the settling of disputes, to provide for the registration of employer and employee organisations, to encourage workplace bargaining and to provide for related and other matters.
 - A total of 100 industrial matter applications were lodged with the TIC during the reporting period. The number of these applications represents a marginal increase from previous years.
 - 65 industrial matter applications were finalised within the reporting period.
 - 9 Industrial Agreements were lodged for filing and approved during the reporting period:

- Education Facility Attendant Job Security Industrial Agreement 2025
- Education Facility Attendants Salaries and Conditions of Employment Agreement 2025
- Variation to Teachers Agreement 2023
- Variation to Parks and Wildlife Service Industrial Agreement 2022
- Variation to Child Safety Industrial Agreement 2023
- Public Sector Union Wages Agreement 2022 - Variation T15141 of 2024
- Variation to Teachers Agreement 2023 (2)
- Department of Health Mental Health Services (Ward Aid) Shift Arrangements Agreement 2025
- AWU Bushfire Suppression Operations and Planned Burns Agreement 2024.
- Matters remaining unresolved after three months have been through a conciliation/mediation process. These matters are being actively managed and are either listed for hearing and are for decision or they have been adjourned sine die at the request of the parties. After a matter has been adjourned sine die and remains open but becomes inactive the TIC has a process of actively managing the file by contacting the parties to ascertain whether the matter should be relisted for hearing or the file closed.

State Service Act 2000 – Review applications

- Section 50 of the *State Service Act 2000* provides that a permanent or fixed-term employee is entitled to make an application to the TIC for a review of:
 - a) the selection of a person or employee to perform duties other than duties to be performed for a specified term or for the duration of a specified task (selection review); or
 - b) any other State Service action that related to his or her employment in the State Service (review other).
- There were 40 applications lodged with the TIC for a review of a selection in the reporting period. This is up from the previous reporting period. 38 of these applications were finalised in this period.
- There were 70 applications lodged with the TIC for a review of another action in the reporting period, a decrease from 2024-25. 36 applications were finalised in this period.
- A combined total of 70 *State Service Act* applications were resolved within three months. The number of applications closed within 3 months has increased from last year.
- In relation to reviews, the TIC arranges conferences as soon as applications are lodged, rather than waiting for the expiry of statutory and administrative timelines and places an emphasis on resolving matters through conciliation where possible. Reviews of a selection are given priority.

Inquiries and references

- The TIC undertakes such other inquiries and references that may be referred to the TIC or its members from time to time.

Inquiry into Parliamentary Salaries, Superannuation and Allowances

- A report was provided by the Commission to both Houses in May 2025.

Reciprocal arrangements with the Federal Fair Work Commission

- Fair Work Commissioners holding dual appointments with the TIC and sit on state full bench matters.

Prepared by:	[REDACTED]	Cleared by:	[REDACTED]
Position:	Registrar	Position:	A/Deputy Secretary
Phone:	Exempt - s 36	Phone:	Exempt - s 36
Date:	17 April 2026	Date:	19 May 2026

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

Tasmanian Electoral Commission – Budget and Performance (inc Accessibility)

Current as at: 17-April-2026

KEY MESSAGES

- During this financial year, the Tasmanian Electoral Commission (TEC) conducted:
 - the 2025 State election and associated non-voter processes
 - two Legislative Council elections
 - seven local government councillor recounts, and
 - two local government by-elections and associated non-voter processes.
- Following the completion of the TEC's organisational expansion in December 2025, all staff were involved in the development of new organisational values and the TEC's Strategic Plan 2026-2030. More information is available on the TEC website.
- The TEC continues to work closely with the Department of Justice and Treasury to identify and secure long-term corporate offices and surge workspaces in southern Tasmania to ensure capacity and capability for cyclical elections and any future snap state elections.

Accessibility

- The passing of the Electoral Amendment (Alternative Voting Procedures) Bill 2025 enabled the TEC to expand the telephone voting service to members of the print disability community at the 2025 State election.
- For the State election, the TEC also produced polling place guides in 8 languages, which were: Arabic, Farsi, Hindi, Karen, Nepali, Punjabi, Tigrinya and English.

KEY FIGURES

- At the 2025 State election, 6 electors used TEC's VI-Vote service in polling places and 8,387 eligible electors (2.22%) used the Telephone Assisted Voting Service, including 287 electors living with a print disability.

BUDGET FIGURES

- The 2026-27 appropriation funding totals \$948,000 including overheads.
- Reserved by Law funding for 2026-27 totals \$7.248 million. This includes:
 - \$689,000 for the expenses under the *Electoral Disclosures and Funding Act 2022*
 - \$205,000 for expenses of Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania elections
 - \$5.999 million for expenses of parliamentary elections and referendums
 - \$355,000 for expenses in relation to the 2026-27 redistribution of Legislative Council electoral boundaries.

BACKGROUND

- The TEC has three sources of funding: an annual departmental appropriation, Reserved by Law funding, and fee-for-service income.
- Under the *Electoral Act 2004*, the *Electoral Disclosure and Funding Act 2023*, *Aboriginal Lands Act 1995* and the *Legislative Council Boundaries Expenses Act 1995* the TEC can draw on Reserved by Law funding to cover costs associated with conducting elections, the funding and disclosure scheme and other functions.
- Due to the limitations of its current office, the TEC has used external spaces (secured on a short-term lease) to conduct election events.
- Long-term southern corporate and surge sites will complement the TEC northern election office which has been a base for conducting elections for north and north-west divisions since 2022. Funding for this project will be drawn from Reserved by Law funding.

Accessibility

- Until recently, telephone assisted voting for Tasmanian parliamentary elections was only possible under section 132 of the *Electoral Act 2004* which only applies to electors who are outside Tasmania or in a remote area.
- The passing of the *Electoral Amendment (Alternative Voting Procedures) Bill 2025* provided TEC with the ability to extend telephone assisted voting to those living with a print disability.
- There is a legal requirement for consultation with people who have lived experience of disability when a new policy that affects the public is implemented by a government service, as stated in the *Disability Rights, Inclusion and Safeguarding Act 2024* (Tas).
- These representative groups such as Blind Citizens Australia, Disability Voices Australia and VisAbility Tasmania have been participants in the TEC's Print Disability, Accessibility and the Local Government Act Working Group which commenced in May 2023.
- Representatives from Migrant Resource Centre Tasmania were consulted during the development of the translated polling place guides.

Prepared by:	[REDACTED]	Cleared by:	[REDACTED]
Position:	Electoral Commissioner	Position:	Secretary
Phone:	Exempt - s 36	Phone:	Exempt - s 36
Date:	17 April 2026	Date:	1 May 2026

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

Tasmania Legal Aid Budget and Performance (inc grants of assistance and lack of criminal defence lawyers)

Current as at: 26-May-2026

KEY MESSAGES

- Tasmania Legal Aid (TLA) receives funding from the State and Federal governments as well as other minor revenues (for example, from client contributions). TLA is the largest legal assistance provider in Tasmania.
- TLA provides services in family law, criminal law, civil law (including legal information), and community education.
- The Tasmanian Government provided an additional \$2 million in the 2025-26 State Budget for 2 years to support continuation of services at 2024-25 levels and maintain access to justice across Tasmania.
- Additional Solicitors' Guarantee Fund (SGF) funding of \$3,565,191 announced in January 2026, will enable TLA to deliver expanded services to the Tasmanian community, including:
 - Devonport duty lawyer service and administrative support (\$356,406)
 - North West Legal Access Fund to enable private practitioners to travel to the north-west for court appearances for legal aid clients (\$500,000)
 - establishment of a statewide Tasmania Legal Aid Trial Hub, together with administrative support (\$2,170,504)
 - continuation of a youth justice duty lawyer for a further two years (\$360,000 for 2026-27 & 2027-28)
 - funding for a lawyer to represent clients in the mental health stream of TASCAT on the North West Coast for one year (\$178,281).

- These initiatives strengthen regional access to justice and support efforts to reduce court backlogs.
- The Legal Services Council have published a consultation paper on the Review of Practical Legal Training. I have made submissions to that forum along with the Law Society of Tasmania, the Legal Practice Course and the Department of Justice. I am deeply concerned regarding the implications that changing the course will impact on Tasmania's ability to recruit graduates. The proposed changes include a reduction to just four weeks for some PLT programs and effectively the balance of training to be provided by the employer.

