

BUDGET ESTIMATES BRIEF

Subject:	Commission of Inquiry – Budget and Resourcing
Election Commitment:	N/A
Key Department Spokesperson:	Kristy Bourne, Secretary, Department of Justice

KEY MESSAGES

- The Government is now working to transition funding arrangements for Commission of Inquiry implementation work from specific project funding into the core business of agencies.
- This means we will see reductions in funding for specific projects, however, this does not mean the work will not be completed or that it is not being prioritised.
- I do acknowledge that we will have to make tough decisions to ensure this priority work is completed, and it may mean that other areas of business are deferred in favour of reforms to improve the safety and wellbeing of children.
- This Government remains committed to implementing the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry and doing everything we can to ensure Tasmanian children are safe and have every opportunity to thrive.

KEY FIGURES

- As part of the Government's Budget Repair, a number of initiatives previously funded have now had funding wound back with the initiatives to be incorporated into business as usual by agencies.
- COI initiative funding for the Department that has been reduced includes:
 - Audit Historical Records under the Abuse in State Care Program (\$462,000 reduction in 2025-26). Funding for this initiative has been

removed from 2025-26. As a result, this work will be undertaken by agencies from within existing resources as required.

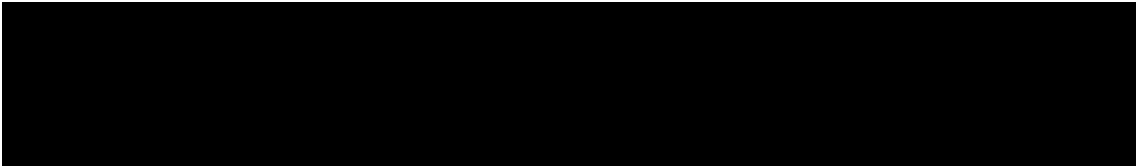
- Commission of Inquiry Legislative Program (\$780,000 reduction over two years). Funding for this initiative has been reduced from \$790,000 to \$400,000 in 2025-26 and 2026-27. The Department will reprioritise its existing resources to focus on the COI legislative reforms to ensure there are no delays.
- Implementation Taskforce (\$2.1 million reduction over three years). Funding for this initiative has been removed from 2025-26. The Department has absorbed the Taskforce into its Office of the Secretary with these resources to continue to prioritise Taskforce related work with the intention of embedding it within the Departmental.
- Make Justice a Child Safe Organisation (\$948,000 reduction in 2025-26). Funding for this initiative has been removed from 2025-26. The Department will prioritise the proposed initiatives within this funding allocation from within existing resources.
- Trauma Informed Apologies for Victim-Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse in Government Institutions (\$609,000 over three years). Funding for this initiative has been removed from 2025-26. These services will be delivered from within existing resources of the newly created Justice Support Services output.
- Treatment Programs for Offenders and Non-offenders (\$431,000 reduction in 2025-26). Funding for this initiative has been reduced from \$831,000 to \$400,000 in 2025-26. Due to the challenging nature of developing and then delivering new programs, the Department will be able to amend its recruitment activities to match this revised cashflow.

CURRENT RISKS AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES:

- As noted previously, the Department will deprioritise other work to ensure that COI response work is undertaken and completed within agreed timeframes.

BACKGROUND

- The Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings was established in March 2021 and delivered its Final Report on 31 August 2023, with 191 recommendations accepted in full by the former government. These are to be implemented in three phases (July 2024, July 2026, July 2029).
- The 2024-25 Budget committed \$42.75 million over four years to the Department of Justice for Commission implementation.
- The 2025-26 Budget increased funding to the Department to \$48.34 million.
- It is important to note that this increase is primarily the result of transferring allocations for independent statutory offices into the Justice portfolio, specifically:
 - Commission for Children and Young People (\$9.88 million)
 - Child Safety Implementation Reform Monitor (\$5.89 million)
 - Office of the Independent Regulator (\$16.92 million), which was not a Commission recommendation.



BUDGET ESTIMATES BRIEF

Subject:	Commission of Inquiry - Accountability and Reviews - Overview
Election Commitment:	N/A
Key Department Spokesperson:	Kristy Bourne, Secretary, Department of Justice

KEY MESSAGES

- *The Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings* (the Commission) was established in March 2021 and delivered its Final Report on 31 August 2023, with 191 recommendations accepted in full by the former government. These are to be implemented in three phases (July 2024, July 2026, July 2029).
- The Department of Justice has taken a leadership role by progressing immediate action, ensuring institutional accountability, and implementing systemic reform.
- My Department has established and led two major multi-agency initiatives - the Joint Safety and Accountability Team (JSAT) and the Joint Referral Review Team (JRRT) - to identify all individuals of concern, assess current risks to children and young people, and ensure referrals to law enforcement and regulatory authorities.
- Through JSAT and JRRT, the Department has reviewed thousands of documents, hundreds of allegations and Notices, identified 217 individuals of concern, and ensured that all matters were formally referred for investigation or employment action.
- All known risks to children and young people arising from the Commission's work have now been catalogued and referred, with the Department continuing to lead the implementation of reforms and safeguarding measures.

- This work has been reviewed by Mr Peter Woolcott as part of his review, which has confirmed that all relevant matters of concern identified through its comprehensive analysis of all sources have been captured through the work of JRRT.¹
- Additionally, my Department is coordinating or advising on multiple independent reviews, including the Tatarka Review, the TLRI Review and Part B of the Woolcott Review.

KEY FIGURES

JRRT

- The Commission of Inquiry provided 195 Section 34A Notices to Government agencies and regulators. A breakdown of these notices is as follows:
 - 71 Notices - Registration to Work with Vulnerable People
 - 60 Notices - Department for Education, Children and Young People
 - 52 Notices - Tasmania Police
 - 7 Notices - Teachers Registration Board
 - 5 Notices - Department of Health.
- No Section 34A Notices were received by the Integrity Commission or the Australian Federal Police. The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) advised the Department of Justice that it received information from the Commission on 10 occasions in respect of 8 individuals. AHPRA advised that it was appropriately actioning all matters, however, due to legal and privacy restrictions under Australian law it was unable to provide the Department of Justice with detail on these matters.

¹ Woolcott Review Report – page 52, section 3.4.4

JRRT further review figures

- The JRRT reviewed a total of 1,784 documents and found 311 draft 34A Notices and 644 final Section 34A Notices.
- Once all duplications of final Section 34A Notices were removed, the total number of Notices identified in the Commission's records was 237.
 - Of the 237, 23 Notices were sent to entities outside of the Tasmanian Government.
 - Of the 237 Notices, there were 19 Notices that were sent by the Commission to Tasmanian Government agencies that were not received by the JRRT in 2024.
 - of those 19 Notices, only 3 Notices are 'new' in that they are not recorded within the JRRT.
- The Department of Justice made targeted referrals to the relevant JRRT members of Tasmanian Government entities regarding the 19 Notices and the 3 new ones.

BACKGROUND

Department-led accountability projects

- Recognising the seriousness of the issues identified, the Department designed, established, and led a range of multi-agency projects to identify and address current risks arising from the Commission's findings. Two of which are highlighted below, due to their unprecedented scale, coordination, and immediacy of action.

Joint Safety and Accountability Team (JSAT)

(August - September 2023)

- The Department established the JSAT in the immediate aftermath of the Commission's Final Report to ensure that all alleged perpetrators of abuse named in the report were reviewed, and that all matters were referred to the appropriate authorities. The JSAT was a multi-agency team comprising representatives from Tasmania Police, regulatory agencies, and key government departments.
 - The JSAT reviewed 141 allegations of child sexual abuse and identified 34 alleged perpetrators across government institutions.
 - All matters were triaged and referred to Tasmania Police, relevant regulators, and employing agencies for action.
 - The JSAT's final report provided government with a clear baseline understanding of the extent of alleged abuse reported through the Commission and ensured immediate safeguarding responses were in place.
- This work was critical to the State's duty to act swiftly in response to any ongoing risks identified by the Commission and positioned the Department as a lead agency in driving a coordinated safeguarding response.

Joint Referral Review Team (JRRT)

(May - August 2024 and January - May 2025)

- To build on the JSAT's foundational work, the Department designed, established and led the JRRT - a multi-agency effort to assess and act on all formal Notices issued by the Commission.
- The JRRT brought together senior representatives from the Department of Justice, Department for Education, Children and Young People, Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management, Department of Health, and the Registration to Work with Vulnerable People scheme, with lesser involvement from all other State Service agencies.
- Key outcomes from the two phases of JRRT work include:
 - Phase 1 (May - Aug 2024)
 - identified and analysed 195 Section 34A Notices, confirming the identities of 214 individuals of concern

- ensured that all individuals were appropriately referred to Tasmania Police and/or relevant regulators
- identified that 29 individuals were current State Servants, triggering formal employment reviews
- provided the basis for DPAC's ongoing Routine Disclosures on employment outcomes.
- Phase 2 (Jan - May 2025)
 - reviewed over 1,700 Commission documents to verify the completeness of Section 34A referrals
 - located a further 42 Notices, bringing the total to 237 Notices and identifying an additional 3 individuals of concern (total 217)
 - ensured that all newly identified matters were referred to the appropriate authorities.
- The JRRT provided government with the assurance that all known risks had been fully catalogued and referred, including resolving discrepancies identified by the Woolcott Review. The Department's leadership ensured strong governance, collaboration, and accountability across agencies during this complex review.

Independent reviews involving the Department

- My Department is actively supporting and advising on several major reviews that address the legal and procedural barriers encountered by the Commission:
 - **Tatarka Review:** Investigated whether legal assistance provided to 27 public officers during the Commission should be reimbursed. Findings were made against 18 individuals, with procedural fairness processes currently underway (**see BEB 4. Commission of Inquiry – ED16 Review – Tatarka for more information**).
 - **TLRI Review:** Examined statutory constraints on the Commission's powers. My Department is currently preparing advice on the 14 recommendations made by the Review (**see BEB 18. TLRI Review of the Commissions of Inquiry Act 1995 and Evidence Act 2001 for more information**).
 - **Woolcott Review** (anticipated in August 2025): Investigates agency responses to Commission findings. The Department is engaged in supporting whole-of-government coordination (**see below for more information**).
 - **Blake Review:** Reviewed the actions of Heads of Agency. Findings did not support breaches of the Code of Conduct. The Department supported this work via interagency collaboration.

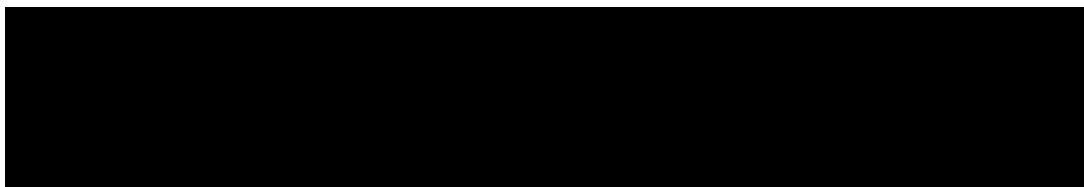
- **Weiss Review:** Reviewed allegations against a former police officer. All recommendations accepted by government. The Department contributed to coordination of the State response.

Woolcott Review

- The Woolcott Review has considered the actions and effectiveness of those actions by government agencies and other relevant authorities in response to the information and concerns raised by the Commission of Inquiry about Tasmanian State Service employees and officers. The Woolcott Review has:
 - examined policies and legislation related to misconduct in the Tasmanian State Service
 - assessed the response to the COI's concerns about Tasmanian State Service employees
 - recommended actions for policy or legislative non-compliance
 - made additional recommendations to improve responses to misconduct.
- Mr Peter Woolcott AO provided the Premier with a copy of Part A of his Report which was tabled in Parliament on 4 November 2025. Part B of the Report will be available later this year.

Alignment with other inquiries and reforms

- My Department also continues to support alignment of recommendations and reforms across multiple significant inquiries:
 - **Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse:** The Department is preparing advice on the implementation of its remaining 15 recommendations.
 - **DoE Inquiry and LGH Review:** Focused on historical and systemic failings in education and health systems.
 - **RTI Review:** The Department is supporting coordination of reforms to improve transparency and access to government information.



BUDGET ESTIMATES BRIEF

Subject:	Commission of Inquiry – Overview and Update
Election Commitment:	N/A
Key Department Spokesperson:	Kristy Bourne, Secretary, Department of Justice

KEY MESSAGES

- The *Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings* (Commission) was established on 15 March 2021 by Order of the Governor of Tasmania.
- The Report made 191 recommendations all of which a previous Government accepted in full.

Implementation Status Update

- Out of the 191 recommendations, the Department of Justice (Department) was initially responsible for implementing 36. However, my Department has now accepted responsibility for a further 12 recommendations and a number of additional sub-recommendations. This brings my Department's total to 48 recommendations.
- As of 31 October 2025, the Department has completed **19 of its 48** recommendations. However, the Commission for Children and Young People Bill 2025, which is currently being considered in this place, will **complete a further 8** recommendations if passed (**see Appendix C**).

New Implementation Dates

- The Government has now approved a change in how we will deliver the reform program. The main change is that we are moving from the original three phases of delivery to calendar years. This change will allow us to report more clearly on where we are up to and what the community can expect each year.

- As part of this process, my Department will be making some changes to when we implement recommendations.
- In summary, we will be delivering 4 recommendations later and bringing forward 11 for earlier implementation (**see Appendix A**).

Legislative Program Update

- In addition to progressing these 48 recommendations, my Department is leading the all-of-government legislative program for Commission recommendations – tasked with progressing all 54 recommendations requiring law reform.
 - The legislative program is led by a Steering Committee that includes membership from all agencies impacted by the work of the Commission.
 - The legislative program is a significant reform to the way that government designs and progresses law reform. This process embeds a collaborative structure into our legislative response – from the beginning.
- This is one of the largest reform programs ever undertaken in Tasmania and the successful delivery of these recommendations is one of the highest priorities of our Government, as part of our work to keep our children safe.
- So far, we have passed 5 Acts, 1 Regulation, and have a further 2 bills awaiting Royal Assent, and another Act before the Parliament for debate. This work represents 28 implemented recommendations. (**see Appendix C**)

Other Reviews and Reports:

- In addition to the recommendations of the Commission, my Department is also responsible for implementing recommendations from related reviews and inquiries, including the Commonwealth *Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse* (Royal Commission) and *Weiss Independent Review into Paul Reynolds* (Weiss Review).

KEY FIGURES

Budget Allocation

- Refer to (3. BEB – Corporate – Commission of Inquiry – Budget and Resourcing).

Cost of the Commission

- As of June 2024, the total cost of the Commission of Inquiry itself, expended in accordance with the *Commissions of Inquiry Act 1995* was assessed at \$27.4 million.
- This figure relates to the costs of the Commission itself and does not include costs associated with the Government's work to implement the recommendations.

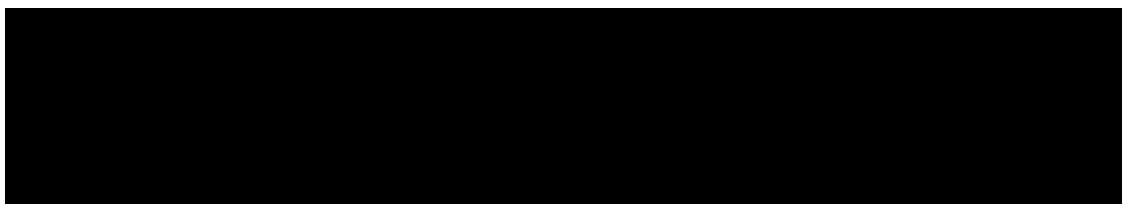
BACKGROUND

Royal Commission - Recommendations

- The Royal Commission made 409 recommendations. Of the 304 applicable to Tasmania, 238 are complete; and 66 are in progress. 15 of the 66 remaining recommendations are allocated to the Department of Justice.
- As part of the work related to the Commission of Inquiry, my Department is actively consolidating the remaining recommendations of the Royal Commission to implement alongside the recommendations of the Commission.
- The Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) is leading the work to coordinate the implementation of the remaining 66 recommendations across Government.