BUDGET INFORMATION

- TLA is due to receive \$11.355 million in the 2026-27 State Budget, this includes additional funding of \$2 million for the 2025-26 and 2026-27 financial years provided in the 2025-26 Budget.
- For 2026-27 this funding means that TLA can continue to deliver state-based services at 2024-25 levels.
- It also allows TLA to continue to provide services without further service reductions and/or incurring a budget deficit.

Rates for private practitioners undertaking legal aid work

- On 1 July 2025, TLA increased the hourly rate payable to private practitioners for legal aid work by 2%. Private lawyers are paid \$160.78 per hour and counsel \$180.18 per hour.

Service pressures and changes to legal aid guidelines

Family law

- Following the Federal Government's decision to cease 'cost consequences' funding, TLA has experienced increased budgetary pressure in family law.
- The cost consequence funding had provided TLA with \$723,000 per year in 2022-23 and 2023-24, following increased costs arising from the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia's new case management

pathways. Since 2022, the average cost to TLA of an assigned family law file has increased by 42%.

- From January 2025, targeted service prioritisation measures were introduced, including refined eligibility criteria for independent children's lawyer appointments and family law litigation grants, to ensure available resources focus on higher-need matters.
- Independent Children's Lawyer (ICL) appointments are now limited to matters involving allegations of sexual, physical, emotional or psychological abuse of children, and family law litigation grants in parenting matters are limited to victims of family violence and people receiving disability-related supports.
- These arrangements remain in place while funding pressures persist.
- As a result, ICL appointments have decreased by 38% in 2025-26 and grant funding to parents has declined by 30% over the past 12 months, with these levels expected to reflect ongoing capacity.

Criminal law

- In response to increasing demand for criminal law services, rising complexity and costs of service provision, TLA strengthened the application of the existing guidelines for grants of aid from 1 January 2025 to ensure financial sustainability, including the strict enforcement of the Grants Guidelines so that aid is unavailable for traffic offences, subject to limited exceptions such as dangerous or negligent driving causing death or serious injury, and for drug charges that are triable summarily.
- From May 2025, TLA also progressed removal of the 'other/extension' category from the grants system to restrict discretionary funding and required private practitioners to offer briefs to TLA in-house practitioners in the first instance where they were unable to undertake the work themselves.
- These measures were communicated to the legal sector, including private practitioners, the courts and the judiciary, and criminal law grants and grants of aid expenditure are now within budget.

- Temporary file pauses are currently in place for criminal law in the Hobart office. A file pause prohibits in-house practice from taking on new criminal files with some exceptions (for example, youth matters). File pauses are usually enacted in response to staff leave or turnover.

These file pauses occur in the context of a shortage of criminal defence lawyers statewide, but particularly on the North West Coast.

Lack of Criminal Defence Lawyers

- There is a significant and increasing need for additional criminal defence lawyers in Tasmania (and across Australia).
- Last year, between 60 and 70% of Tasmania Legal Aid (TLA) criminal legal aid grants were allocated to private practitioners. The number of private practitioners in Tasmania who conduct criminal trials is declining.
- ABS data demonstrates that in 2023, Tasmania had the lowest percentage of all law graduates with a practising certificate, nationally 37.1% compared to 54.3%.
- In 2023-24, there were only seven barristers and 15 firms, state-wide, who reported that their practice was comprised of more than 50% of criminal defence work.
- In 2024-25, there were six barristers and 20 firms, state-wide, who reported that their practice was comprised of more than 50% of criminal defence work.
- Over the past year due to the modest number of TLA criminal lawyers, TLA has implemented file pauses at various times due to increasing demand, a declining number of private practitioners willing to accept legally aided criminal matters, and capacity constraints within TLA's small in-house teams, including periods of staff leave.
- National Legal Aid (NLA) recently undertook a national census of private practitioners. The results indicate that 55% of Tasmanian lawyers who responded want to cease Legal Aid work within the next year. Private practitioners account for 60-70% of TLA's grants of aid.

- The shortages in private legal practitioners willing to undertake criminal law are likely impacted by the low hourly rates that TLA is able to offer - which is currently approximately 40% of their private fee structure.
- TLA pays private lawyers \$160.78 per hour and counsel \$180.18 per hour, having applied a 2% increase on 1 July 2025.
- The government continues to work with Tasmania Legal Aid in relation to these issues.

Key Figures

- From 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026, TLA provided 52,969 services to Tasmanians. These included legal representation in criminal, family and civil matters, grants and extensions of legal aid, telephone advice and referrals, face to face legal clinics, and duty lawyer services.
- In 2024-25, TLA provided 80,716 total services to Tasmanians (including extensions of aid). TLA is projected to provide 70,612 services in 2025-26, which is a 12.5% decrease compared to 2024-25. This reflects changes to service prioritisation implemented in response to funding and demand pressures.
- Further, the following figures provide a snapshot of TLA's service activity and outputs for the 2025-26 financial year to date:

Category	Measure	1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026	2025-26 projection / comparison
Total services	Total services to Tasmanians - Including: Legal representation, grants and extensions of aid, telephone advice and referrals, face-to-face legal clinics, and duty lawyer services	52,969	70,612 projected in 2025-26, a 12.5% decrease from 80,716 in 2024-25
Grants of aid	Total grants, including extensions	19,717	Comprised 3,964 new grants and 15,753 extensions
Grants of aid	New grants	3,964	—
Grants of aid	Extensions of aid	15,753	—
Criminal law	Grants, including extensions	12,885	—
Criminal law	Duty lawyer services	4,190	—
Family law	Grants, including extensions	4,239	—

Family law	Duty lawyer services	1,272	—
Private practitioners	New grants of legal aid	2,628	Represents 66% of all new grants
Private practitioners	Value of grants across all practice areas, including extensions	\$6.062 million	Decrease of \$1.129 million compared with the nine months from 1 July 2024 to 31 March 2025
Private practitioners - criminal law	New grants	1,616	Total value of \$3.171 million; decrease of \$354,000 compared with the nine months from 1 July 2024 to 31 March 2025
Private practitioners - family law	New grants	570	Total value of \$2.040 million; decrease of \$875,000 compared with 1 July 2024 to 31 March 2025
Youth justice	Services across all practice areas, including extensions and duty lawyer services	397	In comparison, 580 matters were dealt with in the full 2024-25 FY
Safe at Home Family Violence Response	Services	868	—
Mental health	Services, including separate representative and direct representative matters	550	—

Prepared by:	[REDACTED]	Cleared by:	[REDACTED]
Position:	Director, TLA	Position:	Deputy Secretary
Phone:	Exempt - s 36	Phone:	Exempt - s 36
Date:	17 April 2026	Date:	25 May 2026

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

Tasmanian Planning Commission Budget and Performance

Current as at: 14-April-2026

KEY MESSAGES

- The Tasmanian Planning Commission (the Commission) is an independent statutory body, supported for financial and administrative matters by the Department of Justice.
- The Commission is forecasting to be under budget for the 2025-26 financial year.
- Performance:
 - there have been 19 draft planning scheme amendments received to 31 March 2026
 - there has been a total of 5 combined amendment permit applications assessed
 - the median number of days for assessment is 108 days
 - there are 6 major projects in assessment.

Key Figures

PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3
Draft planning scheme amendment applications received			
Number certified by the planning authority	9	5	4
Number received for assessment	7	2	10
Draft planning scheme amendment applications assessed			
Number approved without modification	3	0	1
Number approved with modifications	6	4	5
Number altered/substantially modified/substituted	0	0	0

Number rejected	0	0	0
Other e.g. no jurisdiction to assess or withdrawn	2	0	0
Total number assessed	9	4	6
Combined permit applications assessed			
Number confirmed without modification	0	0	0
Number approved with modifications	0	1	2
Number refused	0	1	0
Other e.g. no jurisdiction to assess or withdraw	1	0	0
Total Number	1	2	2
Median number of assessment days	97	129	94.5

Major Projects	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3
Number in assessment process	6	6	6

2025-26 BUDGET INFORMATION

	Budget	YTD expenditure	Funds remaining
Business Services Commissioner's Costs	\$121,025	\$73,877	\$47,148
Assessments and Reviews	\$1,844,762	\$1,436,734	\$408,028
State of the Environment Report	\$489,138	\$278,879	\$210,259
Executive Functions	\$1,628,357	\$1,219,430	\$408,927
Digital & GIS Services	\$321,804	\$261,547	\$60,257
Total	\$4,405,086	\$3,270,467	\$1,134,619

Prepared by:		Cleared by:	
Position:	Executive Commissioner	Position:	A/Deputy Secretary
Phone:	Exempt - s 36	Phone:	Exempt - s 36
Date:	14 April 2026	Date:	27 April 2026

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

TPC - Major Projects

Current as at: 23-April-2026

KEY MESSAGES

- The Tasmanian Planning Commission (the Commission) is independently assessing several major projects.
- The Commission has established expert panels to undertake the assessment and determination of these projects.
- The Commission has completed its assessment of the Macquarie Point Multipurpose Stadium Project of State Significance and is now progressing an amendment to remove any inconsistency between the planning scheme and the order.
- The Commission is currently assessing five major projects and recently completed assessment of one major infrastructure project. These are:
 - North East Wind major project
 - Whaleback Ridge Renewable Energy major project
 - Bell Bay Wind Farm major project
 - Kangaroo Bay Hotel major project
 - Cellars Hill Wind Farm major project.
- The Commission has an ongoing role in permit condition approvals for the New Bridgewater Bridge Major Project Permit determined on 18 May 2022.
- The Commission has an ongoing role in permit condition approvals for North West Transmission Upgrades, determined on 10 March 2026. The Commission will be a respondent to an appeal by a representor against the grant of the permit to the Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal made on 19 March 2026.
- The Commission has secured funding and is progressing work to prepare Wind Farm Planning Guidelines, generic assessment criteria for wind farms, and a generic Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Matters Schedule.

BACKGROUND

North East Wind major project

- The Commission received the declaration of the major project on 12 August 2022.
- The appointed Development Assessment Panel (DAP) comprises Commissioner [REDACTED] as chairperson and [REDACTED] Commissioner [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] as members.
- The proponents, ACEN Australia, sought to have the major project process accredited as a one-off assessment under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Control Act 1999* (Cth).
- Additional time was approved by the Minister on 15 September 2022 which postponed preparation of the draft assessment criteria until the Commonwealth had made decisions on whether the project needed assessment under that Act and to determine the assessment method.
- The Commonwealth determined not to grant one-off assessment accreditation for this project on 14 April 2023.
- Following consideration of representations and a coordinated exhibition of the draft assessment criteria and Commonwealth's Environmental Impact Statement guidelines in late June 2023, the final assessment criteria were determined by the DAP on 18 August 2023.
- The DAP agreed to the proponent's requests to extend the deadline for submitting the Major Project Impact Statement (MPIS) until 18 August 2025 and then again until 18 August 2026.
- The proponent made another request on 30 January 2026 to extend the deadline for submitting the MPIS by two years, to 18 August 2028. The DAP has approved this request.
- The proponent paid the costs incurred in preparing and determining the assessment criteria, totalling \$231,000 (GST incl).

Whaleback Ridge Renewable Energy major project

- The wind farm project was declared a major project by the Minister for Planning on 1 March 2024.
- The appointed DAP comprises Commissioner [REDACTED] as chairperson, and [REDACTED] as members.
- Following two extensions of time granted by the Minister to seek legal advice and consider the breadth and complexity of the project, public exhibition of the draft assessment criteria and one extension of ten days to consider the representations and responses from participating regulators, the assessment criteria were determined on 21 August 2024.
- The DAP agreed to the proponent's request to extend the deadline for submitting the MPIS until 21 August 2026.
- The proponent has requested a further extension to March 2027. The DAP is considering this request.
- The proponent has requested a further extension to March 2027. The DAP is considering this request.

- The proponent paid the costs incurred, totalling \$98,289.66 (incl. GST).

Bell Bay Wind Farm major project

- The project was declared a major project by the Minister for Housing and Planning on 2 August 2024.
- The appointed DAP comprises Commissioner [REDACTED] as chairperson, and [REDACTED] as members.
- An extension of time for 10 days to consider the comments from landowners/occupiers and regulators was granted by the Minister on 24 August 2024.
- Following public exhibition and consideration of representations and advice from regulators, the DAP determined the assessment criteria on 4 December 2024.
- The proponent paid the costs incurred totalling \$60,881.99 (incl. GST).
- On 7 October 2025, the proponent requested an extension of time to the deadline for submission of the MPIS by 12 months, to 4 December 2026. This request was approved by the DAP.
- The proponent has advised they are aiming to submit the MPIS in mid-2026.

Kangaroo Bay Hotel major project

- The project was declared a major project by the Minister for Housing and Planning on 16 October 2024.
- The appointed DAP comprises Commissioner [REDACTED] as chairperson and [REDACTED] as members. [REDACTED] was initially a member of the DAP, but was replaced by [REDACTED] in December 2025, due to availability constraints.
- An extension of time of 40 days was granted by the Minister on 22 November 2024 to prepare the draft assessment criteria so that exhibition did not occur over the Christmas period.
- Following public exhibition and consideration of representations and advice from regulators, the DAP determined the assessment criteria on 25 February 2025.
- The Commission's costs incurred in preparing the assessment criteria was \$50,278.12.
- The Commission has agreed with Chambroad Overseas Investment Australia Pty Ltd to defer invoicing for costs incurred in preparation of the assessment criteria and invoice for costs just prior to making a decision to grant or refuse the major project permit.
- The MPIS was lodged on 3 March 2026.
- The DAP has referred the MPIS to the participating regulator for the project and has determined that no further information is required. The DAP is currently preparing an initial assessment report which will be publicly exhibited.

Cellars Hill Wind Farm major project

- The project was declared a major project by the Minister for Housing and Planning on 31 January 2025.

- The appointed DAP comprises Commissioner [REDACTED] as chairperson and [REDACTED] as members.
- On the request of the proponent, the DAP sought one-off assessment accreditation of the major project process under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). Accreditation was received on 14 March 2025.
- Assessment accreditation provides for the DAP to assess and report to the Commonwealth on the impacts of this project on Matters of National Environmental Significance. Under the accredited process, the Commonwealth makes the decision under the EPBC Act.
- To provide for the required input from the Commonwealth into the major project process, the Minister for Housing, Planning and Consumer Affairs approved additional time throughout the major project process.
- Additional time of 14 days was approved after receiving final advice from the Commonwealth, allowing for preparation of draft assessment criteria, determining final assessment criteria, and preparing an initial assessment report of the proponents MPIS.
- Additional time of 28 days after receiving final advice from the Commonwealth was approved for the DAP to determine to grant or refuse a major project permit.
- Draft Assessment Criteria and draft guidelines for Matters of National Environmental Significance were placed on public exhibition from 17 to 30 July 2025.
- Following public exhibition and consideration of representations on the draft Assessment Criteria, and advice from the Commonwealth and participating regulators, the DAP completed the Assessment Criteria and guidelines for Matters of National Environmental Significance on 18 September 2025. These were issued to the proponent on 22 September 2025.
- The MPIS is due to be submitted by 22 September 2026.
- The proponent paid the costs incurred in preparing the assessment criteria totalling \$60,688.80 (incl. GST).

North West Transmission Upgrades major infrastructure project

- The Minister for Planning provided notice to the Commission of the Major Infrastructure Development Approvals (North West Transmission Upgrades Project) Order 2020 taking effect under section 7(7) of the *Major Infrastructure Development Approvals Act 1999*.
- The appointed DAP comprises former Commissioner [REDACTED] as chairperson and Commissioner [REDACTED] as members.
- The Commission has received one-off assessment accreditation under the Commonwealth *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Control Act 1999* (EPBC Act), to assess and report to the Commonwealth on the impacts of this project to Matters of National Environmental Significance. Under the accredited process, the Commonwealth makes the decision under the EPBC Act.
- To provide for the accredited assessment process, the Minister approved the Major Infrastructure Development Approvals (North West Transmission Upgrades Project)

Order 2021. This extends the timeframe for the Commission decision until 30 days, after the Commonwealth is satisfied with a TasNetworks response report addressing any representations on Matters of National Environmental Significance.