Weiss Review - Recommendations

- On 4 July 2024, the Tasmanian Commissioner of Police, Donna Adams APM, released the final report of the Weiss Review which examined the conduct of former Police Officer Paul Reynolds.
- The implementation of the recommendations is coordinated by DPAC, in conjunction with the Departments of Justice and Police, Fire and Emergency Management.
- The Weiss Review made 5 recommendations. The Department of Justice is leading the implementation of recommendation 5 – which is that consideration be given to making amendments to the *Integrity Commissioner Act 2009*, and seeking amendments to Commonwealth telecommunications interception legislation, to enhance the ability of the Integrity Commission to independently investigate sexual misconduct by Tasmania Police.
- This recommendation is currently being progressed alongside recommendation 18.11 of the Commission, and recommendation 11 of the 2016 *Independent Review of the Integrity Commission Act 2009* by the Honourable William Cox AC RFS ED KC.
- The Department will additionally assume responsibility for recommendations 1 and 2. We are currently working through those processes.



Appendix A: New Implementation Dates

Delayed Recommendations:

The following four recommendations will be delayed from their earlier delivery dates:

1. 12.02 – Building an AYDC memorial

This recommendation was due on 1 July 2026 but is being moved to 2028.

This date needs to change so that it aligns with the closure of AYDC. It would not be appropriate to build a memorial whilst the centre remains open.

2. 12.36 – CCYP Community Visitor Scheme

My Department has accepted the transfer of this recommendation from DECYP.

It was originally due for delivery on 1 July 2026. However, it must be delivered with 9.34 in 2029. Recommendation 9.34 is the establishment of the scheme, whereas 12.36 covers operational elements of how it will operate. Therefore, both recommendations will need to be delivered together.

3. 12.39 – Establishing the new CCYP as an oversight mechanism for the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture

It was originally due for delivery on 1 July 2026 but has now been moved to 2027. This is because it is a recommendation that must be led by the new CCYP, which is currently being considered by the Parliament. As such, the new CCYP should be given sufficient time to consider, develop and implement its preferred approach to 12.39.

4. 16.15 – Codifying Jury Directions

It was originally due for delivery on 1 July 2026 but has now been moved to 2027. This is primarily because my Department's full legislative resources have been diverted to other high priority projects such as the new CCYP.

This has resulted in difficult prioritisation decisions needing to be undertaken. As a result, jury directions will be re-prioritised to 2027.

A significant factor in this process is that the Commission's recommendation is about bring these directions together into legislation. It is not a situation where they are not being made, but rather they are given by Court under the common law – whereas the Commission recommended they be consolidated.

As a result, we determined that it would be appropriate to progress reforms that will have greater and more immediate impacts for children and young people – such as the new CCYP.

It is important to note that my Department has also accepted the transfer of recommendations 18.4 and 18.6 from DPAC. Both recommendations were due in 2024 and relate to the CCYP. My Department will complete these recommendations this year as part of the CCYP Bill.

Accelerated Recommendations:

The following 9 recommendations have been prioritised and will be delivered this year (2025):

(Brought forward from 2029)

1. 9.35 – Establish the Independent Child Advocate (CCYP)
2. 9.38 – Grant the new CCYP functions/powers for out of home care

(Brought forward from 2026)

3. 12.38 – New CCYP functions and powers
4. 18.09 – Joint Standing Committee to oversee the new CCYP
5. 18.11 – Integrity Commissions reforms – notification of serious misconduct
6. 18.15 – ISOWG MoU
7. 20.15 – Fund TIC to enable members to attend training
8. 9.37(2) – New CCYP has power to require DECYP to provide it with information about responses to allegations
9. 12.17(2) – New CCYP can review use of electronic surveillance in detention

In addition, we will bring forward from 2029:

10. 12.14(a) Bail reform – to 2026; and
11. 12.11(a)&(c) Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility to 2027.

Appendix B: Legislative Program Update

The following is a list of all completed (or close to completed) law reform projects:

1. **Child and Youth Safe Organisations Regulations 2023**

The Regulations came into effect as of 29 November 2023, prescribing the Ombudsman as an information sharing entity for the purpose of the *Child and Youth Safe Organisations Act 2023*. This completed recommendation 18.3.

2. **Child Safety Reform Implementation Monitor Act 2024**

The Act received Royal Assent on 5 July 2024, establishing the Child Safety Reform Implementation Monitor and completing recommendation 22.1.

3. **Justice Miscellaneous (Commission of Inquiry) Act 2024**

Amended nine Acts to implement recommendations and received Royal Assent on 2 October 2024.

Criminal law reforms contained within the Act addressed recommendations 16.9, 16.13, 16.14 and 16.18. Two Phase 2 recommendations, 16.13 and 16.14, were brought forward.

The Act also amended the Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Scheme, being recommendation 18.12, to provide statutory guidance on factors for risk assessments.

Finally, the Act fulfilled recommendation 17.5, amending the *Civil Liability Act 2002* to ensure that an apology in relation to child sexual abuse can be made without amounting to an admission of liability.

4. **Evidence (Children and Special Witnesses) Amendment Act 2024**

Amended the *Evidence (Children and Special Witnesses) Act 2001* to clarify when special measures are available to adult complainants in child sexual abuse trials. The Act received Royal Assent on 2 October 2024 and fulfilled recommendation 16.11(1).

5. **Judicial Commissions Act 2024**

Passed by Parliament on 13 December 2024 and awaits proclamation.

It amends the *Supreme Court Act 1887* to implement recommendation 16.16(b) – which states the Tasmanian Government should consider introducing legislation dealing with the responsibility of the Chief Justice regarding professional development and continuing education and training of judicial officers.

6. **Justice Miscellaneous (Reporting Procedures) Bill 2025**

Passed the Parliament on 3 June 2025 and awaits proclamation.

It amends the *Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Act 2013* to implement recommendation 19.6 to clarify that in addition to the duty to report in certain circumstances, any person can notify reportable behaviour to the registrar of the Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Scheme.

7. **Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (Additional Jurisdictions) Act 2025**

These reforms commenced on 1 July 2025, fulfilling recommendation 18.13.

This required replacing the Administrative Appeals Division of the Magistrates Court with the Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (TASCAT) as the forum for administrative reviews of decisions under the RWVP Act; and requiring TASCAT to support Tribunal members hearing administrative reviews of RWVP decisions to have requisite knowledge, skills, experience and aptitude, including in relation to child sexual abuse, neglect and family violence.

8. **Commission for Children and Young People Bill 2025**

Passed the House of Assembly on 4 November 2025 and the Government hopes it can pass the Legislative Council this year.

Recommendation 18.6 is the primary recommendation relating to the establishment of the CCYP including a new Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People and a Child Advocate. Recommendation 18.4 recommends that the Independent Regulator and Deputy Regulator are included as part of the new CCYP. This has been established in the Bill with transitional arrangements.

Recommendations 9.14, 9.33, 9.34, 9.45, 9.38, 12.17, 12.36, 12.38, 18.4, 18.5, 18.6, 18.7, 18.8, 18.9, are implemented by the Bill. It also establishes the statutory head of power for recommendation 9.34 which establishes the new community visitors program for out-of-home care and youth detention (due 1 July 2029). The operational details will be created by a regulation made under that head of power, in consultation with the new commissioners, once appointed.

9. **Commissions of Inquiry Amendment (Private Sessions Information) Bill 2025**

Passed Parliament on 5 November 2025 and will be taken to have commenced on 1 March 2021 once the Bill receives Royal Assent.

The Bill removes barriers to individuals accessing the information they want or for a private session with the Commission of Inquiry.

Appendix C: Recommendation Status Update

Rec #	Recommendation Summary	Timeframe		Update:	Status
		Original	Revised		
9.14	Appoint a Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People with statutory powers and functions to monitor the experiences of Aboriginal children in out of home care and youth detention.	1 July 2026	2026	Once the Commission for Children and Young People Bill 2025 passes both Houses of Parliament, the appointment process for the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People will commence in 2026.	In progress
9.33	Establish an independent Child Advocate, to be included in the Commission for Children and Young People (Recommendation 18.6), with responsibilities as outlined in full recommendation.	1 July 2026	2026	Once the Commission for Children and Young People Bill 2025 passes both Houses of Parliament, the appointment process for the Independent Child Advocate will commence in 2026.	In progress
9.34	Introduce legislation to establish an independent community visitor scheme for children in out of home care, youth detention and other residential youth justice facilities (as outlined).	1 July 2029	2029	The independent community visitor scheme is implemented by the Commission for Children and Young People Bill 2025, which was tabled on 24 September 2025. The full implementation of the Commission for Children and Young People Bill 2025 will take place in phases. The first phase on commencement of the Bill is the establishment of the Commission and appointment of the new Commissioner for Children and Young People. The second phase includes appointing the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People and the Child Advocate. Establishment of the independent visitor scheme is anticipated to occur in 2029.	In progress
9.35	Legislation establishing an independent Child Advocate should provide the Child Advocate with power to make a complaint to the Ombudsman on behalf of a child who is in out of home care, youth detention or another residential youth justice facility.	1 July 2029	2025	9.35 is implemented by the Commission for Children and Young People Bill 2025, which was tabled on 24 September 2025 and passed the House of Assembly in November 2025.	In progress

Rec #	Recommendation Summary	Timeframe		Update:	Status
		Original	Revised		
9.36	Introduce legislation to expand the jurisdiction of TasCAT to review decisions of DECYP in exercising guardianship powers.	1 July 2029	2029	The project remains on track for delivery in 2029.	In progress
9.37	DECYP should notify the Commission for Children and Young People of sexual abuse allegations in OOHC that fall outside the Reportable Conduct Scheme.	1 July 2026	2025 9.37 (2) 2026 9.37 (1)	Sub-recommendation 2 is implemented by the Commission for Children and Young People Bill 2025, which was tabled on 24 September 2025 and passed the House of Assembly in November 2025. Sub-recommendation 1 remains on track for 2026.	In progress
9.38	The Commission for Children and Young People should have the following functions in relation to out of home care (as outlined in full recommendation) to improve oversight of out of home care system.	1 July 2029	2025	Subsections 1 a – f are implemented by the Commission for Children and Young People Bill 2025, which was tabled on 24 September 2025 and passed the House of Assembly in November 2025.	In progress
12.2	Establish a memorial to victim-survivors who experienced abuse at the Centre.	1 July 2026	2028	The Government is committed to realising this Recommendation in a meaningful and sensitive way, with victim-survivors at the centre of the memorial's creation, including its specific location and form. A lived experience engagement approach to support this pivotal role is under development. However, it is not appropriate that a memorial is built while AYDC remains open. The recent announcement that AYDC will not close until '2028' means that the completion of a memorial will be unable to be achieved in 2026. As a result, this recommendation will be delivered in 2028.	In progress
12.3	Ensure no person who has been detained at Ashley Youth Detention Centre is detained or imprisoned in any	1 July 2026	2025	Completed	Completed

Rec #	Recommendation Summary	Timeframe		Update:	Status
		Original	Revised		
	redeveloped facility at the same site unless the person expresses a preference for this to occur.				
12.5	Conduct an audit of all past and current child abuse allegations in state care and youth detention, add identified staff or carers to a misconduct register. Share all relevant information with authorities, improve information-sharing frameworks, support victim-survivors, and remove barriers to effective information sharing.	1 July 2026	2026	The historical audit under 12.05(a) remains on track for completion by the end of the 2026 calendar year.	In progress
12.11	Introduce legislation to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to 14, develop tailored community-based support services for children under 14 exhibiting antisocial behaviour, and work towards raising the minimum age of detention to 16 by creating alternatives for 14- and 15-year-olds found guilty of serious violent offences.	1 July 2029	2027	12.11(a) and (c) are on track to be delivered in the 2027 calendar year in alignment with 12.11(b) as progressed by DECYP. Minimum age of criminal responsibility amendment provisions will be complex. They will likely require not only a change to the age of criminal responsibility itself in the Criminal Code, but associated amendments of greater complexity regarding a potential new recruitment offence for adults exploiting children; expunging/destroying criminal/ forensic/intelligence records; new police powers; retaining victim supports; and transitional issues for children who are or have been subject to the youth justice system (e.g. annulling orders and proceedings, and likely clarifying previous detention of children under 14 does not in itself create any right to compensation. 12.11(a) and (c) cannot be implemented until 12.11(b) (programs and system changes) is fulfilled and operationally ready. 12.11(b) requires prioritisation to ensure the success of the new youth justice facility and closure of Ashley Youth Detention Centre.	In progress
12.14	To maximise opportunities for children and young people to be admitted to bail and minimise the number of	1 July 2029	2026 (a)	This work requires prioritisation to ensure the success of the new youth justice facility and closure of Ashley Youth Detention Centre.	In progress

Rec #	Recommendation Summary	Timeframe		Update:	Status
		Original	Revised		
	children and young people on remand, the Tasmanian Government should introduce legislation to bail decisions consider alternative options by resourcing bail support programs and accommodation.		2027 (b, c, d)	It is anticipated that a Bill to implement 12.14(a) will be introduced into Parliament in early 2026.	
12.15	Amend youth justice legislation to make rehabilitation the primary purpose of sentencing children, ensure detention is used only as a last resort, require courts to consider trauma, developmental factors, and cultural background.	1 July 2029	2027 12.15(a)-(b) 2029 12.15(c)-(e)	Review of the Youth Justice Act addresses both 2026 and 2029 COI recommendations. One comprehensive review of the Act is recommended to deliver the Government's Youth Justice Blueprint 2024 – 2034 (the Youth Justice Blueprint), the commitment to close Ashley Youth Detention Centre (AYDC), the Disability Royal Commission recommendations, the National Closing the Gap Agreement, and addressing all relevant COI recommendations. This reflects the most efficient way to ensure operational support of the new Facility and a legislative framework that is fit-for-purpose. This recommendation will be brought forward to 2027 to facilitate this comprehensive review, with a Bill to be tabled in Parliament in Autumn 2027. This advice is supported by Office of the Parliamentary Counsel who advise against management in tranches. 12.15(c)-(e) remains on track for delivery in 2029.	In progress
12.17	Implement reforms to enhance the safety of children and young people in AYDC and any new detention facility (as outlined).	1 July 2026	2025 12.17(2) 2026 12.17(1)	Sub-recommendation (2) is implemented by the Commission for Children and Young People Bill 2025, which was tabled on 24 September 2025 and passed the House of Assembly in November 2025. Sub-recommendation 12.17(1) is on track for 2026 delivery.	In progress
12.36	Establish and resource the new independent community visitor scheme as outlined.	1 July 2026	2029	12.36 is an operational aspect of Rec 9.34 and needs to be aligned with the appointment and establishment of the new Child Advocate, who will lead the independent community visitor	In progress

Rec #	Recommendation Summary	Timeframe		Update:	Status
		Original	Revised		
				scheme. The new delivery date will provide the Child Advocate with adequate time to scale up this project.	
12.38	Outlines functions, powers and resourcing required by the Commission for Children and Young People in relation to monitoring operation of youth detention centres, other residential youth justice facilities and children in adult prison facilities.	1 July 2026	2025	12.38 is implemented by the Commission for Children and Young People Bill 2025, which was tabled on 24 September 2025 and passed the House of Assembly in November 2025.	In progress
12.39	Appoint the Commission for Children and Young People as an additional National Preventative Mechanism under the United Nations Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT).	1 July 2026	2027	This recommendation will be led by the new CCYP following its establishment. The Department of Justice will work with the new CCYP to progress legislation or subordinate legislation required to implement the recommendation – however, the operationalisation and implementation is a matter for the new independent entity.	In progress
15.21	The Tasmanian Government should ensure a review of the Health Complaints Act 1995 is completed and considers the role of the Health Complaints Commissioner (as outlined).	1 July 2029	2029	The project remains on track for delivery in 2029.	In progress
16.9	Introduce legislation to amend Criminal Code 1924 sections 125A, 124A, 125E.	1 July 2024	2024	Completed	Completed
16.10	Introduce legislation to expand the Witness Intermediary Scheme.	1 July 2026	2026	The project remains on track for delivery in 2026.	In progress
16.11	Introduce legislation to amend the Evidence (Children and Special Witnesses) Act 2001.	1 July 2024	2024	Completed	Completed
16.12	The Tasmanian Government should update audiovisual equipment and provide ongoing training for relevant staff on use of this equipment for the Supreme and Magistrates Courts.	1 July 2026	2026	The audiovisual and digital recording update program is progressing strongly. With 11 of 16 projects completed, one newly underway, and all others scheduled or in advanced pilot phases, the program is on track to deliver under time and with enhanced outcomes.	In progress

Rec #	Recommendation Summary	Timeframe		Update:	Status
		Original	Revised		
16.13	Introduce legislation to extend the principles of section 13B of the Family Violence Act 2004 to sexual assault matters, including child sexual abuse.	1 July 2026	2024	Completed	Completed
16.14	Amend the Criminal Code Act 1924 (including section 361A) in similar terms to sections 199, 204 and 205 of the Criminal Procedure Act 2009 (Vic).	1 July 2026	2024	Completed	Completed
16.15	Introduce and amend legislation to require judges to give directions to juries to better understand evidentiary difficulties and complexity of CSA evidence.	1 July 2026	2027	16.15 has been deferred in favour of high priority reform such as the new CCYP and integrity reforms. Accordingly, it is unlikely the recommendation will be delivered by the end of Phase 2 but will be delivered in the 2027 calendar year. It is important to note that the existing law and judicial discretion as to the use of directions to juries in criminal trials remains in force while this recommendation is progressed.	In progress
16.16	Fund the Supreme Court to support the professional development of judicial officers on the dynamics of child sexual abuse and trauma-informed practice.	1 July 2026	2026	Completed	Completed
16.17	Ensure preventive programs for adults who are at risk of abusing, or have abused, children are available beyond the custodial setting.	1 July 2026	2026	The project remains on track for delivery in 2026.	In progress
16.18	Introduce legislation to change the language of consent in child sexual abuse cases.	1 July 2024	2024	Completed	Completed
16.19	Courts to consider using their powers to direct young people.	1 July 2024	2024	Completed	Completed
16.20	Prioritise collecting and publishing key data about institutional child sexual abuse and improve data collections.	1 July 2026	2026 16.20(1)	The Sentencing Advisory Council is an independent advisory body that is responsible for sub-recommendation 16.20(2) which has advised this work will be completed in 2027.	In progress

Rec #	Recommendation Summary	Timeframe		Update:	Status
		Original	Revised		
			2027 16.20(2)		
17.1	The Tasmanian Government should ensure all victim-survivors of child sexual abuse in government institutions can access a redress scheme regardless of when the abuse occurred or their criminal history, advocate for national reforms to expand redress eligibility, and, if needed, establish its own ongoing, trauma-informed scheme that incorporates best practices and facilitates information sharing to protect children.	1 July 2029	2029	The project remains on track for delivery in 2029 once the National Redress Scheme concludes.	In progress
17.2	Ensure all lawyers who act for the Tasmanian Government in civil claims relating to child sexual abuse receive regular professional development.	1 July 2026	2026	The project remains on track for delivery in 2026.	In progress
17.3	Attorney-General should issue guidelines to clarify respective roles of the Solicitor-General and agency heads where Tasmanian Government agencies are engaged in civil litigation on child sexual abuse.	1 July 2024	2024	Completed	Completed
17.4	The Tasmanian Government should take proactive steps to ensure individual victim-survivors of child sexual abuse who request an apology receive one.	1 July 2024	2024	Completed	Completed
17.5	Introduce legislation to amend the Civil Liability Act 2002 to ensure that an apology in relation to CSA can be made without an admission of guilt.	1 July 2024	2024	Completed	Completed
17.6	Ensure that processes to support victims of crime are handled in a timely, sensitive and trauma-informed manner.	1 July 2026	2025	Completed	Completed

Rec #	Recommendation Summary	Timeframe		Update:	Status
		Original	Revised		
17.7	Introduce legislation to amend the Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1976 to create a right of review on the merits by the Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal in relation to a decision of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Commissioner.	1 July 2026	2026	The project remains on track for delivery in 2026.	In progress
17.8	Review and reform the Right to Information Act 2009 and the Personal Information Protection Act 2004 to ensure victim-survivors of CSA in institutional contexts can obtain information relating to that abuse.	1 July 2026	2026	The Final Report of the JLN Review titled Getting Back on Track was published in September 2025. The findings and recommendations of this Report are currently being considered. Given the need for broad consultation, there may be challenges in meeting the recommended implementation timeframe of July 2026, however, it will be able to be delivered in the 2026 calendar year.	In progress
18.3	Ensure the Ombudsman is prescribed as an entity for the purposes of disclosure of information under section 40 of the Child and Youth Safe Organisations Act 2023.	1 July 2024	2024	Completed	Completed
18.4	The new Commission for Children and Young People is sufficiently resourced and embeds functions prescribed in the Child and Youth Safe Organisations Act 2023.	1 July 2024	2025	18.04 is implemented by the Commission for Children and Young People Bill 2025, which was tabled in Parliament on 24 September 2025 and passed the House of Assembly in November 2025. This recommendation was transferred from DPAC to DOJ for completion.	In progress
18.6	Establish a statutory Commission for Children and Young People.	1 July 2024	2025	18.6 is implemented by the Commission for Children and Young People Bill 2025, which was tabled in Parliament on 24 September 2025 and passed the House of Assembly in November 2025.	In progress

Rec #	Recommendation Summary	Timeframe		Update:	Status
		Original	Revised		
				This recommendation was transferred from DPAC to DOJ for completion.	
18.7	Ensure the process outlined for appointing future Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners for Children and Young People is adopted.	1 July 2024	2024	Completed	Completed
18.8	Ensure the Commission for Children and Young People is separately and directly funded, and the Commission has power to control its budget and staffing.	1 July 2026	2026	While the new CCYP will be created as a separate agency as part of the new legislation, it can only receive funding through an Appropriation Act. As a result, until an Appropriation Act is passed, any required funding to establish the new Commission, such as the new Commissioner for Children and Young People's salary, will be paid by the Department from establishment funding. July 2026 is the likely date for a supplementary Appropriation Bill.	In progress
18.9	A joint standing committee of the Tasmanian Parliament should oversee the performance and proper execution of functions of the Commission for Children and Young People.	1 July 2026	2025	18.09 is implemented by the Commission for Children and Young People Bill 2025, which was tabled in the House of Assembly on 24 September 2025 and passed the House of Assembly in November 2025.	In progress
18.11	Implement Recommendation 11 of the Independent Reviewer's 2016 Report Independent Review of the Integrity Commission Act 2009.	1 July 2026	2025	The project remains on track for delivery in 2025.	In progress
18.12	Introduce legislation or regulations to provide statutory guidance to the Registrar of the Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Scheme on conducting risk assessments.	1 July 2024	2024	Completed	Completed
18.13	Introduce legislation to amend Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Act 2013 to make TasCAT the forum for administrative review.	1 July 2024	2024	Completed	Completed

Rec #	Recommendation Summary	Timeframe		Update:	Status
		Original	Revised		
18.14	Develop user friendly guidelines to explain how oversight bodies jointly work together.	1 July 2024	2024	Completed	Completed
18.15	The Commission for Children and Young People, the Integrity Commission, the Ombudsman and the Registrar of the Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Scheme should develop a formal memorandum of understanding relating to the management and oversight off reports, complaints and concerns relating to child sexual abuse and information sharing.	1 July 2026	2025	This recommendation was completed in this reporting period.	Completed
19.6	Introduce legislation to amend the Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Act 2013 to clarify that any person can notify reportable behaviour to the Registrar of the Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Scheme.	1 July 2026	2025	Completed	Completed
19.7	Review confidentiality and secrecy provisions in Tasmanian legislation to identify any specific legislative barriers that hinder the sharing of information necessary to protect the safety and wellbeing of children and young people and remove these barriers.	1 July 2029	2029	This project remains on track for delivery in 2029.	In progress
20.15	Fund the Tasmanian Industrial Commission to enable its members to attend training on child sexual abuse.	1 July 2026	2025	This recommendation was completed in this reporting period.	Completed
21.5	Increase the capacity of the Victims of Crime Service.	1 July 2026	2025	Completed	Completed

BUDGET ESTIMATES BRIEF

Subject:	Budget Efficiency Dividend
Election Commitment:	N/A
Key Department Spokesperson:	Deputy Secretary, Strategy, Governance and Major Projects

KEY MESSAGES & FIGURES

- As part of the 2024-25 State Budget, the Department was allocated an annual Budget Efficiency Dividend (BED) across all portfolios commencing at 1.12% of appropriation in 2024-25 and rising to 3.39% in 2026-27. This equates to budget efficiencies of \$25.7 million in 2024-25 and across the forward estimates:
 - \$2.9 million in 2024-25
 - \$5.7 million in 2025-26
 - \$8.6 million in 2026-27 and ongoing.
- Further BEDs were allocated to the Department in the 2025-26 Budget to reduce expenditure on agency marketing, communications, office and leasing costs and generate cost reductions through improved procurement processes. The additional BEDs require further savings of:
 - \$346,000 in 2025-26
 - \$692,000 in 2026-27 and ongoing.
- This takes the Department's total required BEDs to \$9.3 million per annum from 2026-27.
- The Department has developed and implemented a number of BEDs that will impact all outputs and ministerial portfolios. These strategies were proposed on the basis that they have the least effect on service delivery to the Tasmanian community, rather than being calculated and allocated evenly across various ministerial portfolios.

- The Department's BEDs aim to reduce costs while maintaining service delivery (noting more information on each specific BED is available below):

BEDs continuing in 2025-26 (commenced in 2024-25)

- IT End User Agreement Licensing - \$159,000
- MS Teams phone implementation program - **Exempt under s 27** (\$50,000 in 2024-25)
- PC fleet leasing and licensing efficiencies - **Exempt under s 27** (\$50,000 in 2024-25)
- Vehicle fleet reduction - **Exempt under s 27** (\$25,000 in 2024-25)
- Tasmanian Industrial Commission savings - \$50,000
- Tasmanian Planning Commission savings - \$100,000
- Enforcement of Monetary Penalties (MPES) savings - \$100,000
- Mobile phone utilisation efficiencies - \$40,000
- Office of the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner training revenue - \$100,000
- Burnie Police out of Courts - Magistrates Court - \$100,000
- Long Leave Funding reduction - \$100,000
- Safe at Home - **Exempt under s 27** (\$44,000 in 2024-25)
- Tasmania Legal Aid - **Exempt under s 27** (\$104,000 in 2024-25)
- A blanket 2% reduction for all outputs - **Exempt under s 27** (\$1.8 million in 2024-25). This involves a number of strategies undertaken across all outputs such as delayed recruitment for vacancies, review and consolidation of contracts to get the best value, centralisation of tasks and operating at a reduced capacity.

BEDs commencing in 2025-26

- Retained revenue utilisation - \$500,000. The Department is able to retain revenues collected in accordance with a number of pieces of legislation. These funds will be used to support broader functions, thereby facilitating a reduction in appropriation required.

BEDs to commence in 2026-27

- Exempt under s 27

[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

- The Department will continue to be flexible and adaptable about other BED opportunities that present in the future, whereby alternate savings can be achieved, while still maintaining minimal impact on services provided to the Tasmanian community.
- The Department achieved its BEDs overall in 2024-25, however, continuing increasing demand pressures and complexities resulted in requests for additional funds for several outputs in 2024-25, primarily related to ongoing Tasmania Prison Service cost pressures and redress and civil claims related to child sexual abuse in state care (refer to the Public Account - Budget Outcome 2024-25 BEB).

Delivery of 2024-25 BEDs

- As of 30 June 2025, the Department had completed the majority of its 2024-25 BEDs, with incomplete strategies being balanced out by additional vacancy control across the Department.

PROGRESS OF INDIVIDUAL 2024-25 BEDs

Budget Efficiency Strategies	2024-25 \$'000	Status
IT End User Agreement Licensing	159	Achieved
MS Teams phone implementation program	50	Delayed
PC fleet leasing and licencing efficiencies	50	Achieved
Vehicle fleet reduction	25	Delayed
Tasmanian Industrial Commission Savings	50	Achieved
Tasmania Planning Commission savings	100	Achieved
Enforcement of Monetary Penalties (MPES) savings	100	Achieved
Mobile phone utilisation efficiencies	40	Delayed
Office of the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner Training Revenue	100	Delayed
Burnie Police out of Courts - Magistrates Court	100	Achieved
Long Leave Funding reduction	100	Achieved
Safe at Home	44	Achieved
Tasmania Legal Aid	104	Achieved
Blanket 2% reduction for all outputs	1,833	Achieved
Total	2,855	

Delayed BEDs

- Four BEDs were delayed for the following reasons:

- Exempt under s 27

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- Exempt under s 27

Vacancy control management

- As at 30 June 2025, the Department had:
 - approved FTE positions of 1,846.6
 - these include 500 FTE positions for correctional staff
 - FTE allocated to those positions of 1,587.2
 - resulting in 259.4 vacant FTE positions (including 39.3 correctional officers)
- The Department knows that it will have vacancies throughout each year due to natural attrition and has robust processes in place for the recruitment of all positions, including requiring HR, finance and executive approvals before any position can be advertised.
- The Department's approved positions change regularly as a result of new funding, the completion of funding, the commencement and completion of projects, restructuring, and reacting to changes in demand for services by the Tasmanian community.

BACKGROUND:

- As part of his Budget Speech to deliver the 2023-24 State Budget, the Hon Michael Ferguson, former Treasurer, outlined that the Government was reintroducing an efficiency dividend, to commence in 2024-25, starting at 0.6% of total government expenditure and increasing over the forward estimates to 1.8% in 2026-27.
- Treasury issued the following principles for Department savings measures:
 - must be achievable in both the short and long term
 - must be allocated to activities and costs within the control or influence of the Department
 - must consider operational impacts
 - must not negatively impact on the outcomes of frontline services
 - must be able to be reliably reported to the Budget Committee.
- The Department delivers a number of services to the Tasmanian public across all of its outputs which will make ensuring there is no negative impact on the outcomes of frontline services very challenging.
- Strategies were developed to have the least impact on service delivery to the Tasmanian community.
- The Department's BEDs approved by Ministers are summarised in the following table:

Budget Efficiency Strategies	Portfolio	Efficiencies Generated			
		2024-25 \$'000	2025-26 \$'000	2026-27 \$'000	2027-28 \$'000
IT End User Agreement Licensing	All portfolios	159	 Enough under s 27		
MS Teams phone implementation program	All portfolios	50	 Enough under s 27		
PC fleet leasing and licencing efficiencies	All portfolios	50	 Enough under s 27		
Vehicle fleet reduction	All portfolios	25	 Enough under s 27		50
Tasmanian Industrial Commission Savings	Justice	50	 Enough under s 27		
Tasmania Planning Commission savings	Housing and Planning	100	 Enough under s 27		

Budget Efficiency Strategies	Portfolio	Efficiencies Generated			
		2024-25 \$'000	2025-26 \$'000	2026-27 \$'000	2027-28 \$'000
Enforcement of Monetary Penalties (MPES) savings	Justice	100	Exempt under s 27		
Mobile phone utilisation efficiencies	All portfolios	40	Exempt under s 27		
Office of the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner Training Revenue	Justice	100	Exempt under s 27		
Burnie Police out of Courts - Magistrates Court	Justice	100	Exempt under s 27		
Long Leave Funding reduction	All portfolios	100	Exempt under s 27		
Safe at Home ¹	Justice	44	Exempt under s 27		
Tasmania Legal Aid ¹	Justice	104	Exempt under s 27		
Blanket 2% reduction for all outputs	All portfolios	1,833	Exempt under s 27		
Exempt under s 27		-	Exempt under s 27		
Exempt under s 27		-	-	Exempt under s 27	
Exempt under s 27		-	-	Exempt under s 27	
Total		2,855	Exempt under s 27		

Notes:

1. The Safe at Home and Tasmania Legal Aid strategies are exempt from the up to 2% reduction for all outputs to ensure there is no 'double dipping'.

IT End User Agreement Licensing

- The Department has invested in a new service management system for our ICT, among other service delivery benefits, which will enable the Department to better manage licences for various software systems, including Microsoft licences, leading to a reduction in costs.
- Achievement of this measure will not affect service delivery.
- Estimated savings of \$159,000 per annum.
- This BED has been **achieved**.

MS Teams Phone Implementation Program

- With the whole-of-government contract for desk phones used within the Department due to end, the Department will now be able to utilise MS Teams for phone calls at a lower cost than the rental of desk phones. Treasury and DPAC have already undertaken this transition successfully and the Department expects to be able to convert a high percentage of desk phones to MS Teams.
- A number of outputs across the Department have commenced utilising MS Teams for phone calls during 2024-25. The Department will continue to transition individual outputs to MS Teams for the remainder of 2024-25 and into 2026-27.
- Achievement of this measure will not affect service delivery.
- Estimated savings of \$50,000 in 2024-25, **Exempt under s 27**
- This BED has been **delayed** due to **Exempt under s 27**.