- An application for the Palmerston to Hampshire Hills transmission line was provided to the Commission on 17 April 2025 and validated on 21 May 2025 after missing documentation was received.
- On 23 May 2025, the application was referred under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* to TasWater and the Tasmanian Heritage Council and referred, as required, by the assessment accreditation to the Commonwealth for comment.
- On 25 June 2025, the Commission issued a request for additional information, covering a range of matters, including Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES).
- Following provision of additional information, the Commission exhibited the application from 20 September to 18 October 2025.
- The Commission received 28 public representations including modifications proposed by TasNetworks.
- Following provision of additional information, TasNetworks' proposed modifications that was publicly exhibited between 24 January and 7 February 2026, and 5 submissions were received.
- The Commission determined the permit on 10 March 2026.
- The Commission provided its assessment report on Matters of National Environmental Significance under the accredited assessment process to the Commonwealth on 11 March 2026.
- An appeal by a representor against the grant of the permit was made to the Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal on 19 March 2026. The Commission will be a respondent to the appeal.
- The proponent has been invoiced for the costs incurred in the assessment totalling \$407,000.00 (incl. GST).

Wind Farm Planning documents project

- The Commission has been provided \$200,000 as part of the Renewable Energy Action Plan funding to prepare Wind Farm Planning Guidelines, generic assessment criteria for wind farms, and a generic Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Matters Schedule.
- These documents are being prepared to assist proponents in preparing their MPIS, to assist DAPs to undertake their statutory function, and to outline information that is likely to be required for wind farm projects assessed bilaterally under an EPBC Act accredited process.
- Consultation with relevant agencies and industry on guidance that can be published to assist wind farm proponents is currently underway.

BUDGET INFORMATION

Project	Progress	Costs incurred to 31 March 2026 (GST inc)
North East Wind major project	Assessment criteria complete Waiting on lodgement of MPIS	\$231,000
Whaleback Ridge Renewable Energy major project	Assessment criteria complete Waiting on lodgement of MPIS	\$98,289.66
Bell Bay Wind Farm major project	Assessment criteria complete Waiting on lodgement of MPIS	\$60,881.99
Kangaroo Bay Hotel major project	Assessment criteria complete MPIS lodged, assessment commenced	\$50,278.12
Cellars Hill Wind Farm major project	Assessment criteria complete Waiting on lodgement of MPIS	\$60,688.80
North West Transmissions Upgrades major infrastructure project	Assessment complete and permit granted	\$407,000.00

Prepared by:		Cleared by:	
Position:	Executive Commissioner	Position:	A/Deputy Secretary
Phone:	Exempt - s 36	Phone:	Exempt - s 36
Date:	23 April 2026	Date:	24 April 2026

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

Tasmania Prison Service Budget and Overtime

Current as at: 24-May-2026

KEY MESSAGES

- The Tasmanian Government has a proven track record of investing in the corrections system to protect community safety, support the wellbeing of staff, and strengthen rehabilitation outcomes for offenders - delivering safer and better outcomes for all Tasmanians. Over the past 5 years there has been a 22.4% increase in prisoner numbers (from 640.4 in 2020-21 to 783.8 in 2024-25) which has been primarily driven by an upsurge in male remand prisoners.
- And this is one of the reasons why we are investing heavily in recruiting more staff and building more capacity within the system.
- We are continually recruiting more correctional officers, and I want to welcome the 11 new Correctional Officers who recently graduated (May 2026) from our most recent recruit school and are commencing work in our prisons.
- We are also currently undertaking another major recruitment campaign with applications now open.
- The Government will provide additional funding of \$40 million in 2026-27 to assist in addressing correctional staffing costs to maintain the safety and security of staff, inmates and facilities.
- The funding will also contribute towards other costs associated with increasing prisoner and remandee numbers, including food, clothing, bedding and other inmate related consumables and non-salary costs.
- This follows on from the additional \$25 million provided in 2025-26 and additional funding for various rehabilitative and reintegrative programs for prisoners which are still operating in recent years including:
 - the Correctional Improvement Program (\$4.1 million in 2024-25)
 - Creating Futures - TPS Education, Rehabilitation and Support Services (\$500,000 in 2025-26)

- Increased Prisoner Therapeutic Staff (\$500,000 in 2025-26).
- Further funding of \$10 million was provided for critical infrastructure maintenance in the 2025-26 Budget in addition to capital improvement projects underway valued at over \$100 million.

Overtime

- Overtime continues to be a cost-pressure.
- While the key drivers of overtime are unscheduled absences from the workplace - including sick leave, workers compensation and staff mobility - other drivers are the high number of unplanned hospital escorts, intermittent emergency response activities, and unscheduled activity linked to prisoners at risk of self-harm.
- Specific actions have been, and continue to be taken, to achieve a reduction in the drivers of overtime including:
 - comprehensive absence management strategies
 - review and implementation of recruitment strategies
 - a more restrictive and regulated overtime policy
 - a planned new flexible staffing strategy
 - adaptive rostering practices, and
 - an increased focus on workers compensation injury management.
- The Director of Prisons and her management team have a very clear focus on improving all aspects of TPS operations including reducing overtime, which is the major cause of budget overspend.
- The key areas of focus that are being progressed to reduce overtime and other related salary costs are:
 - increased focus on the proactive management of workers compensation claims and supporting injured employees to return to work in a safe and sustainable way as soon as possible
 - reduction of workplace injuries
 - the continuous review and refinement of absence management strategies to address the ongoing level of unplanned absences.
 - ongoing improvement of the central rostering system (TimeFiler).

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

TPS Performance (inc Recidivism)

Current as at: 20-May-2026

KEY MESSAGES

- Corrective Services reports on a number of performance indicators in the Budget papers. Those directly related to the Tasmania Prison Service (TPS) include:
 - escape rates
 - the cost per prisoner per day
 - the prisoner return to corrections rate.
- The TPS also has a number of additional performance indicators which the TPS Senior Management Team oversees as part of its internal reporting requirements. The department will report against performance indicators in its annual report later in the year.
- The Productivity Commission's Report on Government Services 2026 (RoGS) also contains some key performance measures.

Key Figures

Budget Paper Performance Indicators

Escapes

- There have been no escapes from Tasmanian prisons for over 3 years.
- The last escape from secure custody was in the 2022-23 financial year. The prisoner (**Exempt - s 36**) escaped custody while being treated at the Royal Hobart Hospital on 2 January 2023.
- The TPS constantly reviews its policies and operational practices as it strives to ensure that secure custody is maintained.

Cost per prisoner per day

- In 2024-25, the real net operating cost per prisoner per day in Tasmania was \$507.67. This is an increase on the previous year's figure of \$489.91 (adjusted for inflation).
- The relatively high cost per prisoner is impacted by both the size of the corrections system in Tasmania where economies of scale are less easily found, and the low imprisonment rate which reduces the number of very low risk prisoners who can be managed at a lower cost with little supervision.

Recidivism Rates

- The following return to corrections figures represent a 2-year rate of return. That is, the 2024-25 figures are for prisoners and offenders who were released in 2022-23.
- The rate of return for prisoners who returned to prison within 2 years for 2024-25 was 46.6%.
- Although the rate decreased from 51.3% in 2023-24, changes in measurement from the launch of the new offender management system in April 2025 makes the 2024-25 figure non comparable to previous years.
- The Tasmanian recidivism rate of 46.6% is higher than the national average of 44.5%.
- The rate of return for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners decreased from 54.8% to 52.3% in 2024-25. The rate for non-Aboriginal prisoners decreased from 50.7% to 44.4%.

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

TPS - Workers Compensation and WHS

Current as at: 20-May-2026

KEY MESSAGES

- The Tasmanian Government and the Tasmania Prison Service (TPS) are committed to protecting the health and safety of its workforce, preventing work-related injury and illness where possible, and ensuring that its employees are supported to recover and return to work in a safe, timely and sustainable way.
- My Department's Injury Management Unit continues to work closely with TPS management to monitor and review work-related injuries to identify risks and implement control measures to improve the health, safety and wellbeing of its employees.
- Early intervention and active case management by the injury management coordinators has made a positive impact on the management of workers compensation at the Tasmania Prison Service (TPS).
- My department continues to focus on early intervention and regular communication with injured workers, their managers and treating medical practitioners to support positive return to work outcomes.
- This collaborative focus has seen improved results including:
 - the average time lost per claim
 - the average cost per claim has stabilised
 - the number of people who are being returned to suitable work earlier.
- The TPS takes a proactive approach to preventing harm, through undertaking risk assessments in consultation with its employees and in the development of safe systems of work.
- The TPS has a Work Health and Safety (WHS) Improvement Plan to continuously improve the management of WHS and is implementing a

range of initiatives to improve the health, safety and wellbeing of its employees.