PC Fleet Leasing and Licensing Efficiencies

- The Department's new Service Management System is assisting ICT with the management of PCs and associated hardware. Minor rationalisations of equipment leasing in 2024-25 are expected to increase into 2025-26.
- Achievement of this measure will not affect service delivery.
- Estimated savings of \$50,000 in 2024-25, **Exempt under s 27**
- This BED has been **achieved**.

Vehicle Fleet Reduction

- The Department is continuing to review its vehicle fleet, reducing the number of vehicles.
- Achievement of this measure will not affect service delivery.
- Estimated savings of \$25,000 in 2024-25, **Exempt under s 27**
- This BED has been **delayed** due to **Exempt under s 27**

Tasmanian Industrial Commission

- The Tasmanian Industrial Commission regularly operates within its annual appropriation allocation. Funding allocated was reduced in 2024-25.

- Achievement of this measure will not affect service delivery.
- Estimated savings of \$50,000 per annum from 2024-25.
- This BED has been **achieved**.

Tasmanian Planning Commission

- The Tasmanian Planning Commission regularly operates within its annual appropriation allocation, resulting in a reduction of funding allocated.
- Achievement of this measure will not affect service delivery.
- Estimated savings of \$100,000 per annum in 2024-25, **Exempt under s 27**
[REDACTED]
- This BED has been **achieved**.

Enforcement of Monetary Penalties Savings

- MPES regularly operates within its budget, while achieving a collection rate of greater than 100% of debt referrals for collection.
- Achievement of this measure will not affect service delivery.
- Estimated savings of \$100,000 per annum from 2024-25.
- This BED has been **achieved**.

Mobile Phone Utilisation Efficiencies

- The Department has achieved minor cost savings through improved mobile phone management practices, exercising greater rigour around the allocation of mobile phones to staff who need them, and the actual model of phone permitted to be purchased.
- Achievement of this measure will not affect service delivery.
- Estimated savings of \$40,000 per annum from 2024-25.
- This BED has been **delayed** due to **Exempt under s 27**
[REDACTED]

Office of the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner Training Revenue

- The Office of the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner (OADC) has the ability to charge fees for training. By refocussing part of its business, OADC should be able to partly self-fund its operations with only minimal impacts.
- Achievement of this measure will only have a minor effect on service delivery.
- Estimated savings of \$100,000 per annum from 2024-25.

- This BED has been **delayed** due to **Exempt under s 27**

Burnie Police out of Courts – Magistrates Court

- The Department's funding allocation for the Burnie Police out of Courts initiative included funding for court security in both the Supreme and Magistrates Courts. The Department has identified some minor savings in the direct court security costs included within this funding that has been reduced from the Department's funding allocation for this initiative.
- Achievement of this measure will not affect service delivery.
- Estimated savings of \$100,000 per annum from 2024-25.
- This BED has been **achieved**.

Long Leave Funding Reduction

- The Department holds funds centrally (through a Long Leave Fund) to enable outputs to backfill staff taking long periods of leave, both planned and unplanned. Reduction in this funding has reduced the Department's ability to backfill positions that are vacant due to long leave, with outputs being encouraged to manage long leave proactively.
- Achievement of this measure will only have a minor effect on service delivery.
- Estimated savings of \$100,000 per annum.
- This BED has been **achieved**.

Safe at Home

- The Department holds funding to deliver the Safe at Home Family Violence Service System for Justice and external agencies. These grant payments will be reduced in line with the savings rate allocated for the rest of the Department.
- Achievement of this measure will impact on the services provided to the Tasmanian community.
- Estimated savings of \$44,000 in 2024-25. **Exempt under s 27**
- This BED has been **achieved**.

Tasmania Legal Aid

- The Department makes grant payments to Tasmania Legal Aid to fund its operations. Grant payments have been reduced in line with the savings rate allocated for the rest of the Department.

- Achievement of this measure will impact on the services provided to the Tasmanian Community.
- Estimated savings of \$104,000 in 2024-25, **Exempt under s 27** [REDACTED].
- This BED has been **achieved**.

Blanket 2% Reduction for all Outputs

- This measure involves a number of strategies undertaken across all outputs such as delayed recruitment for vacancies, review and consolidation of contracts to get the best value, centralisation of tasks and operating at a reduced capacity. The Government's current hiring freeze is working in conjunction with this initiative.
- Achievement of this measure will impact on the services provided to the Tasmanian community.
- Estimated savings of \$1.8 million in 2024-25, **Exempt under s 27** [REDACTED].
- This BED has been **achieved for 2024-25**.

Exempt under s 27 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- Exempt under s 27 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

BUDGET ESTIMATES BRIEF

Subject:	Gender Recognition on Birth Certificates
Election Commitment:	N/A
Key Department Spokesperson:	Ann Owen, Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages

KEY MESSAGES

- Since September 2019, the *Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1999* has provided for the registration of gender for individuals whose birth is registered in Tasmania. The process involves the completion of a gender declaration statement.
- The legislation also enables a person to choose whether they wish gender and change of names details to be displayed on their birth certificate.
- The gender registration fee is \$231.11 (121 fee units). Applicants suffering financial hardship can apply for a fee waiver.

KEY FIGURES

Registration information

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Adult (over 16) gender registrations	47	67	45
Child (under 16) gender registrations	4	3	0

Breakdown of genders

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Male	16	20	9
Female	28	41	29
Non-binary	5	8	5
Other approved term*	2	1	2

*BDM does not release registration details where the number is less than five to avoid the risk of a person being identified.

Birth certificates issued

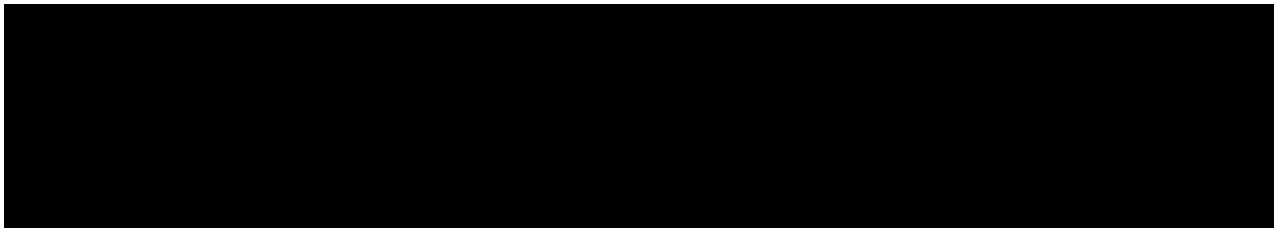
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Number of certificates issued without gender	2,028	2,358	2,454
Number of certificates issued with gender	18,903	19,062	18,123

Certificates issued at birth

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Births registered	5,901	5,558	5,600
Number of parent/s who ordered a certificate at the time of registration	4,662	4,348	4,406
Number of parent/s who ordered a certificate without gender	73	87	67

BACKGROUND

- On 10 April 2019, the Justice and Related (Marriage and Gender Amendments) Bill passed through Parliament. It received Royal Assent on 8 May 2019. The legislation took effect on 5 September 2019.
- The amended *Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1999* enables a person over 16 years who is born in Tasmania to register their gender by making a 'gender declaration'. Parents of a child (under 16 years) can also register the gender of their child.
- The legislation provides for the registration of the following gender categories: male, female, indeterminate gender, non-binary and other approved terms that indicate a person is neither entirely male nor female. There is no prescribed list of genders.
- BDM staff regularly participate in relevant diversity awareness training.
- The Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages has developed guidelines for staff and applicants about the assessment and processing of gender registration applications, which are reviewed and updated on an ongoing basis.



BUDGET ESTIMATES BRIEF

Subject:	Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal Budget and Performance
Election Commitment:	N/A
Key Department Spokesperson:	Jarrold Bryan, Principal Registrar TASCAT

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 ranging from guardianship and mental health matters under the Protective Division to personal compensation, planning and resources, anti-discrimination, forestry and health practitioners' matters under the General Division. 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.
- In the 2024-25 financial year, TASCAT implemented the following legislative and policy reforms:
 - Civil and Consumer Stream
 - On 1 July 2024 the new *Residential Building Work Contracts and Disputes Resolution Act 2016* reforms were proclaimed and commenced. This reform included the creation of a new stream for the Tribunal, the Civil and Consumer stream. This new stream will allow

other civil and consumer jurisdictions to be conferred on the Tribunal in an appropriately dedicated stream of the General Division.

- In addition to existing members of the Tribunal, there have been two appointment processes of members to the Tribunal that have provided members with expertise relevant to the *Residential Building Work Contracts and Disputes Resolution Act 2016*. Overall, the Tribunal has six members with expertise directly relevant to this jurisdiction including building surveying, architecture, engineering, and legal expertise in building disputes.
 - There was no dedicated funding allocated to the new Civil and Consumer stream in the previous financial year.

Guardianship reforms

- The Tribunal attended to education and training for members, registry staff and external agencies in preparation for the commencement of the tranche 2 reforms to the *Guardianship and Administration Act 1995* which commenced on 1 September 2024, together with attending to the required changes to forms, guides and hearing processes, including the creation of a transition guide for parties.
- The Tribunal published seven 'Easy Read' guides in relation to the Guardianship and Mental Health streams to provide greater access to justice to persons who appear before the Tribunal.
- The Tribunal introduced a new payment option for lodgements of instruments appointing, or revoking, an enduring guardian, as well as for searches of the register. This new option allows for payments to be made directly to the Tribunal rather than only being able to make payments through Service Tasmania.

Case management system

- The Tribunal has received support from the Department of Justice to commence work on its new case management system with the first stage of the project commencing in July 2025.

Launceston Registry

- A new registry and hearing rooms in Launceston on Level 3, 67-69 Brisbane Street were completed in May 2025. The new premises will

have a permanent staffing presence to improve access to justice and Tribunal services in the north of the state. The new premises are based on the Hobart premises and will have equivalent state of art IT/AV systems.

Additional Jurisdictions reform

- In April 2025 the Tasmanian Parliament passed the Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (Additional Jurisdictions) Bill 2024. This legislation will confer new jurisdictions on the Tribunal as well as modify its existing statutory structure:
 - It creates three new streams and moves two existing streams into the new structure. The three new streams are the Administrative stream, the Occupational and Disciplinary stream and the Community, Children and Families stream. The Health Practitioners stream will be moved into the Occupational and Disciplinary stream. The Forestry Practices stream will be moved into the Resource and Planning stream. Both of those streams will still preserve all their existing legal settings and requirements.
 - The Bill amalgamates the Property Agents Tribunal into the Tribunal and forms part of the Occupational and Disciplinary stream.
 - The Bill transfers a large number of review rights from the Administrative Appeals Division (AAD) of the Magistrates Court to the Tribunal. 64 Acts from the AAD will now fall under the Tribunal.
 - The Bill transfers appeal rights from decisions of the Police Review Board from the Supreme Court to the Tribunal and that jurisdiction will be located in the Occupational and Disciplinary stream.
 - The Bill also implements one of the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry by giving the Tribunal jurisdiction over appeals in relation to the *Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Act 2013* decisions. This is in accord with recommendation 18.13 of the Commission's Report.
- In addition to reappointed Members, additional Members were appointed to the Tribunal in 2024-25, including a full time Deputy President, a Senior Member, an Ordinary Member, three Senior sessional Members and 15 Ordinary sessional Members. These Members bring a broad range of experience and knowledge across many fields and backgrounds.

- The Tribunal has received a significant increase in applications for Treatment Orders in the Mental Health Stream. From 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 the Tribunal has received a 30.25% increase in filings from the previous financial year. (For additional information see BEB - Significant Increase Mental Health Stream).
- Workers Compensation filings in the Personal Compensation stream has also seen an increase in filings of 6.8% as at 30 June 2025 compared to the same period last financial year. The year 2023-24 had received a 17% increase in filings. In two years, the overall increase in filings from 2022-23 has been 24% which is a significant increase.
- Proceedings in the Guardianship Stream have increased in complexity arising from reforms to the *Guardianship and Administration Act 1995* that took effect on 1 September 2024. Additional hearing time has been allocated to hearings to ensure Tribunal panels are able to address the new statutory tests and requirements arising from the reforms. The statistics which record the average number of hearings held in a session shows this increased time required. In 2023-24 the average number of hearings per session was 3.3. It has now reduced to 2.76 hearings per session in 2024-25.
- The Tribunal has also noted an increase in adjournments of hearings primarily due to health practitioner reports not being available or completed as required by legislation. From November 2024 until June 2025, there has been an increase of 40% in adjournments of hearings compared to the adjournments for the same period prior to the reform to the Act (176 adjournments November to June 2023-24 compared to 247 adjournments November to June 2024-25).
- The new requirements for decision-making assessments and information required in health practitioner reports were informed by feedback from key stakeholders during the development of the recent reforms to the *Guardianship and Administration Act 1995*.
- The changes were introduced to provide a consistent and clear framework for conducting decision-specific assessments.
- Notwithstanding the benefits of the new health practitioner reports for a rights-centred approach, challenges have been identified in practice.

- The Department has reconvened a working group to review the practical operation of the legislative requirements, with a view to developing some remedies to address these issues. Feedback will be sought from medical practitioners to better understand any particular areas of difficulty and explore ways to mitigate challenges, whilst still ensuring appropriate medical evidence is provided to the Tribunal.

KEY FIGURES

Budget

- TASCAT is due to receive appropriation funding of \$8.531 million including overheads in 2025-26.
- This funding includes additional funding provided by the Government in the 2024-25 Budget as part of our response to the Commission of Inquiry of \$380,000, rising to \$720,000 per annum in 2026-27 to resource TASCAT as it is conferred with new jurisdictions, as recommended by the Commission of Inquiry.
- As part of the 2025-26 Budget, this funding has now been provided on a permanent basis.
- This funding will enable 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 has 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*, which totalled \$2.124 million in 2024-25.

Staffing

- At 30 June 2025, TASCAT had 48.35 FTE positions including 10 full time members and 38.35 FTE staff positions. There are 50 persons occupying those positions as at 30 June 2025.

Decisions

- From 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, TASCAT published 251 decisions online on the AustLII website. This is an increase in published decisions compared to 226 last year.

Appeals

- From 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, there were 12 appeals filed with the Supreme Court with respect to decisions of TASCAT. This is a 33% decrease on the previous year:
 - 1 was related to the Guardianship Stream
 - 10 were related to the Personal Compensation Stream
 - 1 was related to the Resource and Planning Stream.

Previous full financial year 2023-24

- From 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, there were 18 appeals filed with the Supreme Court with respect to decisions of TASCAT:
 - 1 was related to the Anti-Discrimination Stream
 - 1 was related to the Guardianship Stream
 - 2 were related to the Health Practitioners Stream
 - 1 was related to the Mental Health Stream
 - 4 were related to the Personal Compensation Stream
 - 9 were related to the Resource and Planning Stream.

Telephone inquiries

- TASCAT's phone system can track the number of incoming calls that use the Interactive Voice Interface. From 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, TASCAT received 11,820 calls. This is a 3% decrease in calls through the Interactive Voice Recording (IVR) to TASCAT compared to last year:
 - 49.44% for Guardianship stream
 - 13.92% for Mental Health stream
 - 36.64% for General Division and other inquiries
- Calls to direct extensions are not included in this data, and the numbers of calls will be higher than the data provided above.

Complaints

- From 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, 14 complaints were received under the TASCAT Complaints Policy and Procedure. This is a 12.5% reduction compared to the same time in the previous year:
 - 8 were related to Guardianship stream
 - 2 were related to Mental Health Stream
 - 1 was related to the Resource and Planning stream
 - 3 was related to the Personal Compensation stream.
- Eleven matters raised were dismissed as either not substantiated or outside the scope of the policy. Three matters were upheld with apologies issued and internal steps taken through counselling, training where required and changes to forms undertaken with respect to one complaint.

Protective Division - Guardianship Stream

- From 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, there were 1,472 applications to TASCAT in this stream. This represents a 13.81% decrease in applications compared to last year. The stream received 5,810 applications to register instruments appointing an enduring guardian which represents a 4.19% decrease compared to last year. The stream

received 496 applications to register advanced care directives which represents a 5.75% increase compared to last year.