- This includes actions to improve the visibility and management of WHS matters, so that operational area managers can monitor, consult and respond more effectively within their areas of responsibility.
- From 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026, 156 hazards (hazards, near misses and property damage) and 227 incidents (illness and injury) were reported by the TPS, with 183 incidents related to employees.
- From 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026, 99 workers compensation claims were received from employees of the TPS.

Prepared by:	[REDACTED]	Cleared by:	[REDACTED]
Position:	Assistant Director, Safety and Injury Management	Position:	Deputy Secretary
Phone:	Exempt - s 36	Phone:	Exempt - s 36
Date:	23 April 2026	Date:	19 May 2026

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

Travel Costs

Current as at: 19-May-2026

KEY MESSAGES

- The major travel related costs for the department relate to:
 - Country court sittings for the Magistrates Court
 - acting judges of the Supreme Court travelling from interstate and intrastate
 - allowances paid to correctional recruits who need to travel to undertake training
 - the conduct of House of Assembly, Legislative Council and Local Government elections across the state.
- Travel costs include airfares, accommodation, meals, allowances and other travel related costs, but exclude costs related to motor vehicles.
- All interstate travel must be approved in advance by the relevant member of the department's executive, in accordance with the department's Travel Policy.

Key Figures

- For the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026 the department spent a total of \$1,023,000 on travel and travel related costs, noting that a significant portion of these costs are associated with intrastate travel to deliver services in regional areas of the state.
- The total costs of travel split between interstate, intrastate and international travel are:
 - interstate travel: \$208,000, or 20% of total travel costs
 - intrastate travel: \$798,000, or 78% of total travel costs
 - international travel: \$17,000 or 2% of total travel costs.

- The costs incurred for international travel were specifically for:
 - the Implementation Monitor to attend the World Congress on Family Law and Children's Rights in Cambridge, England and while overseas also undertook site visits to Oberstown Children Detention Centre in Dublin, Ireland and Kibble Education and Care Centre in Glasgow, Scotland
 - the Operations Manager of the Tasmanian Electoral Commission attending the annual National Electoral Operations Community of Practice meeting in New Zealand.

Additional speaking points, IF REQUIRED

- The total travel costs paid by the department from 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026, compared with the 2024-25 financial year, summarised by output are as follows:

Output	2024-25	2025-26
1.1 Supreme Court Services	\$407,000	\$211,000
1.2 Magisterial Court Services	\$117,000	\$71,000
1.3 Births, Deaths and Marriages	\$2,000	\$0
1.4 Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal	\$52,000	\$37,000
1.7 Office of the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner	\$18,000	\$17,000
1.8 Elections and Referendums	\$49,000	\$123,000
1.9 Tasmanian Industrial Commission	\$4,000	\$3,000
1.10 Office of the Independent Regulator	\$25,000	\$12,000
1.11 Office of the Implementation Monitor	\$0	\$20,000
1.15 Commission for Children and Young People	\$0	\$0
2.1 Crown Law	\$34,000	\$24,000
2.2 Legislation Development and Review	\$1,000	\$2,000
3.1 Prison Services	\$407,000	\$195,000
3.2 Community Corrective Services	\$53,000	\$39,000
3.3 Enforcement of Monetary Penalties	\$4,000	\$3,000
4.1 WorkSafe Tasmania	\$56,000	\$62,000
4.2 Tasmanian Planning Commission	\$22,000	\$29,000
4.3 Consumer, Building and Occupational Services	\$64,000	\$61,000
5.1 Victims Support	\$8,000	\$14,000
5.2 Victims of Crime Assistance and Redress	\$18,000	\$10,000
5.3 Office of the Public Guardian	\$10,000	\$5,000
5.4 Safe at Home	\$26,000	\$8,000
5.5 Working with Vulnerable People	\$5,000	\$3,000
Corporate Services	\$135,000	\$73,000
	\$1,517,000	\$1,023,000

BACKGROUND

- Additionally, staff are often required to travel intra or interstate to undertake their official duties.
- All overseas travel for departmental staff must be approved in advance by the relevant minister, in accordance with the DPAC Overseas Travel Policy.
- Due to their independence, it is not appropriate for members of the judiciary to seek approval from the Attorney-General prior to travelling internationally; however, out of courtesy the Attorney-General is advised in advance of any judges or magistrates intending to travel internationally.
- The cost incurred to 31 March 2026 by the Department for international travel is \$17,000 (\$5,000 in 2024-25).

Prepared by:	[REDACTED]	Cleared by:	[REDACTED]
Position:	Director Finance	Position:	A/Deputy Secretary
Phone:	Exempt - s 36	Phone:	Exempt - s 36
Date:	14 May 2026	Date:	19 May 2026

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

Victims of Crime Assistance Budget and Performance

Current as at: 20-May-2026

KEY MESSAGES

- The government recognises that the criminal justice system can be a daunting prospect for victims of crime, which is why we are committed to improving access to justice and ensuring that the process provides an appropriate level of support for victims.
- Our dedicated Victims Assistance Unit support the Criminal Injuries Compensation Commissioners in finalising awards under the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1976*.
- Our Government has increased funding to better support victims, with **additional funding of \$299,000 per annum, or \$1.2 million over 4 years, in the 2024-25 Budget**, to respond to recommendations made by the Commission of Inquiry.
- Under the Act, assistance is available to victims for the payment of costs of medical bills, counselling and support services, as well as compensation for pain and suffering to victims of violent crime where the victim has suffered an injury or death.
- All directions and decisions are made by independent Criminal Injuries Compensation Commissioners and are determined in line with the current legislative requirements outlined in the Act.
- Not all applications are finalised in the year they are received, and it is important to note this is not a reflection on the dedicated staff administering the scheme. Often this is due to waiting for court matters or decisions to be finalised before a determination can be made.

Refer to separate brief, [National Redress Scheme Overview and Budget](#), for additional redress information including budget information.

If asked: why have you cut funding to VOC/redress?

- The budgets and staffing allocation to both Victims Support and Victims of Crime Assistance Redress have not been reduced, in fact as I have said, these areas **received additional funding of \$299,000 per annum, or \$1.2 million over 4 years in the 2024-25 Budget.**
- This funding has allowed for the engagement of additional staff to meet increased demand and to respond to Commission of Inquiry recommendations.
- The Annual Report numbers differ as a result of the establishment of the Justice Support Services (JSS) output group in mid-2025, as well as the completion of work associated with the creation and implementation of the Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework.
- The creation of JSS was driven by a Department of Justice restructure to better align related and similar services which have a focus on victim-survivors, vulnerable children and adults, to improve governance, accessibility, accountability and responsiveness.
- Time-limited funding of \$829,000 for three years was provided to support the design and implementation of a Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework for Tasmania, comprising legislated child safety standards and a reportable conduct scheme, integrated with, and strengthening, the existing systemic response to child sexual abuse in Tasmania.
- This funding concluded in the 2024-25 Budget and I note responsibility for the Framework now resides with the Office of the Independent Regulator (Louise Coe).
- As part of this restructure, the Victims Support Service now operates under two structures: Victims Support, and Victims of Crime Assistance and Redress. This is reflected in the 2024-25 Annual Report.
- There have been no staff reductions in either the Victims Assistance Unit or the Redress Response team.

Key Figures

Staff and appointment of Criminal Injuries Compensation Commissioners

- As at 31 March 2026, VOCA has a headcount of 7 staff, 6.9 FTE.
- Applications for victims of crime assistance are determined by independent Criminal Injuries Compensation Commissioners under the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1976*. There has been a permanent in-house (0.9 FTE) commissioner on staff since September 2018. The director of VOCAR is also a part-time commissioner.
- The current sessional commissioners are:

South	Rod Chandler Debra Burgess Charli Barclay
North	Rohan Foon Amber Cohen
North-West	Chris Bartlett Anna Jordan

Performance

Victims of crime assistance / Criminal injuries compensation

- The table below shows the number of victims of crime assistance applications received in recent financial years, together with the total number of awards finalised and the average award for that year:

Period	No of applications received	No of awards finalised	Average award (\$)
1 July 2022- 30 June 2023	435	350	20,858
1 July 2023- 30 June 2024	509	358	23,977
1 July 2024-30 June 2025	622	382	26,365
1 July 2025-31 March 2026	400	315	25,428

Period	Total number of Decisions where awards not made by Commissioner	Total number of applications where concessions not given
1 July 2022-30 June 2023	14	21
1 July 2023-30 June 2024	15	33
1 July 2024-30 June 2025	19	31
1 July 2025-31 March 2026	17	45

- The tables below show total payment award figures, including interim awards, for each year.
- Awards consist of components costs – dental, medical, solicitors and other expenses. Awards are also made for pain and suffering, psychiatric, dental and medical expenses, both past and future.
- Outstanding fines owing to the Monetary Penalties Enforcement Service (MPES) have been deducted and forwarded to MPES for payment of outstanding fines.

	1/7/2022-30/6/2023	1/7/2023-30/6/2024	1/7/2024-30/6/2025	1/7/2025-31/03/2026
Components-Costs	\$0,000	\$0,000	\$0,000	\$0,000
Dental Expenses Past	15,432	2,934	6,128	4617
Medical reports	44,257	57,633	60,286	23,832
Non-Psychiatric Medical Expenses-Past	28,899	27,731	8,795	27,129
Other Expenses	4,645	1,000	1,601	1,705
Psychiatric/Psychological expenses-past	13,504	4,088	12,858	12,135
Solicitor Expenses	45,026	43,120	46,598	41,229
Wages Past	62,400	40,670	51,014	25,900
Sub total	214,165	177,176	187,280	136,547

	1/7/2022-30/6/2023	1/7/2023-30/6/2024	1/7/2024-30/6/2025	1/7/2025-31/03/2026
Components - Other	\$0,000	\$0,000	\$0,000	\$0,000
Compensation/Pain and Suffering	5,899,626	6,747,059	7,501,176	5,809,035
Costs-Medical Reports	14,841	6,223	1,685.36	0.00
Dental Expenses-Future	46,110	107,950	41,576	37,500
Funeral Expenses	26,432	40,953	21,864	27,514

Medical and Psychological Expenses-Future	8,000	73,500	73,500	47,000
Non-Psychiatric Medical Expenses-Future	69,357	65,749	100,071	72,840
Psychiatric/Psychological Expenses-Future	838,100	1,259,440	1,498,960	1,232,025
Outstanding Fines (from compensation) MPES	172,708	125,210	160,921	210,268
Sub Total	7,087,060	8,426,087	9,399,754	7,436,182
Total combined tables	7,301,225	8,603,263	9,587,034	7,572,729

- Applications cannot be finalised until any criminal proceedings have concluded, unless in exceptional circumstances.
- The number of matters awaiting court outcomes has grown. There is an observed pattern of applicants increasingly lodging their applications within time and in the same year when the crime occurred. This pattern is noticeable for crimes of personal violence (murder, manslaughter, assault, wounding and grievous bodily harm). For applicants who lodge their applications promptly, before finalisation of criminal proceedings, there can be a longer wait time for court outcomes before proceeding to their victims of crime assistance hearing.
- For the period 1 July 2025 until 31 March 2026, there were a total of 419 victims of crime assistance decisions. This includes 298 decisions with awards made by commissioners and a further 17 decisions where no award was made by commissioners. Commissioners also dealt with 81 applications for extensions of time. The remainder of the list comprises directions and contested hearings.
- As at 31 March 2026, there were 333 applications that are ready for a final decision, and waiting for a hearing date or final decisions on the papers.
- This includes 172 matters waiting on a court outcome and/or police file before being scheduled a hearing date.
- As at 31 March 2026, compensation of \$7.1 million has been paid under the Act.

Prescribed Maximum Award levels

- The following table shows the prescribed maximum award levels for the financial year ending:

	30/06/22	30/06/23	30/06/24	30/06/25	30/06/26
Primary victim of a single offence	\$30,000	\$30,918	\$33,134	\$34,759	\$35,459
Primary victim of more than one offence	\$50,000	\$51,531	\$55,224	\$57,932	\$59,099
Secondary victim	\$20,000	\$20,612	\$22,089	\$23,173	\$23,639
Single related victim	\$10,000	\$10,306	\$11,045	\$11,586	\$11,820
Funeral expenses	\$10,000	\$10,306	\$11,045	\$11,586	\$11,820

- A commissioner may make an award for future medical and counselling expenses in addition to the prescribed maximum.

If asked - about specific matters

- It would be inappropriate to disclose identifying information of individual VOCA applications.
- All directions and decisions are made by independent Criminal Injuries Compensation Commissioners and are determined in line with the current legislative requirements outlined in the *Victim of Crime Assistance Act 1976*.

BUDGET INFORMATION

- In 2026-27, the VOCAR output is due to receive appropriation funding of \$128.5 million (including Provision for Claims related to Child Sexual Abuse in State Care and overheads) and Reserved by Law funding of \$7.5 million for compensation for victims of crime.
- The 2024-25 Budget provided additional funding for responses to Commission of Inquiry recommendations of:
 - \$299,000 per annum, or \$1.2 million over 4 years for additional resourcing to administer the Victims of Crime Assistance Scheme. This funding is due to end on 30 June 2028.

Refer to separate brief National Redress Scheme, Overview and Budget.

BACKGROUND

- Victims of Crime Assistance: Independent Criminal Injuries Compensation
Commissioners determine victims' applications for financial compensation under the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1976*. Commissioners are supported by staff within the Victims Assistance Unit. The scheme allows for the payment of costs of medical, counselling and support services, as well as compensation for pain and suffering to victims of violent crime or certain sexual offences where the victim has suffered an injury or death.
- Compensation may be awarded under the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1976* where a person suffers injury as a result of the act of another person that constitutes an offence¹. An injury includes any impairment of bodily or mental health.² An offence is defined as an act of violence by one person against another.
- The Act sets out the basis of awards of compensation, differentiating between primary victims, secondary victims and related victims. Those terms are defined in section 2 of the Act. Primary victim means a person against whom an offence is committed. Secondary victim means a witness or, if a primary victim is a child, then the child's parents or guardian. Related victim means a primary victim's spouse, child, sibling, or parent (if the primary victim is an adult). There can, and often will be, more than one primary, secondary and related victims of particular criminal conduct.
- The previous regulations, the *Victims of Crime Assistance Regulations 2010*, expired on 15 December 2021.
- The current regulations, the *Victims of Crime Assistance Regulations 2021*, came into effect on 15 December 2021 and are due to expire on 13 December 2031.

Prepared by:	[REDACTED]	Cleared by:	[REDACTED]
Position:	Director, Victims of Crime Assistance and Redress	Position:	A/Deputy Secretary
Phone:	Exempt - s 36	Phone:	Exempt - s 36
Date:		Date:	20 May 2026

¹ *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1976*, s 4(1)(a).

² *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1976*, s 2.

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

Victims Support Budget and Performance

Current as at: 20-May-2026

KEY MESSAGES

- The government recognises that the criminal justice system can be a daunting prospect for victims of crime, which is why we are committed to improving access to justice and ensuring that processes provide an appropriate level of support for victims.
- Our dedicated Victims Assistance Unit support the Criminal Injuries Compensation Commissioners in finalising awards under the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1976*.
- Our Government has increased funding to better support victims, with **additional funding of \$299,000 per annum, or \$1.2 million over 4 years, in the 2024-25 Budget**, to respond to recommendations made by the Commission of Inquiry.
- Under the Act, assistance is available to victims for the payment of costs of medical bills, counselling and support services, as well as compensation for pain and suffering to victims of violent crime where the victim has suffered an injury or death.
- All directions and decisions are made by independent Criminal Injuries Compensation Commissioners and are determined in line with the current legislative requirements outlined in the Act.
- Not all applications are finalised in the year they are received, and it is important to note this is not a reflection on the dedicated staff administering the scheme. Often this is due to waiting for court matters or decisions to be finalised before a determination can be made.

Refer to separate brief, [National Redress Scheme Overview and Budget](#), for additional redress information including budget information.

If asked: why have you cut funding to VOC/redress?