- There were 512 hearing sessions during the year (which included approx. 2-4 individual hearings per session). 297 sessions were convened in the South, 118 sessions in the North and 97 in the North-West.
- The stream issued 1,822 determinations or orders which is an 8.16% decrease from the previous year.
- The stream has seen an increase in the attendance of proposed represented persons in hearings. 796 proposed represented persons (PRPs) appeared in hearings (in person, by phone or video conference) (56.22%) and 620 did not attend hearings (43.78%). Last year, 739 persons did not attend hearings which represented 50.4% of PRPs.
- A substantial number of persons who appear before the Guardianship stream are unrepresented (81.07% this year). But representation of persons has increased this year to 18.93% compared to 15.96% the previous year. 115 separate representatives were appointed by TASCAT (8.12%); Tasmania Legal Aid appeared as a direct representative for 44 persons (3.11%); private legal practitioners appeared for 53 persons (3.74%) and advocacy organisations appeared for 56 persons (3.96%).

Mental Health Stream

- The Tribunal has revised the data reporting on matters in the Mental Health Stream. Previously only external applications to the Tribunal were reported upon. The Tribunal did not include the review obligations required under the *Mental Health Act 2013* (Section 181) and the various stages of Treatment Order proceedings. These revised figures more properly identify the full nature of the work undertaken in the Mental Health Stream.
- From 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, there were 1,430 applications filed which is an overall 22.2% increase on the previous year. These applications cover a range of application types under the legislation managed in the Mental Health Stream. Importantly, there was a significant increase in applications for Treatment Orders (874 which is a 30.25% increase on the previous year) and an increase in renewal applications for treatment orders (453 which is a 14.97% increase from the previous year).

The Tribunal is required under the *Mental Health Act 2013* to undertake reviews of existing civil and forensic orders. These are now being counted as lodgements to properly reflect the scope of work undertaken. There was a total of 993 reviews of civil orders (938) and forensic orders (55). A small number of own motion reviews required a hearing. There were 13 own motion review hearings of the Tribunal during 2024-25.

- There were:
 - 492 hearing sessions (which include 4-5 individual hearings/matters per session)
 - 316 hearing sessions were for south based matters
 - 102 hearing sessions were for north based matters
 - 74 hearing sessions were for north-west based matters.
- These listings include the hearings of new matters and existing matters that are subject to ongoing review by TASCAT. There were 2,110 matters listed for hearing by 3 member panels and 863 single member hearings.
- TASCAT issued 2,641 finalisations which include decisions of single members and 3 member panels.
- A substantial number of persons who appear before the Mental Health Stream are unrepresented (1,561 persons or 81.39% of matters). Of those who were represented; 2,155 persons were represented by Tasmania Legal Aid (11.21% of matters) and 8 by private legal representatives (0.42% of matters). 28 persons were represented by Advocacy Tasmania (1.46% of matters). TASCAT appointed 106 separate representatives in this stream (5.53% of matters).
- TASCAT has seen a slight decrease in the number of people not attending their hearings from the same time last year. From 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, 915 persons did not attend their hearings (47.98% compared to 50.4% last year).
- Of the 992 persons who did attend, 179 attended in person (9.39%), 177 persons attended by telephone (9.28%) and 636 persons attended by video conference (33.35%).

General Division

- The General Division experienced an increase in filings to the previous year in the Personal Compensation stream and particularly in lodgements under the *Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988*. There were 1,802 filings compared to 1,686 in the previous year. This represents a 6.8% increase in filings. In the two years since 2021-22 (which had 1,441) there has been an overall increase of 24%. This is a significant increase.
- The Personal Compensation stream also had an increase in listings with 5,666 listings (hearings, conciliations and teleconference) this year compared to 5,358 last year which represents a 4.57% increase.
- In addition, from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 there were 59 applications in the Anti-Discrimination Stream compared to 32 at the same time the previous year which represents an 84.37% increase.

Anti-Discrimination Stream

- From 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, the Anti-Discrimination Stream received 59 applications. It convened 190 listings covering conciliation conferences, interlocutory hearings and full hearings. It issued 33 decisions.

Health Practitioners Stream

- From 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, the Health Practitioners stream received 9 applications compared to 14 last year. This represents a 35.71% decrease. It convened 42 listings including conciliation conferences, interlocutory hearings and full hearings. It issued 16 decisions.

Personal Compensation Stream

- From 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, under the *Asbestos-Related Diseases (Occupational Exposure) Compensation Act 2011* there were 3 applications. There were 10 interlocutory hearings. No decisions were released.
- From 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, under the *Motor Accident (Liabilities and Compensation) Act 1973* there were 23 applications. It convened 53

listings including conciliation conferences, interlocutory hearings and full hearings. It issued 10 decisions.

- From 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, under the *Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* there were 1,892 applications. This number differs from the 1,802 filings referred to above because on some occasions, parties will include two referring sections on a single filing/referral. There were 5,603 listings including teleconferences, conciliation conferences, interlocutory hearings and final hearings. There were a total of 388 orders issued.

Previous full financial year 2023-24

- From 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, under the *Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* there were 1,764 applications. This number differs from the 1,686 filings referred to above because on some occasions, parties will include two referring sections on a single/filing referral. There were 5,359 listings including teleconferences, conciliation conferences, interlocutory hearings and final hearings. There were a total of 287 decisions and orders issued.

Resource and Planning Stream

- From 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, there were 119 appeals and applications compared to 128 last year. This represents a 7% decrease. There were 327 listings which covered teleconferences, directions hearings, mediations, interlocutory hearings and final hearings. There were 114 decisions or orders issued.
- There were 14 applications under the *Neighbourhood Disputes About Plants Act 2017*.

Civil and Consumer Stream

- From 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, there were two applications under the *Residential Building Work Contracts and Dispute Resolution Act 2016*.

Forestry Practices Stream

- From 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, there were no applications, hearings or decisions in this stream.

Response to TASCAT Annual Report 2024-25

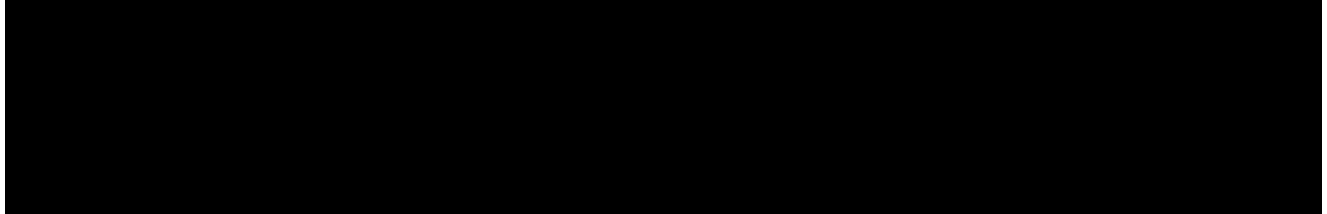
Staffing

- The Government acknowledges the staffing challenges identified by the President of TASCAT in the 2024-25 Annual Report.
- Recruitment and retention of suitably skilled Registry staff remains an issue across a number of specialist legal and administrative areas, reflecting broader labour market pressures, both in Tasmania and nationally.
- The Department of Justice continues to work closely with the Tribunal to support recruitment processes and to explore strategies to improve attraction and retention of staff with appropriate expertise.
- The Government notes that case volumes within the Tribunal have increased significantly - by 30% in the Mental Health Stream and 24% in the Personal Compensation Stream - and acknowledges the strong commitment and resilience demonstrated by Registry staff in managing this growth.
- The Government recognises that resourcing requirements will need to be carefully considered as additional jurisdictions transition to TASCAT.
- The Department and TASCAT are working collaboratively to identify efficiencies and ensure that staffing and operational needs are appropriately supported.

ReadyTech Case Management System

- The Government is aware of the delays in implementing the ReadyTech case management system for the Mental Health, Guardianship and Personal Compensation Streams.
- The Department of Justice is continuing to work with ReadyTech and TASCAT to progress the system's development and ensure it meets the Tribunal's operational requirements.
- Once fully implemented, the ReadyTech system is expected to significantly improve efficiency, reduce manual processes, and enhance service delivery for Tribunal users.

- The Government acknowledges the dedication of TASCAT staff in maintaining service standards during this period and remains committed to supporting the Tribunal to deliver accessible, timely and high-quality services to the Tasmanian community.



BUDGET ESTIMATES BRIEF

Subject:	Tasmania Legal Aid Budget & Performance
Election Commitment:	\$166,000 p/a for AYDC duty lawyer program
Key Department Spokesperson:	Kristen Wylie, Director TLA

KEY MESSAGES

- Tasmania Legal Aid (TLA) receives core and specific purpose funding from State and Commonwealth Governments to provide legal advice, representation, family dispute resolution services and legal education to the Tasmanian community. It also receives a small sum from client contributions. TLA is the largest legal assistance provider in Tasmania. The 2025-26 State Budget sees TLA receive funding of \$11.351 million.
- In 2025-26, the State Budget allocated \$8.6 million in permanent funding (inc budget efficiency and indexation) to TLA. The State Budget also allocated fixed term funding of \$2.8 million which included funding for Ashley Youth Detention Centre Duty Lawyer Program, Acting Judges, and additional funding as a result of budget decisions.
- TLA has experienced significant increases not only in demand for services, particularly in criminal matters, but also the cost of providing those services. The expenditure on criminal law grants (including private practitioners and in-house grants) increased 18% between 2023-24 and 2024-25. TLA has also experienced an increase of 21% in criminal lodgements between 2022-23 and 2023-24.
- The Tasmanian Government supports the critical work of TLA and acknowledges the increased demand for services.
- The Tasmanian Government has therefore committed additional funding to TLA of \$2 million per annum for two years (2025-26 and 2026-27) to assist in meeting these increases in demand.
- The Government has also extended the additional funding to TLA of \$380,000 per annum for two years to support the extension of the acting judges.

- Furthermore, I have approved additional grant funding to TLA of \$2.721 million from the Solicitors' Guarantee Fund for:
 - Criminal Law Duty Lawyer services in the Magistrates Court and Mental Health Lawyer services in TASCAT for 2025-26 and 2026-27 - \$2.553 million
 - Youth Justice Lawyers in Magistrates Court Youth Justice Division in 2025-26 - \$167,859.
- TLA's Commonwealth baseline funding falls under the National Access to Justice Partnership 2025-2030 (NAJP), which replaced the National Legal Assistance Partnership (NLAP). TLA will receive \$11.054 million under the NAJP in 2025-26.
- Unfortunately, the NAJP does not include additional funding to reflect the increased costs of case management in the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (FCFCOA) incurred by TLA following changes in court operational processes since 2022.
- TLA's family law workload and the consequential costs of family law files have increased significantly since the merger of the FCFCOA. Between 2022 and 2025, the average cost of an assigned family law file has increased by 48%, while the average cost of an Independent Children's Lawyer (ICL) file has increased by 40%. In the context of underfunding, these cost increases were unsustainable and resulted in service cuts from 1 January 2025.
- In 2025-26, TLA will be \$795,000 short in revenue from Commonwealth funding.
- TLA expects to be able to operate within its Commonwealth budget allocation, provided the service cuts to Commonwealth matters remain in place.

- In response to funding challenges, TLA's board implemented the following service cuts from 1 January 2025:
 - family: reduce funding of ICL appointments to *only* those cases with allegations of sexual, physical, emotional or psychological abuse of children
 - limit family law litigation grants for parties in parenting matters to:
 - victims of family violence or
 - people in receipt of a disability support pension/NDIS plan or assisted under the National Disability Advocacy Program or similar
 - crime: strict application of the current guidelines and fee scales for grants of aid.

KEY FIGURES

- TLA provides grants of aid to private practitioners to undertake work at significantly lower rates than they can charge privately. TLA pays private lawyers \$160.78 per hour and Counsel \$180.18 per hour, having applied a 2% increase on 1 July 2025.

BACKGROUND

- TLA is experiencing budgetary and resourcing challenges caused by a range of factors including increasing demand for and cost of delivery of TLA services, state budget efficiencies and inflationary pressures, continued previous underfunding of essential services (e.g. duty lawyers) and Commonwealth funding cuts.
- TLA receives funding from State and Commonwealth Governments as well as other minor revenues. TLA's Commonwealth baseline funding falls under the National Access to Justice Partnership (NAJP) and in 2025-26 allocated TLA \$11.054 million. As part of the recent Commonwealth Budget, this has been indexed at 2%.
- TLA has allocated the State funding to the following programs:
 - Safe at Home (family violence response)
 - criminal law
 - child safety
 - civil law
 - acting judges funding
 - dedicated funding to the Commission of Inquiry recommendation responses.
- TLA has been experiencing an unprecedented increase in demand for services that has exceeded our ability to provide legal assistance to those who need it. This is particularly acute in our Criminal Law Duty Lawyer program, and our Youth Justice program.
- Expenditure on criminal law grants (including private practitioners and in-house grants) increased 18% between 2023-24 and 2024-25. TLA's 2024-25 criminal law private practitioner grants of aid budget, as at 30 June 2025, was \$809,833 over budget.
- In 2022-23, the average cost of a Supreme Court criminal file to TLA was \$3,802. In 2023-24 the average cost had increased to \$4,925. In the last financial year, average costs of a Supreme Court file were \$4,226, meaning that between 2022-23 and 2024-25, the average cost of a Supreme Court criminal matter has increased 11%.
- Total grants of aid expenditure for criminal law services were \$5,164,747 in 2023-24 and in 2024-25 were \$6,081,024 - an increase of \$916,277.
- Grants of aid paid to private practitioners by TLA for criminal defence work was \$4,468,029 from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025. For the same period, \$1,612,995 was allocated to in-house practitioners, bringing the total value of crime grants of aid claimed for 2024-25 to \$6,081,024.

Performance

- TLA provides a range of high-quality legal assistance services to the Tasmanian community.
- From 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, TLA delivered 54,432 services to Tasmanians including:
 - 39,752 telephone advice and referrals
 - 2,947 face to face legal clinic services
 - 6,251 duty lawyer services
 - 5,451 new approved grants of legal aid for representation, with 67% paid to private practitioners
 - 25,512 approved extensions of legal aid
 - paid \$9,042,318 to private practitioners - an increase of \$883,490 on the previous year
 - 467 new grants of aid to mental health representation, made up of:
 - 226 grants of legal assistance to people before the Mental Health Tribunal and Guardianship and Administration Board
 - 241 grants of legal assistance for separate representation in the Mental Health Tribunal
 - 979 services to victims of family violence through the Safe at Home program
 - 174 family dispute resolution (FDR) conferences held between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025, and 439 FDR grants of aid for conferences
 - 246,574 estimated page views of TLA's website and 113,245 estimated unique users.
- The number of grants of legal aid decreased by 0.2% between 2023-24 and 2024-25. This decrease is reflective of the service cuts implemented throughout the last financial year. Applications for extensions of aid increased slightly by 1% over the same period.
- Five decisions to refuse legal aid were referred to the Review Committee.

Staffing Profile

- At 30 June 2025, TLA had 108 staff representing 85.79 FTE.
- For the 2024-25 financial year, the total number of employee exits was 29, broken down as follows:
 - 17 were fixed term (59%)
 - 12 were permanent (41%).



BUDGET ESTIMATES BRIEF

Subject:	Aboriginal Legal Services
Election Commitment:	N/A
Key Department Spokesperson:	Pauline van Adrichem, Deputy Secretary, Justice and Reform

KEY MESSAGES

- I acknowledge the exceptional work done by the legal assistance sector in Tasmania providing free or low-cost legal services to keep the justice system within reach for vulnerable Tasmanians.
- The National Access to Justice Partnership 2025-2030 (NAJP) agreement (the National Legal Assistance Partnership 2020-2025 (NLAP) successor agreement) provides a significant funding increase for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services (ATSILS) and Family Violence Prevention Legal Services (FVPLS) provided by TALS.
- Under the NLAP, the allocation for ATSILS funding over five years was \$15.839 million. Under the NAJP, the total amount of funding allocated for ATSILS over five years is \$26.157 million.
- This represents a total increase of \$10.318 million over five years under the new agreement.
- Under the NAJP, an additional \$5.448 million over five years has been allocated to TALS for FVPLS which was not previously administered under the NLAP.
- With this funding, TALS will continue the SiS program (Support, Information, Strength) which is the only dedicated FVPLS for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Tasmania. SiS provides holistic legal and non-legal supports to clients for improved legal and non-legal outcomes.

Why were TALS not provided with funding from the recent Solicitors' Guarantee Fund round for the Bail Support Program

- Applications for the Solicitors' Guarantee Fund (SGF) grant round closed on 13 December 2024, with 35 applications received totalling \$9.3 million in requests.
- After reviewing all applications, I approved grants in the amount of \$4,495,216.96.
- The Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service made an application for funding through the Solicitor's Guarantee Fund.
- The Assessment Panel did not recommend application for approval due to the lack of budget information and other details included in the submission.
- It was a highly competitive grant round, and unfortunately on that occasion the application from TALS was not successful.
- Another SGF grant round is currently underway and I have invited TALS and other organisations from Tasmania's legal sector to submit applications.