- The budgets and staffing allocation to both Victims Support and Victims of Crime Assistance Redress have not been reduced, in fact as I have said, these areas **received additional funding of \$299,000 per annum, or \$1.2 million over 4 years in the 2024-25 Budget.**
- This funding has allowed for the engagement of additional staff to meet increased demand and to respond to Commission of Inquiry recommendations.
- The Annual Report numbers differ as a result of the establishment of the Justice Support Services (JSS) output group in mid-2025, as well work associated with the creation and implementation of the Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework.
- The creation of JSS was driven by a Department of Justice restructure to better align related and similar services which have a focus on victim-survivors, vulnerable children and adults, to improve governance, accessibility, accountability and responsiveness.
- Time-limited funding of \$829,000 for three years was provided to support the design and implementation of a Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework for Tasmania, comprising legislated child safety standards and a reportable conduct scheme, integrated with, and strengthening, the existing systemic response to child sexual abuse in Tasmania.
- This funding concluded in the 2024-2025 Budget, and I note responsibility for the Framework now resides with the Office of the Independent Regulator (Louise Coe).
- As part of this restructure, the Victims Support Service now operates under two structures: Victims Support, and Victims of Crime Assistance and Redress. This is reflected in the 2024-25 Annual Report.
- There have been no staff reductions in either the Victims Assistance Unit or the Redress Response team.

KEY FIGURES

Staffing

- Victims Support comprises the Victims of Crime Service, Court Support Liaison Services, the Eligible Persons Register, the Redress Engagement Coordinators, the Survivor Support Service, the Witness Intermediary Scheme and JSS Policy and Projects.

- The Victims Support output, as at 31 March 2026, was comprised of 29 staff statewide, with staff located in Hobart, Burnie and Launceston equivalent to 25.8 FTEs.
- There are 8 court support officers to support victims of family violence based in Hobart, Launceston and Burnie, comprising 7 FTE. One of these FTE in Hobart is temporarily funded to September 2026. The court support service also has a 0.5 FTE administrative officer.
- Within the Victims of Crime Service, there are 2 trauma counsellors located in each region of Hobart, Launceston and Burnie. There are 2 FTE based in the south, 2 FTE in the north, and 1.2 FTE in the north-west.
- Additional funding for 1.6 FTE counsellors has been provided to resource the government's response to Commission of Inquiry recommendations 17.6 and 21.5. There is an additional 1 FTE funded through the Department of Premier and Cabinet in response to Tasmania's Third Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan - Strengthen Victims of Crime Service. This funding ends 30 June 2027. The additional resourcing under Commission of Inquiry funding ends 30 June 2028.
- Resourcing to the redress engagement coordinators has been increased 1 to 1.5 FTE from November 2024 to November 2027. This increase offsets risks associated with key person dependency, acknowledges the complexity and sensitivity of this important work and facilitates timely responses to requests from victim-survivors of institutional child sexual abuse.

Victims of Crime Service

- From 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026, the service recorded 2,987 client contacts statewide. These contacts can be broken down as follows:

Intervention by Type	Number of Client Contacts
Counselling and Support	1,948
Victims of Crime (VoCA) Assistance and Extension of Time applications	199
Victim Impact Statements (VIS)	46
Reports (Courts and Criminal Compensation)	84
Court Support to Victims	127
Eligible Persons Register	8
Did not attend	575

Eligible Persons Register

- The table below shows the number of new registrations and current registrations on the Eligible Persons Register:

Period	New Registrations	Number of current registrations on the register (includes offenders currently serving parole)
1 July 2021 - 30 June 2022	76	426
1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023	74	426
1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024	79	420
1 July 2024 - 30 June 2025	60	417
1 July 2025 - 31 March 2026	70	434

Court Support Liaison Service

- The Court Support and Liaison Service was allocated 5,315 cases statewide from 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026.

Region	Number of cases allocated
South (East)	1,208
South (West)	1,201
North	1,636
North-West	1,270

Redress Engagement Coordinators

- Since the commencement of the scheme on 1 July 2018 to 31 March 2026, 108 victim-survivors have made contact to initiate counselling and psychological care (CPC). Of these victim-survivors, 92 have been referred to a provider. 61 victim-survivors have been in contact to request a direct personal response, and 35 direct personal responses have been completed thus far.

Counselling, Psychological Care (CPC) and Direct Personal Responses (DPR) 1 July 2018 - 31 March 2026

Claims received	Claimants who elected a CPC entitlement	Claimants who have made contact to seek CPC	Claimants who elected a DPR entitlement	Claimants who have made contact to seek a DPR	DPRs delivered*
2,218	756	108	548	61	35

* including 29 face-to-face meetings and 30 letters (note that some survivors elect both a meeting and a letter).

Civil Direct Personal Response

- Since commencement of the scheme in 2018 to 31 March 2026, redress engagement coordinators have actioned 46 requests for Direct Personal Responses (DPRs) as a result of settled civil litigation matters related to historical institutional child sexual abuse. Of these 46 requests, 33 DPRs have been completed thus far.
- Redress engagement coordinators do not facilitate CPC for survivors who have settled a civil claim against the State.

BUDGET INFORMATION

- In 2026-27, the total appropriation budget for Victims Support is \$6.798 million.
- The Survivor Support Service was a new addition to Victims Support in 2025-26. This service was expected to run for three years, with funding being transferred to the Department of Justice from the Department of Premier and Cabinet for the first year of operation. This service is designed to coordinate CPC for people who engaged with the Commission of Inquiry and the Weiss Independent Inquiry. Funding for 2025-26 was \$560,000. The Survivor Support Service expended a total of \$124,235 from 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026.

Prepared by:	[REDACTED]	Cleared by:	[REDACTED]
Position:	Director - Victims Support	Position:	A/Deputy Secretary
Phone:	Exempt - s 36	Phone:	[REDACTED]
Date:	16 April 2026	Date:	20 May 2026

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

Workforce Data

Current as at: 19-May-2026

KEY MESSAGES

- As at 31 March 2026, the Department of Justice (including the Office of the Ombudsman and the Office of the Director Public Prosecutions) employed 1,827.2 FTE and a head count of 1,930.
- The department continues to review all vacancies to consider whether they are essential, with agency executive members responsible for clearing roles to be advertised.
- With annual turnover of approximately 14-15%, the department has continued filling essential roles to maintain the justice system, support government priorities and deliver essential services.
- The department is continuing to work with managers to consider organisational structures and service delivery models to ensure we remain positioned to continue meeting service delivery demands in an efficient manner both now and into the future.

Key Figures

- Below are tables of employment data organised as follows:
 - Table A: Head Count as at 31 March 2025 and 31 March 2026.
 - Table B: Full-time equivalent as at 31 March 2025 and 31 March 2026.
 - Table C: Annual separation rates.
 - Table D: Employment levels by employment type and gender.
- All tables exclude casual employees, employees seconded to other organisations and employees on leave without pay.
- The data shows the number of employees employed on the reporting date, irrespective of whether they were paid on that reporting date or not.
- The data reflects the department's employment figures as at the date it was collected and is subject to change given subsequent processing of employee events that relate to the reporting period, such as employees commencing or finishing employment.

Table A - Head Count as at 31 March 2026*

	31-Mar-25	31-Mar-26	Change
Justice	1,706	1,781	4%
Output Group 1: Administration of Justice	379	398	5%
1.1 - Supreme Court	83	80	-4%
1.2 - Magistrates Court	94	100	6%
1.3 - Births, Deaths and Marriages	10	10	0%
1.4 - Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal	46	45	-2%
1.5 - Tasmania Legal Aid	110	111	1%
1.7 - Office of the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner	10	11	10%
1.8 - Elections and Referendums	22	36	64%
1.9 - Tasmanian Industrial Commission	4	5	25%
Output Group 2: Legal Services	89	102	15%
2.1 - Crown Law	70	81	16%
2.2 - Legislation Development and Review	19	21	11%
Output Group 3: Corrections, Rehabilitation and Enforcement	765	783	2%
3.1 - Tasmania Prison Service	605	613	1%
3.2 - Community Corrections	137	143	4%
3.3 - Enforcement of Monetary Penalties	23	27	17%
Output Group 4: Regulatory and Other Services	198	194	-2%
4.1 - WorkSafe Tasmania	98	102	4%
4.2 - Tasmanian Planning Commission	27	23	-15%
4.3 - Consumer Building & Occupational Service	73	69	-5%
Output Group 5 - Justice Support Services	84	95	13%
5.1 - Victims Support	22	29	32%
5.2 - Victims of Crime Assistance and Redress	15	12	-20%
5.3 - Office of the Public Guardian	13	12	-8%
5.4 - Safe at Home	9	10	11%
5.5 - Working With Vulnerable People	25	32	28%
Office of the Secretary	191	209	9%
Office of the Secretary	29	31	7%
Strategy, Governance and Major Projects	162	178	10%
Other	147	149	1%
Office of the Director of Public Prosecution	85	83	-2%
Office of the Ombudsman	36	39	8%
Independent Regulator	22	20	-9%
Office of the Independent Monitor	4	7	75%
Grand Total	1,853	1,930	4%

*This is 'employed' headcount data.