Decision to allocate ATSILS and FVPLS funding to TALS under the NAJP

- TALS is committed to providing high-quality, culturally safe legal assistance to individuals who identify as Aboriginal, in accordance with its long-standing policies and practices. The eligibility criteria applied by TALS is designed to ensure access to justice for Aboriginal people, consistent with its role as an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation.
- TALS meets both definitions of an ATSILS and a FVPLS provider under the NAJP. It meets the criteria as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community entity as well as a culturally safe service provider for family violence prevention and legal support.
- Any changes to the service provider must ensure continuity of care, cultural safety, and the capacity to manage the complex needs of Aboriginal clients.

Transition from TACLS to TALS

- The ATSILS program remains a Commonwealth program, previously under the NLAP and now under the NAJP, requiring states and territories to provide ATSILS funding to all existing and currently funded ATSILS for the 5-year duration of the agreements.
- Until July 2020, services under this program were provided in Tasmania by the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community Legal Service (TACLS), which was auspiced by the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service.
- In consultation with the Commonwealth, TACLS completed the process to create an incorporated Tasmanian-based association, to be known as the Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service, or TALS, from 1 July 2020.
- This was a process that was instigated independently of the Tasmanian state government and involved discussions between TACLS and the Commonwealth.
- The Tasmanian Government played an administrative role only and was not involved in these discussions.
- Pursuant to the requirements of the NAJP, TALS continues to receive ATSILS funding.
- Importantly, the transfer to a Tasmanian-based organisation did not impact service delivery.
- The entire TALS team are to be commended for their extraordinary work in setting themselves up and continuing to deliver much needed services to the Tasmanian community. It is fantastic to have this service being operated locally again.

Nukara Strategy and Action Plan

- In July 2025, the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC) released the Nukara Strategy and Action Plan, outlining the transfer of responsibility for Aboriginal child safety to the TAC.

- I understand that the plan includes a proposal to transition statewide legal supports and advocacy services to the TAC.
- The Government has funded TALS for the next five years under the NAJP and will continue to work with the legal assistance sector to support effective community-controlled Aboriginal legal services.

KEY FIGURES

TALS funding under the NAJP

Funding \$'000	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	Total Funding \$'000
ATSILS	\$5,018	\$5,129	\$5,231	\$5,336	\$5,443	\$26,157
Family Violence Prevention Legal Service	\$1,045	\$1,068	\$1,090	\$1,111	\$1,134	\$5,448
TOTAL:	\$6,063	\$6,197	\$6,321	\$6,447	\$6,577	\$31,605

State funding

- In recognition of the critical role that the legal assistance sector plays in supporting Tasmanians in need, the 2021-22 State Budget committed an additional \$2.2 million per year over four years to the legal assistance sector.
- Of the \$2.2 million committed for 2021-22, \$202,750 was allocated to TALS to establish a Community Legal Education Program.
- Due to unspent funds, TALS will continue the CLE Program until 30 June 2026.
- The Government has also provided TALS with \$498,515 over 2 years across 2023-24 and 2024-25 for an Aboriginal Wellbeing Officer to facilitate support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in custody in Tasmania. An additional \$290,901 in funding has been allocated to extend this program until 30 September 2026.

BUDGET ESTIMATES BRIEF

Subject:	Legal Assistance Sector - NAJP and State Funding
Election Commitment:	\$1.2 million to expand the Just Healthy Families Program
Key Department Spokesperson:	Pauline van Adrichem, Deputy Secretary, Justice and Reform

KEY MESSAGES

- The Government acknowledges the exceptional work of the Tasmanian legal assistance sector in providing free or low-cost legal services to keep the justice system within reach of vulnerable Tasmanians in need.
- The Tasmanian legal assistance sector is funded by both State and Commonwealth Governments.
- On 6 September 2024, the Prime Minister and Commonwealth Attorney-General announced that the Commonwealth Government had committed to invest \$3.9 billion in the legal assistance sector through a new 5-year partnership agreement with states and territories.
- The National Access to Justice Partnership 2025-2030 (NAJP) agreement commenced on 1 July 2025 providing Tasmania with \$127.06 million over 5 years. This includes funding from transitioning programs and administration funding.
- This commitment will deliver vital support to all parts of the legal assistance sector, including Legal Aid Commissions (LACs), Community Legal Centres (CLCs), Women's Legal Services, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services (ATSILS), and Family Violence Prevention Legal Services (FVPLS).
- It includes funding to reduce pay disparity between employees of LACs and those employed in the community legal assistance sector, as well as annual increases in line with wage cost inflation.

- In a significant development for Tasmania, I have approved the allocation of a portion of NAJP funding to the Tasmanian Refugee Legal Service, ensuring that refugee and asylum seeker communities have access to dedicated legal support. And importantly, ensuring that Tasmanian Refugee Legal Service will have ongoing funding security under the NAJP.
- I look forward to continuing to work with the Commonwealth and the legal assistance sector as we transition into the new agreement this year.

National Access to Justice Partnership 2025-2030 (NAJP)

- The NAJP commenced on 1 July 2025, providing much needed funding certainty for the sector.
- The terms of the NAJP were agreed to at the 22 November 2024 meeting of the Standing Council of Attorneys-General (SCAG), with the agreement formally signed by all Attorneys-General on 28 November 2024.
- Importantly, the NAJP will provide Tasmania with \$127.06 million over 5 years. This includes funding from transitioning programs and administration funding.
- With administration funding removed, this equates to \$123.917 million in funding for Tasmanian legal service providers.

500 Workers Initiative

- The Australian Government committed \$169.4 million over 4 years from 2022-23 to fund 500 new frontline service and community workers to support victim-survivors of family, domestic and sexual violence.
- These workers are to be employed via state and territory governments, in collaboration with community organisations, covering areas such as crisis support, legal services, housing, children's services, etc.
- The initiative is part of the Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses 2021-27 funding and reform plan.

- Provided through the Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence National Partnership Agreement 2021-2027 (FDSV NPA), it provides for up to three years of funding from 2023-24 to 2025-26 to Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service (TALS), Tasmanian Refugee Legal Service (TRLs) and Women's Legal Service Tasmania (WLST) to provide additional support to their current FDSV programs.
- Under the FDSV NPA:
 - TALS received \$723,000 for an additional 1 FTE case manager for the south, and 1 FTE case manager for the north, for a period of three years
 - TRLs received \$772,770 for additional 1.7 FTE lawyers, and 1 FTE trainee support staff in the south, for a period of two years and nine months
 - WLST received \$378,750 for an additional 1 FTE lawyer in the north-east, for a period of two years and nine months.
- These deeds will expire on 31 December 2026; however, it is anticipated that should the 500 Workers Initiative continue, further allocations would be made at that time.

State funding contributions

- The Government is committed to improving access to justice for all Tasmanians and we have made record investments in the Tasmanian legal assistance sector.
- In recognition of the critical role of the legal assistance sector in supporting the most vulnerable members of our community, the Government permanently committed additional funding of \$640,000 per year to the sector in the 2021-22 State Budget which provides certainty in baseline funding. This funding has been allocated to TLA and CLCs and is indexed each year.
- To ensure that Tasmanians who need extra help can access free or low-cost services, the 2021-22 State Budget committed an additional \$8.8 million over four years, with \$7.4 million allocated to maintain core legal assistance services. The remaining funds have been allocated to the sector through expression of interest processes.

- This top up funding has been used to support continued service delivery for legal assistance services during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as enabling our Government to conduct expression of interest processes to allocate funding to support discrete projects in the legal assistance sector more broadly.
- The 2023-24 Budget included an additional \$820,000 to extend this commitment for a further year until 30 June 2026.
- The Government is also supporting innovative programs within the legal assistance sector by allocating \$1.2 million over 2 years in the 2024-25 Budget to expand the Just Healthy Families program, Tasmania's first Health Justice Partnership, delivered by WLST in partnership with TLA.

Specialised and Trauma-Informed Legal Services Pilot for Victims and Survivors of Sexual Assault:

- The Commonwealth has announced \$18 million over 3 years from 2025-26 to support states and territories in expanding specialised and trauma-informed legal services for victim-survivors of sexual assault.
- The pilot will play a vital role in strengthening access to both legal and non-legal supports, ensuring victim-survivors can safely and confidently navigate the justice system.
- Tasmania has put forward three proposals from legal assistance service providers to the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department for consideration by the independent assessment panel.
- A total of \$2.3 million will be available to Tasmania across the 3 financial years, with specific allocations for justice system navigation and restorative justice services.
- This funding represents a significant opportunity to strengthen our capacity to deliver victim-centred and trauma informed services for those affected by sexual violence.

KEY FIGURES

National Access to Justice Partnership (NAJP) Funding

- The total allocation of funding to service providers under the NAJP is as follows:

	2025-26 (\$'000)	2026-27 (\$'000)	2027-28 (\$'000)	2028-29 (\$'000)	2029-30 (\$'000)	Total (\$'000)
Hobart Community Legal Service*	1,515	1,624	1,675	1,719	1,629	8,162
Launceston Community Legal Centre*	913	969	996	1,022	987	4,887
North West Community Legal Centre*	748	804	831	853	801	4,037
Tasmania Legal Aid*	11,160	11,967	12,212	12,460	12,672	60,471
Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service**	6,063	6,197	6,321	6,447	6,577	31,605
Tasmanian Refugee Legal Service	350	357	364	371	379	1,821
Tenant's Union Tasmania*	278	291	297	305	301	1,471
Women's Legal Service Tasmania*	3,317	3,425	3,504	3,579	3,600	17,426
Total	24,346	25,634	\$26,200	26,755	26,945	129,800

* Inclusive of both NAJP and State Top Up Funding

** Inclusive of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service and Family Violence Prevention Legal Services NAJP funding.

Solicitors' Guarantee Fund (SGF)

- In the recent 2024 SGF grant round, I approved a total of approximately \$4.5 million in grants from the SGF for a variety of initiatives.
- Specific initiatives funded include:

Organisation	Proposal	Grant Amount Approved
Community Legal Centres Tasmania	Implementation of third- party Content Management System for all CLCs	\$98,100
Community Legal Centres Tas & Tasmania Legal Aid	Community Legal Education activities	\$14,170
Launceston Community Legal Centre	Redevelop website to increase accessibility and to enhance access to legal information and provide opportunities to connect with other service providers	\$35,285
Law Foundation of Tasmania	To make available monetary grants in accordance with the objects of the Law Foundation, consistent with the priorities for the SGF.	\$200,000
Law Society of Tasmania	Development and maintenance of the Tasmanian Law Library	\$393,483
Law Society of Tasmania (on behalf of Hobart Community Legal Service (HCLS) and Centre for Legal Studies)	Duty Lawyer Service - address shortfall from previous grant and forecast cost of the service in 2025	\$68,150
Law Society of Tasmania (on behalf of Hobart Community Legal Service (HCLS) and Centre for Legal Studies)	Duty Lawyer Service - continuation of service in 2026	\$278,900
Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions	Ongoing delivery of the Witness Assistance Scheme	\$220,000
Prisoners Legal Service Tasmania	Preventative Lawyering Program to provide legal health checks for prisoners and detainees	\$56,500
Sentencing Advisory Council	To update Research Paper 6: Sentencing Young Offenders	\$39,000
Sentencing Advisory Council	To undertake a review of life sentences in Tasmania	\$35,000
Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal	Videos to assist vulnerable people who appear before TASCAT and for Tasmanians generally	\$30,000

Organisation	Proposal	Grant Amount Approved
Tasmania Legal Aid	Criminal Law Duty Lawyer services in Magistrates Court and Mental Health Lawyer services in TASCAT	\$2,552,992
Tasmania Legal Aid	Youth Justice Lawyers in Magistrates Court Youth Justice Division	\$167,859
Tenants Union of Tasmania	Representation for full time Legal Practitioner in Launceston	\$150,739
Tenants Union of Tasmania	Education and technology materials - <i>Don't Panic</i> booklet & IT hardware upgrade	\$9,400.
Tenants Union of Tasmania	Online <i>Residential Tenancy Law Handbook</i>	\$11,300
Tasmania Law Reform Institute	Review to Coroners Act	\$134,339
TOTAL FUNDING:		\$4,495,217

Survivors at the Centre: Tasmania's Third Action Plan for Family and Sexual Violence 2022-2027

- In November 2022, the Government released its third action plan for family and sexual violence, Survivors at the Centre: Tasmania's Third Action Plan for Family and Sexual Violence 2022-27.
- Through this initiative, TLA will receive \$432,972 over 5 years to employ an additional legal practitioner to specialise in family violence cases.
- WLST will also receive \$848,969 over 5 years to continue its Launceston-based service providing legal assistance to women experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, family violence in the north and north-east of Tasmania.

BACKGROUND

CLASS Contributions

- CLASS is a case management and reporting system that CLCs funded under the NLAP were required to use. The 5 NLAP funded CLCs all pay contributions for the cost of CLASS and did so under the NLAP and the *National Partnership Agreement 2015-2020*.
- In November 2023, CLC Australia spoke to program managers from all states and territories about the future of CLASS as a community legal assistance services system, as CLASS is approaching the end of its life.
- Concerns have arisen around the rising cost of operating CLASS, noting that as the technology ages, it is getting to the point where maintenance is not a viable option, and CLASS cannot deliver the functionality of more modern Client Management Systems (CMS).
- All stakeholders are currently discussing a way forward on data collection and collaborating to realise a shared vision. This includes:
 - CLCs to transition from CLASS to a CMS that is compatible with a new National Data Repository (NDR)
 - ensuring the sector continues to have access to a national dataset capable of being used for reporting and advocacy (via the NDR).
- This plan requires CLCs to adopt a CMS tool that meets their own day-to-day business needs and can send data easily to the NDR for reporting.
- CLC Australia have been working with the Commonwealth to scope the NDR and have secured funding from the Commonwealth to enable the NDR to be built.
- Once built, the NDR will deliver all reporting functions originally delivered via CLASS, along with a range of dashboards for enhanced data visualisation and utility.
- A vendor has been appointed to commence work on building the NDR, and CLC Australia is confident the rollout will take place in March or April 2026.
- In the meantime, CLC Australia have finalised an agreement to extend CLASS for another 12 months concluding at the end of June 2026 to allow additional time for the transition away from CLASS.

BUDGET ESTIMATES BRIEF

Subject:	Implementation of Funding and Disclosures Reforms
Election Commitment:	Implementation of Tasmanian Disclosure and Funding Scheme
Key Department Spokesperson:	Andrew Hawkey, Tasmanian Electoral Commissioner

KEY MESSAGES

- The Tasmanian Electoral Commission (TEC) has commenced administration of the Tasmanian electoral disclosure and funding scheme following commencement of the *Electoral Disclosure and Funding Act 2023* (the Act) on 1 July 2025.
- The scheme has commenced as a paper-based system of reporting and publication, with a bespoke online portal expected to be operational in 2026.
- The TEC is working with the Victorian Electoral Commission and their software supplier to adapt the Victorian funding and disclosure portal to suit Tasmanian requirements. The portal will facilitate scheme participant disclosures, publication and reporting of reportable political donations and electoral expenditure.
- The TEC has published a broad range of approved policies, guidelines and forms on its website for both the disclosure and funding aspects of the scheme, with further materials to be published as required. In accordance with the Act, the TEC also commenced publishing registers of participants and reports of donation disclosures, campaign returns and funding claims from 1 July onwards.
- Stakeholder education and engagement is ongoing throughout the early stages of the scheme.

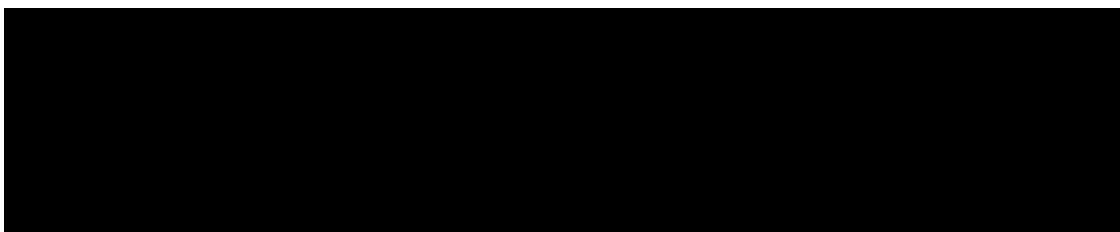
KEY FIGURES

- The estimated cost of creating the portal environment, including licences for the first year, is \$674,000.
- There were no disclosures or claims under the Act prior to 1 July 2025, so no disclosure or claim data is available for the 2024-25 period.
- Between 1 July 2025 and 22 September 2025:
 - a total of one hundred and seventy-one (171) reportable political donation disclosures were lodged, totalling \$1,097,564
 - 6 Election Campaign Returns were validly lodged and are under assessment
 - 11 Election Campaigns Fund claims were validly lodged and are under assessment
 - 5 Quarterly Advance Administration Fund Claims were received, totalling \$119,700 (approved and awaiting payment).

BACKGROUND

- The passing of the *Electoral Disclosure and Funding Act 2023* (Tas) and the *Electoral Matters (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2023* (Tas) provided new powers and responsibilities for the Commission that were not then fulfilled by the staff structure or skill set. As part of a larger organisational restructure these gaps were addressed by the establishment of a Legislation and Compliance team at the Tasmanian Electoral Commission (TEC), including a Compliance and Investigation Unit and staff dedicated to management of the Electoral Disclosure and Funding scheme.
- Staff recruitment commenced in July 2024 and continued through to July 2025, due to the TEC experiencing challenges attracting suitably qualified and skilled applicants for specialist roles.
- The 2025 Tasmanian state election was announced on 11 June 2025, with polling day on 19 July 2025. Disclosure and reporting obligations for political donations and electoral expenditure commenced on 1 July 2025, with eligible parties and candidates able to claim public funding for electoral expenditure incurred during the full campaign period.
- During an election period, reportable political donations must be disclosed within 7 days of receipt; outside of an election period, disclosures are required monthly.
- Election campaign returns, which summarise all political donations received, and electoral expenditure incurred during the campaign period, must be lodged within 60 days after the end of the election campaign period.
- The Election Campaigns Fund (ECF) enables eligible participants to claim reimbursement for electoral expenditure incurred during an election campaign period.
- Advance ECF claims were not available for the 2025 House of Assembly election. Advance payments are calculated at 50% of the entitlement from the previous Assembly general election. As the scheme commenced on 1 July 2025, there was no prior entitlement on which to base an advance. Advance claims will therefore first be available at the next House of Assembly election.
- Lodgement of ECF claims for the 2025 state election opened on 19 August 2025, the day after the election campaign period. Claims must be lodged by 3 December 2025.
- The first ECF claims were received on 29 August 2025, with a total of eleven submitted to date. All claims are currently under assessment.
- The TEC aims to assess and pay eligible ECF claims to registered parties and independent House of Assembly candidates within 60 days of valid lodgement.

- If a claim cannot be finalised within 60 days, due to its size, complexity or other factors, the Act requires the Commission to make a preliminary payment of 90% of the estimated claim total.
- The TEC also administers the Administration Fund for registered parties and independent House of Assembly members. Eligible registered parties and independent members may claim quarterly payments to receive publicly funded reimbursement for administrative expenditure. Administrative expenditure is expenditure that has been incurred for administrative or operating expenses.
- Quarterly Advance Claims for administrative funding can be lodged before the start of each quarter, providing regular access to public funding. Advance claims are reconciled with actual expenditure at the end of the quarter.
- The *Electoral Disclosure and Funding Regulations 2025* also commenced on 27 June 2025 (gazettal date), supporting the new legislative scheme.
- The TEC has partnered with the Victorian Electoral Commission to introduce and adapt that agency's Funding and Disclosure management software to the Tasmanian scheme context. This will provide the TEC with certainty as to fitness for purpose and stability of the regulatory technology as well as reduced costs.
- The Victorian software is being provided at no cost from the Victorian Electoral Commission under an MOU arrangement. The main costs for the system are for it to be adapted to the Tasmanian scheme and environment (\$600,000) in addition to the special licencing requirements (\$24,000 per annum) and for the portal and ongoing third-party support (\$50,000 per annum).
- On 21 March 2025 the TEC considered and approved the first tranche of policies, guidelines, and forms which were published to the TEC website on 28 March 2025. A second tranche of policies was approved by the Commission on 29 April 2025 and published on 2 May 2025.
- Known scheme participants were contacted on 28 March 2025 introducing the webpage - including the policies, guidelines and forms - and were invited to subscribe to the TEC's updates, including information sharing and education opportunities, as commencement of the scheme approached.
- Since the release of these materials, the TEC has undertaken ongoing education and engagement activities with stakeholders to support understanding and compliance with the new disclosure and funding requirements.



BUDGET ESTIMATES BRIEF

Subject:	Commission of Inquiry Legislation
Election Commitment:	N/A
Key Department Spokesperson:	Kristy Bourne, Secretary

KEY MESSAGES

- Our legislative priority is to implement all recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings.
- The Commission's suggested timeframes create three phases of reforms - mid 2024, 2026 and 2029. We aim to meet these, and to do this right - not just 'ticking boxes' but considering stakeholder and community views as well as the Commission's reasoning.
- 54 of the 191 recommendations require legislation - through creating new Acts, amending existing ones or through subordinate legislation.
- The Government's Keeping Children Safe website has public-facing information about progress. This includes updates on recommendation progress by status and by phase and standalone progress reports.
- I acknowledge two important forms of independent scrutiny.
- Firstly, the Joint Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry Recommendations Scrutiny Committee was formed to inquire into and report upon matters related to the Commission's recommendations.
- Secondly, Tasmania's inaugural Child Safety Reform Implementation Monitor, the Honourable Robert Benjamin AM SC, monitors and reports on implementation progress.

If required - two outstanding bodies of work from Phase 1

- There are two groups of work that have been extended.
- One relates to the state service disciplinary response framework, being recommendations 20.2 point 6, 20.3 and 20.4. They relate to breaches of departmental professional conduct policies and findings of reportable conduct against State Service employees being classed as breaches of the State Service Code of Conduct, and ensuring professional conduct policies apply to contractors, sub-contractors, volunteers and other adults having contact with children. These are the responsibility of the State Service Management Office within the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC).
- The other grouping is establishing a statutory Commission for Children and Young People. I tabled the Bill on 24 September 2025.
- The new Commission will include a Commissioner for Children and Young People, a Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People and a Child Advocate. It will also incorporate the existing statutory position of Independent Regulator and, eventually, one person will hold both that position and that of Commissioner for Children and Young People. This, and related recommendations, are numbered 18.6, 18.3 and 18.4.
- While DPAC commenced work on the Bill, the Department of Justice finalised it and I will be responsible for the consequent Act.
- There was a very strong stakeholder response to a draft Bill and associated explanatory materials, which was consulted on for a three-month period with some necessary extensions into the New Year. This included a written submissions process and bespoke, face-to-face consultation work with key stakeholder cohorts. Submissions and a 'what we heard' report, produced by DPAC, were published on 3 April this year.
- I acknowledge tabling of this Bill has not met the Phase 1 timeframe. Some delay resulted from two caretaker periods. The further extension flowed from the necessity for genuine, tailored consultation and our commitment to evaluating and applying that feedback as we checked the policy positions and redrafted the Bill as necessary.

The finalised phase 1, 2024 reforms

- The bulk of the phase 1 reforms have been resolved via four Acts.
- The *Child Safety Reform Implementation Monitor Act 2024* created the Implementation Monitor (recommendation 22.1).
- The *Justice Miscellaneous (Commission of Inquiry) Act 2024* amended several Acts. Criminal law reforms addressed recommendation 16 points 9, 11, 13 through 15 inclusive and 18. Two phase 2 recommendations, 16.13 and 16.14, were brought forward. The amendments included were as follows:
 - Criminal law amendments included the scope and language used in some sexual offences; pre-trial rulings; and admissibility of relationship and tendency or coincidence evidence in a criminal trial irrespective of prior dismissal of a charge pertaining to that evidence in the Magistrates Court, due to prosecution discontinuance.
 - The *Sentencing Act 1997* was amended to emphasise that consent is never a mitigating factor in child sexual abuse offences where the sexual contact is with an adult.
- The Act also amended the Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Scheme, being recommendation 18.12, to provide statutory guidance on factors for risk assessments.
- Finally, the Act fulfilled recommendation 17.5, amending the *Civil Liability Act 2002* to ensure that an apology in relation to child sexual abuse can be made without amounting to an admission of liability.
- The *Evidence (Children and Special Witnesses) Amendment Act 2024* amended the *Evidence (Children and Special Witnesses) Act 2001* to clarify when special measures are available to adult complainants in child sexual abuse trials. This fulfilled recommendation 16.11 point 1.
- The *Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (Additional Jurisdictions) Act 2025* commenced on 1 July 2025. It fulfilled recommendation 18.13, replacing the Administrative Appeals Division of the Magistrates Court with the Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (TASCAT) as the forum for administrative reviews of

decisions under the RWVP Act; and requiring TASCAT to support Tribunal members hearing administrative reviews of RWVP decisions to have requisite knowledge, skills, experience and aptitude.

The phase 2, 2026 reforms underway

- There are 24 legislative recommendations to progress in phase 2. I will address them grouped by the department with policy responsibility.

Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC)

- DPAC has four phase 2 recommendations relating to the new Commission for Children and Young People, which are addressed by the 2025 Bill even if some aspects are not proclaimed right away (being recommendations 9.14, 9.33, 12.36 and 12.38).

Department for Education, Children and Young People (DECYP)

- DECYP has 11 phase 2 recommendations as follows:
 - Recommendation 9.37 states the DECYP Secretary should notify the new Commission for Children and Young People of sexual abuse allegations involving children in out of home care that fall outside the Reportable Conduct Scheme. Further, the Commission should have power to require the Department to provide information about its responses to such allegations.
 - Five recommendations relate to the Teacher's Registration Board (6.10 through 6.13 inclusive and 6.15).
 - Five more relate to youth justice reform (recommendations 12.12, 12.25, 12.31(1), 12.32(1), 12.33(1)). These are:
 - updating general principles of youth justice
 - creating a new process for approving transfers of young people from youth detention to an adult prison facility
 - expressly prohibiting fully unclothed searches of children and young people in detention
 - defining and minimising use of isolation
 - similar limitations on use of force.

Department of Justice

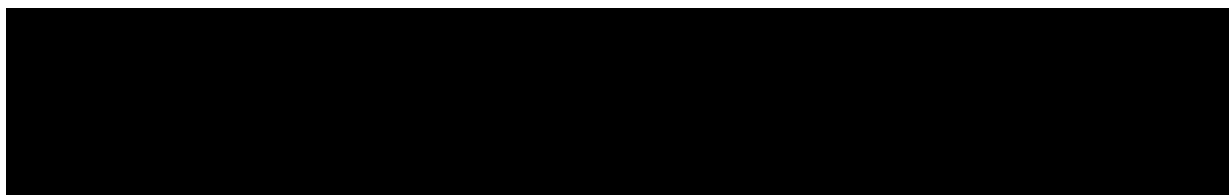
- As well as drafting work for all legislative recommendations, the Department carries the policy work on nine phase 2 recommendations as follows:
 - Recommendation 12.39 is to appoint and resource the Commission for Children and Young People as an additional National Preventive Mechanism under the United Nations Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. This will not be addressed in the Bill creating the new Commission. One potential resolution is through action under, or amendment of, the *OPCAT Implementation Act 2021*.
 - Recommendation 16.10 regards extending and funding the Witness Intermediary Scheme to include child suspects and defendants regarding sexual offences and considering doing so for police interviews of children, young people and adults with communication needs, relating to sexual offences.
 - Recommendation 16.15 regards legislating on jury directions.
 - Recommendation 16.16 requires considering introducing legislation dealing with the responsibility of the Chief Justice to direct the professional development and continuing education and training of judicial officers. This was achieved through the Judicial Commissions Bill 2024, which passed the Parliament in October last year and awaits proclamation.
 - Recommendation 19.6 is to clarify that, in addition to the duty to report in certain circumstances, any person can notify reportable behaviour to the Registrar of the RWVP Scheme. This is part of the *Justice Miscellaneous (Reporting Procedures) Act 2025*. I tabled the Bill on 11 March 2025. It passed and the Act now awaits proclamation.
 - Recommendation 12.5, point (h) regards removing barriers to sharing information. Recommendation 17.8 requires reviewing and reforming the operation of the *Right to Information Act 2009* and *Personal Information Protection Act 2004* to ensure victim-survivors of child sexual abuse in institutional contexts can obtain information relating to that abuse. This significant body of

work will be informed in part by the Independent RTI review released on 23 September 2025.

- Recommendation 17.7 regards amending the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1976* to create a right of review on the merits by the Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal, in relation to a decision of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Commissioners to refuse financial assistance to a victim-survivor of child sexual abuse or about the amount of same.
- Recommendation 18.11 is to implement Recommendation 11 of the Independent Reviewer's 2016 Report, Independent Review of the *Integrity Commission Act 2009*. That would oblige public authorities to notify the Integrity Commission of any allegations of serious misconduct. A consultation Bill containing draft provisions was released for public consultation in November 2024 and the Bill is expected to be tabled in Parliament in coming sitting days.

The phase 3, 2029 reforms to come

- There are 14 phase 3 recommendations to implement by 1 July 2029. They can be categorised into eight groupings as follows:
 - 3 relating to the new Commission for Children and Young People (these relate to commencing roles and matters already part of the 2025 Bill: 9.34, 9.35, 9.38)
 - 2 relating to criminal justice reform (12.11, 21.9)
 - 1 relating to the State Service disciplinary framework (20.1)
 - 4 relating to youth justice reform; (9.27, 12.13-12.15)
 - 1 relating to information access and sharing (19.7)
 - 2 relating to child safety reform (9.15, 9.36)
 - 1 relating to redress and civil justice (17.1)
 - 1 relating to health complaints reform (15.21).



BUDGET ESTIMATES BRIEF

Subject:	Human Rights Charter/Human Rights Act
Election Commitment:	N/A
Key Department Spokesperson:	Pauline van Adrichem, Deputy Secretary Justice and Reform

KEY MESSAGES

- Human rights are the cornerstone of a strong, inclusive society.
- The Government is committed to the freedoms of parliamentary democracy, of thought, worship, speech and association.
- The Government believes that Tasmania is a fair, accepting and inclusive state, with protections in place that safeguard and promote human rights.
- We are committed to protecting and respecting the human rights of all Tasmanians, and this commitment is demonstrated through many of our key policies and reforms, including legislative reform in relation to family violence, mental health, guardianship, and safeguarding adults.
- In respect of my Department alone, the Department of Justice administers various outputs, programs and legislation that support human rights in Tasmania, including the work undertaken by the Safe at Home program, the Office of the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner, and the Mental Health, Guardianship and recently established Community, Children and Families streams of the Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.
- I specifically note the recent tabling of the Sentencing Amendment (Aggravating Factors) Bill 2025, which is a response to the recommendations of the Sentencing Advisory Council's 2024 report, Prejudice and Discrimination as Aggravating Factors in Sentencing. The Bill will better capture hateful, prejudice or targeted offending as aggravating factors during sentencing.

- I note that the Tasmania Law Reform Institute (TLRI) released its further research paper on the topic of a Human Rights Charter on 30 April 2024.
- While it has not been the policy of the Government to support the creation of a standalone statute relating to human rights, it is the continued Government position that all legislation introduced to Parliament by the Government takes into account the human rights of all Tasmanians.

BACKGROUND

The Government's support for Human Rights

- The current Government has undertaken a range of reforms relating to human rights, including:
 - the first and second tranche reforms to the *Guardianship and Administration Act 1995*, with third tranche reforms to be developed for 2026
 - reforms to Optional Protocol on the Contravention Against Torture by creating the role of National Preventive Mechanism
 - amendments to the Criminal Code and the *Family Violence Act 2004* to make 'persistent family violence' a criminal offence and establish a national enforcement procedure where the court can make persistent family violence declarations
 - ongoing commitments to implement the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings.
- In addition, the Government has actively made referrals to the TLRI for external human rights advice in relation to the *Guardianship and Administration Act 1995* (Tas); Reviews of the Defences of Self-Defence, Insanity, and Intoxication under the *Criminal Code 1924* (Tas); Facilitating Equal Access to Justice: An Intermediary/Communication Assistant Scheme for Tasmania; recidivist drink drivers; Bullying; Problem Trees and Hedges; and Adoption by Same Sex Couples.