Table B - FTE as at 31 March 2026*

	31-Mar-25	31-Mar-26	Change
Justice	1,604.8	1,686.1	5%
Output Group 1: Administration of Justice	334.6	356.5	7%
1.1 - Supreme Court	69.6	68.4	-2%
1.2 - Magistrates Court	89.8	93.7	4%
1.3 - Births, Deaths and Marriages	8.9	9.1	2%
1.4 - Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal	44.4	43.2	-3%
1.5 - Tasmania Legal Aid	87.3	91.8	5%
1.7 - Office of the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner	9.7	10.1	4%
1.8 - Elections and Referendums	20.9	35.2	68%
1.9 - Tasmanian Industrial Commission	4.0	5.0	25%
Output Group 2: Legal Services	80.2	92.8	16%
2.1 - Crown Law	64.6	74.4	15%
2.2 - Legislation Development and Review	15.6	18.4	18%
Output Group 3: Corrections, Rehabilitation and Enforcement	742.6	762.7	3%
3.1 - Tasmania Prison Service	598.0	607.0	2%
3.2 - Community Corrections	122.8	130.1	6%
3.3 - Enforcement of Monetary Penalties	21.7	25.5	18%
Output Group 4: Regulatory and Other Services	190.6	186.0	-2%
4.1 - WorkSafe Tasmania	93.9	97.9	4%
4.2 - Tasmanian Planning Commission	25.3	22.0	-13%
4.3 - Consumer Building & Occupational Service	71.3	66.1	-7%
Output Group 5 - Justice Support Services	75.0	87.5	17%
5.1 - Victims Support	19.8	25.8	30%
5.2 - Victims of Crime Assistance and Redress	12.5	11.9	-5%
5.3 - Office of the Public Guardian	12.4	11.4	-8%
5.4 - Safe at Home	7.7	8.6	12%
5.5 - Working With Vulnerable People	22.6	29.8	32%
Office of the Secretary	181.8	200.7	10%
Office of the Secretary	27.6	29.4	7%
Strategy, Governance and Major Projects	154.2	171.3	11%
Other	139.6	141.1	1%
Office of the Director of Public Prosecution	81.9	78.3	-4%
Office of the Ombudsman	32.1	36.4	13%
Independent Regulator	21.6	19.4	-10%
Office of the Independent Monitor	4.0	7.0	75%
Grand Total	1,744.4	1,827.2	5%

*This is 'employed' FTE data.

Table C - Separation rates for employees

	31-Mar-25	31-Mar-26
Separation rate	14.61%	14.26%

Table D - Employment levels by Employment Type and Gender*

	31-Mar-25			31-Mar-26		
Gender	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Total Staff	1,067	781	1,848	1,132	791	1,923
Full Time	73%	93%	80%	73%	93%	81%
Part Time	27%	7%	20%	27%	7%	19%
Less than \$100,000	50%	60%	54%	46%	29%	39%
Greater than \$100,000	50%	40%	46%	54%	71%	61%

*The Department employs some staff who do not identify as either male or female, therefore the total number of employees in Table D is lower than the total in Table A.

Prepared by:		Cleared by:	
Position:	Assistant Director HR Operations	Position:	A/Deputy Secretary
Phone:	Exempt - s 36	Phone:	Exempt - s 36
Date:	10 April 2026	Date:	19 May 2026

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

WorkSafe Tasmania Budget and Performance

Current as at: 26-May-2026

KEY MESSAGES

- A well-resourced, proactive WorkSafe Tasmania is critical to ensuring workers are safe and fairly compensated if injured at work.
- Responsibility for work health and safety rests with employers and workers, supported by WorkSafe Tasmania through education, compliance and enforcement. WorkSafe Tasmania's core functions include:
 - compliance and enforcement of relevant legislation
 - management of the Workers Compensation and Asbestos Compensation Schemes (with the WorkCover Tasmania Board and Asbestos Commissioner)
 - supporting the WorkCover Tasmania Board in its statutory functions
 - providing policy advice to Government.

Key strategic initiatives (2025-26)

- In 2025-26, WorkSafe Tasmania has been working on a number of initiatives and programs which will result in improved WHS and return to work outcomes for Tasmanian workers. Some of the key highlights include:
 - implementing the prohibition on engineered stone containing more than 1% crystalline silica and transitional arrangements
 - collaborating with stakeholders to develop a best practice workplace mental health framework
 - working with Tasmanian State Service agencies to improve injury outcomes

- implementing a family support project to better support those impacted by severe work-related injury or death
- working on updated mine safety regulations.

Workforce overview

- Total funded workforce: 123.90 FTE, across multiple funding sources (Consolidated, Asbestos Compensation Fund, WorkCover Board Tasmania, WorkSafe Tasmania Inspectorate Initiative)
- Actual staffing (31 March 2026): 97.9 FTE (102 headcount)
- Current vacancies: 29 positions
 - 25 permanent (promotions, transfers, resignations, retirements)
 - 4 temporary (acting arrangements/leave)
 - recruitment underway for 15 permanent roles.

Current status (31 March 2026)

- 7 senior inspector vacancies.
- 1 specialised mining inspector role unfilled.
- Recruitment processes are underway for all vacant senior inspector roles.

Actions Underway

- Broad banding of inspector classifications (via Wages Agreement negotiations).
- Dedicated inspector training coordinator.
- Targeted recruitment and retention strategies.
- Expanded professional development to strengthen technical and regulatory capability.
- Improved induction and onboarding.
- Flexible and inclusive work practices.

Performance and activity 1 July 2025 - 31 March 2026

- WorkSafe Tasmania continues to deliver strong operational outcomes:

- 1,565 workplace inspections conducted
- 515 enforcement notices issued
- 133 information notices issued
- 602 notifiable incidents reported
- inspectors attended 256 incidents (42%).

BUDGET INFORMATION

- 2026-27 Public Account appropriation: \$11.958 million.

Prepared by:	[REDACTED]	Cleared by:	[REDACTED]
Position:	Executive Director WorkSafe Tasmania	Position:	A/Deputy Secretary
Phone:	Exempt - s 36	Phone:	Exempt - s 36
Date:	16 April 2026	Date:	25 May 2026

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING 2026

Youth Justice - Tasmania Legal Aid

Current as at: 20-May-2026

KEY MESSAGES

- Tasmania Legal Aid (TLA) are responsible for the majority of legal services to children and young people in Tasmania.
- From 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026, TLA provided 397 grants of aid and provided duty lawyer services for child and youth matters across all practice areas. In 2024-25, TLA provided 580 grants of aid and provided duty lawyer services for child and youth matters.
- TLA's duty lawyer service in Ashley Youth Detention Centre (AYDC) commenced in November 2024. Since its implementation the duty lawyer has worked with every child or youth in the centre who is a client of TLA, and additionally 40 children and young people who are either unrepresented or working with a private practitioner.
- TLA previously provided an after-hours duty lawyer service for youth across the state. These services are now provided by Hobart Community Legal Service through an SGF grant.

BUDGET INFORMATION

- TLA receives \$166,000 p/a for 4 years for the delivery of the Ashley Youth Detention Centre duty lawyer service. This funding is from the Commission of Inquiry funding and ceases in 2028.
- TLA received an SGF grant in 2024 of \$167,589.00 for a youth justice lawyer in the Magistrates Court Youth Justice Division. This funding was extended in the 2025 SGF round for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 financial years.

Prepared by:		Cleared by:	
Position:	Director, TLA	Position:	Deputy Secretary
Phone:	Exempt - s 36	Phone:	Exempt - s 36
Date:	15/04/2026	Date:	12 May 2026