The support of Tasmanian stakeholders in relation to a Human Rights Charter or Act

- In July 2022, the Alliance for a Tasmanian Human Rights Act (ATHRA), which includes but is not limited to, Tasmanian Council of Social Services (TasCOSS), Tasmania Refugee Legal Service, Women's Health Tasmania, Unions Tasmania, Women's Legal Service Tasmania, Civil Liberties Australia (Tas) and Just Equal, was formed to establish a campaign for a human rights act in Tasmania.
- ATHRA had invited TLRI to review its 2007 Final Report and produce its 2024 Research Paper revisiting the case for a Tasmanian Human Rights Act.
- On 27 October 2022, Ms Meg Webb tabled a Notice of Motion welcoming the formation of ATHRA, noting the rally scheduled for 26 November 2022 and urging the Government to initiate consultation on a Human Rights Act for Tasmania.
- On 10 November 2022, one of ATHRA's members, TasCOSS, with the support of Equal Opportunity Tasmania, Women's Legal Service Tasmania and Human

Rights Law Centre, hosted an online policy conversation to discuss the need for a Tasmanian Charter of Rights.

The positions of other parties in relation to a Human Rights Charter or Act in Tasmania

- In 2018, both the Australian Labor Party (ALP) and the Greens went to the 2018 Tasmanian election with commitments relating to a Charter of Human Rights.
- The ALP committed to establishing a Premier's Human Rights Advisory Council to finalise the model for human rights legislation and oversee its implementation across Government. The Council would have included representation from government, human rights specialists, the community sector, advocacy groups and Aboriginal Tasmanians.
- The Greens reiterated their 2018 policy in the lead-up to the 2021 State election. The Party committed to:
 - legislate a Charter of Human Rights
 - create a Human Rights Commission
 - create a Human Rights unit in the Department of Justice
 - fund an education campaign for the public service.

The Human Right enactments in other jurisdictions

- The Queensland *Human Rights Act 2019* received Royal Assent on 7 March 2019. Among other things, the Act empowers the Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland as the Queensland Human Rights Commission to provide a dispute resolution process for dealing with human rights complaints and promote an understanding, acceptance and public discussion of human rights.
- The ACT *Human Rights Act 2004* provides an explicit statutory basis for respecting, protecting and promoting civil and political rights and includes a requirement that the Attorney-General must prepare a written statement (the compatibility statement) about any bill presented to the Legislative Assembly and that the relevant standing committee must report to the Legislative Assembly about human rights issues raised by bills presented to the Assembly.
- The Victorian *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* (the Charter) requires public authorities, such as state and local government departments and agencies, and people delivering services on behalf of the government, to act consistently with the human rights in the Charter.

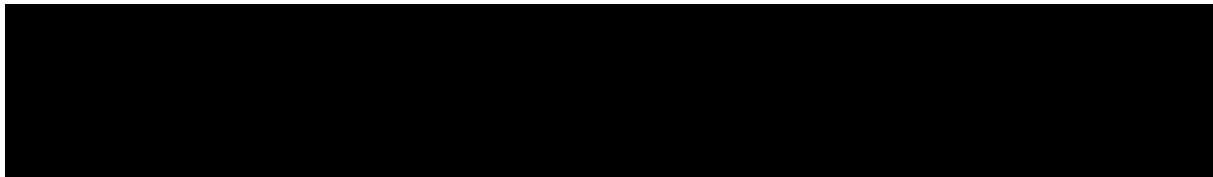
The call for a Federal Human Rights Act

- The Australian Human Rights Commission launched its proposed model for a national Human Rights Act on 9 March 2023.
- On 15 March 2023, pursuant to section 7(c) of the *Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act 2011*, the Attorney-General referred to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights the following matters for inquiry and report by 31 May 2024 to:
 - review the scope and effectiveness of Australia's 2010 Human Rights Framework and the National Human Rights Action Plan
 - consider whether the Framework should be re-established, as well as the components of the Framework, and any improvements that should be made
 - consider developments since 2010 in Australian human rights laws (both at the Commonwealth and State and Territory levels) and relevant case law
 - consider any other relevant matters.
- The Committee invited submissions by 1 July 2023 in relation to these matters, and in particular:
 - whether the Australian Parliament should enact a federal Human Rights Act and, if so, what elements it should include (including by reference to the Australian Human Rights Commission's recent Position Paper)
 - whether existing mechanisms to protect human rights in the federal context are adequate and if improvements should be made, including:
 - to the remit of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights
 - the role of the Australian Human Rights Commission
 - the process of how federal institutions engage with human rights, including requirements for statements of compatibility
 - the effectiveness of existing human rights Acts/Charters in protecting human rights in the Australian Capital Territory, Victoria and Queensland, including relevant case law, and relevant work done in other states and territories.
- The Committee's Report was released in May 2024 with 17 recommendations including a Commonwealth Human Rights Act: [List of recommendations – Parliament of Australia \(aph.gov.au\)](#).

Background of the TLRI's reports

- In 2006, the Tasmanian Government invited TLRI to investigate how the fundamental rights Tasmanians hold as significant might be further enhanced and legally secured.
- The recommendations made in the 2007 final report followed extensive community consultation, with the primary recommendation made that a Charter of Human Rights be enacted in Tasmania to protect a comprehensive range of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.
- In 2019, the Board of TLRI accepted a request from a coalition of interest groups called the Alliance for a Tasmanian Human Rights Act (ATHRA) to review and update its 2007 final report.
- The questions that this 2024 research paper discusses are:
 - whether a formal legal guarantee for human rights of Tasmanian through a Charter of Human Rights or a Human Rights Act remains necessary
 - if it remains necessary, whether the recommendations in the 2007 final report require updating.
- In order to address these questions, TLRI has taken into consideration:
 - developments in Australian human rights law and practice since 2007
 - significant events happening in the review period (2007-2022) and how they may have relevance and import for the recommendations made in 2007
 - the input of legal experts, government representatives and peak community bodies.
- Comparisons in the operations of human rights law among Australian jurisdictions and with international jurisdictions, which include New Zealand and the United Kingdom, are also made to assess which and how the 2007 recommendations, if any, should be changed.
- The TLRI is of the view that the need to adopt a Tasmanian Charter of Human Rights or a Human Rights Act remains.
- In addition, TLRI's view is that changes are also required to update the model recommended in 2007 for a more effective and efficient human rights framework for Tasmania.
- A human rights enactment, as TLRI acknowledges in the report, does not mean that all human rights challenges will be resolved in Tasmania. However, TLRI remains of the view that human rights legislation has the potential to provide

transparency and explicit consideration of human rights in government decision-making while recognising Parliamentary sovereignty.



BUDGET ESTIMATES BRIEF

Subject:	Legislative Program
Election Commitment:	Responses to Commission of Inquiry, bail reform, consolidation of police powers, risk assessments for child sexual offenders, posting of criminal activity on social media
Key Department Spokesperson:	Pauline van Adrichem, Deputy Secretary Justice and Reform

KEY MESSAGES

- As Attorney-General, I am committed to ensuring that Tasmania's laws are contemporary and reflect our community's expectations.
- The Office of Strategic Legislation and Policy sits within the Department of Justice and is responsible for providing me, as Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation, with strategic legislation and policy advice on matters within those portfolios.
- The office's work includes leading and coordinating the Government's legislative response to the recommendations arising from the Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings.
- The Office of Strategic Legislation and Policy also assists with or coordinates projects in my Consumer Affairs portfolio.

Attorney-General and Justice portfolios

- In the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, 22 bills in my Attorney-General and Justice portfolios that were developed through the office were either introduced into, debated, or passed by Parliament. Those bills were:
 - Commissions of Inquiry (Private Sessions Information) Amendment Bill 2025
 - Dangerous Criminals and High Risk Offenders Amendment Bill 2025
 - Defamation Amendment Bill 2024
 - Electoral Amendment Bill 2024

- Electoral Amendment (Alternative Voting Procedures) Bill 2025
- Evidence (Children and Special Witnesses) Amendment Bill 2024
- Evidence (Children and Special Witnesses) Amendment Bill 2025
- Expungement of Historical Offences Amendment Bill 2024
- Judicial Commissions Bill 2024
- Justice and Related Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2024
- Justice and Related Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill (No.2) 2024
- Justice and Related Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2025
- Justice Miscellaneous (Administrative Review Tribunal) Bill 2024
- Justice Miscellaneous (Commission of Inquiry) Bill 2024 (26 of 2024)
- Justice Miscellaneous (Explosive Offences) Bill 2025
- Justice Miscellaneous (Reporting Procedures) Bill 2025
- Sentencing Amendment (Alcohol Treatment Order) Bill 2024
- Sentencing Amendment (Presumption of Mandatory Sentencing) Bill 2024
- Sentencing Amendment (Presumptive Sentencing for Assaults on Frontline Workers) Bill 2024
- Sentencing Amendment (Aggravating Factors) Amendment Bill 2025
- State Litigator (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2024
- Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (Additional Jurisdictions) Bill 2024.

- 8 Regulations relating to the Justice portfolio were either made or re-made by the office in the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025:
 - Access to Neighbouring Land Regulations 2024
 - Crime (Confiscation of Profits) Regulations 2024
 - Bail Regulations 2024
 - Variation of Trusts Regulations 2024
 - Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Amendment Regulations 2024
 - Electoral Regulations 2025
 - Health Complaints Regulations 2025
 - Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal Amendment Regulations 2025
- In addition to the re-introduction into Parliament of several Bills that lapsed with the calling of the 2025 Tasmanian state election, a range of further legislative reforms are currently being progressed by the office in the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice portfolios in 2025-26, including:
 - Several tranches of reforms to the *Integrity Commission Act 2009*, beginning with the Integrity Commission Amendment (Mandatory Notifications) Bill 2025
 - Commission for Children and Young People Bill 2025
 - Bail Bill 2025
 - Terrorism Legislation (Extension) Bill 2025
 - Family Violence (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2025
 - Justice Miscellaneous (Conversion Practices) Bill 2025
 - Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Amendment Bill 2025
 - amendments to the *Monetary Penalties Enforcement Act 2005*

- Insanity and Fitness to Plead amendments
 - Jury directions
 - consolidation of police powers
 - statutory discounts for plea of guilty
 - further reforms to the *Family Violence Act 2004*
 - further reforms to the *Guardianship and Administration Act 1995*.
- A range of further remade or new regulations are currently being progressed by the office in the 2025-26 financial year, including:
 - Juries Regulations 2015
 - Health Complaints (Code of Conduct) Regulations 2024
 - Electoral Disclosure and Funding Regulations 2025
 - Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal Amendment (Fees) Regulations 2025.

Corrections and Rehabilitation portfolio

- In the 2025-26 financial year, the Office is undertaking work to progress amendments to the *Corrections Act 1997* and prepare new Corrections Amendment Regulations.

Consumer Affairs portfolio

- The following information relates to bills and regulations prepared by Departmental areas for the Consumer Affairs portfolio.
- In the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, 3 bills relating to this portfolio were either introduced into, debated, or passed by Parliament. Those bills were:
 - Asbestos-Related Diseases (Occupational Exposure) Compensation Bill 2024
 - Charities and Associations Law (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2024
 - Residential Tenancy Amendment Bill 2024.

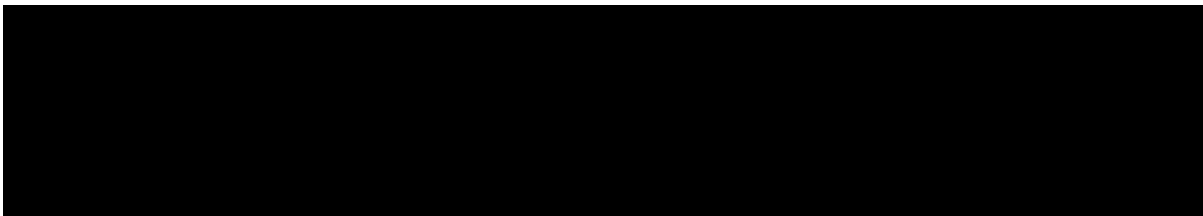
- Regulations relating to this portfolio that were either made or re-made in the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 include:
 - Long Service Leave (State Employees) Regulations 2024
 - Residential Tenancy Amendment Regulations 2024
 - Prepaid Funerals Regulations 2025
 - Residential Tenancy Regulations 2025
 - Retirement Villages Regulations 2025.
- Further legislative reforms relating to this portfolio that are being progressed in the 2025-26 financial year include:
 - Residential Tenancy Amendment (Safety Modifications) Bill 2025
 - Caravan Parks legislation
 - Building company phoenixing and builders' misconduct
- A range of further remade regulations relating to this portfolio are currently being progressed by the office in the 2025-26 financial year, including:
 - Residential Tenancy Amendment (On Farm Accommodation) Regulations 2025
 - Co-operatives National Law (Tasmania) Local Regulations 2025
 - Conveyancing Regulations 2025.

BACKGROUND

- In addition to the legislative reforms detailed above, the Office of Strategic Legislation and Policy finalised the following Bills that were re-tabled in Parliament (with or without changes) following the 2025 Tasmanian State Election:
 - Dangerous Criminals and High Risk Offenders Amendment Bill 2025
 - Expungement of Historical Offences Amendment Bill 2025
 - Justice and Related Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2025
 - Justice and Related Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill (No.2) 2025
 - Justice Miscellaneous (Explosives Offences) Bill 2025
 - Residential Tenancy Amendment (Pets) Bill 2025
 - Sentencing Amendment (Aggravating Factors) Bill 2025
- The Office is undertaking work in 2025-26 to provide advice to Government on a range of further matters relating to possible future law reform, including:
 - Right to Information amendments, subject to the outcome of the outstanding Independent Review of Tasmania's Right to Information framework led by Professor Tim McCormack and Associate Professor Rick Snell.
 - further Integrity Commission reforms, with one Bill to be tabled this year, another released for consultation by the end of 2025 and a possible further tranche of reforms delivered in 2026
 - reforms to the *Family Violence Act 2004* following consideration of feedback on the family violence discussion paper, expected to be released in November 2025
 - legislation to address the posting of criminal activities to social media (election commitment)
 - minimum age of criminal responsibility reform
 - forced adoption redress, which may progress as a non-legislative scheme.
- The Office is also progressing work on legislative options to respond to Commission of Inquiry recommendations for delivery as part of 'phase two', i.e. in the medium term by 1 July 2026. Significant projects include:
 - Recommendation 16.10 relating to amendments to the *Evidence (Children and Special Witnesses) Act 2001*. The Commission of Inquiry recommended the Government expand the scope of the Witness Intermediary Scheme within that Act, to include children who are under investigation for, or who have been charged

with, sexual offences. It further requires the Government to consider whether legislation should be enacted requiring police to use witness intermediaries in police interviews of children and young people and adults with communication needs (including defendants), relating to sexual offences.

- Recommendation 17.8 relating to review and reform of the operation of the *Right to Information Act 2009* and the *Personal Information Protection Act 2004* to ensure victim-survivors of child sexual abuse in institutional contexts can obtain information relating to that abuse. It contains many points regarding streamlining the process for victim-survivors to obtain information relating to their abuse and a physical restructure of the Acts, with the creation of a new central unit or department with additional liaison officers in existing agencies.
- This is a significant body of work and will be informed by the outstanding Independent Review (led by Associate Professor Rick Snell and Professor Tim McCormack). That review is anticipated to add several recommendations to a reform area where both the Commission of Inquiry and the Tasmania Law Reform Institute, in its May 2024 Report *Review of Privacy Laws in Tasmania*, have made similar recommendations relating to both Acts. When finalised, appropriate consideration can be given to that Independent Review to inform government policy and progress work to complete Recommendation 17.8, including advice as to proposed timeframes for any legislative reform.
- Recommendation 16.15 relating to trial or jury directions. Proposed amendments implementing the Commission's recommendation were included in the consultation draft of the Justice Miscellaneous (Commission of Inquiry) Bill 2024. However, it became evident during consultation that more comprehensive engagement, particularly with legal stakeholders, needs to be undertaken. It is anticipated that a Bill will be tabled by May 2026, meeting the Commission's recommended timeframe for implementation by July 2026.
- Separate briefs have been prepared on key law reform projects and on the work of the Sentencing Advisory Council of Tasmania and the Tasmania Law Reform Institute.



BUDGET ESTIMATES BRIEF

Subject:	Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility
Election Commitment:	N/A
Key Department Spokesperson:	Kristy Bourne, Secretary

KEY MESSAGES

- Our Government has accepted the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry, and is committed to reforms which will make us Australia's leading jurisdiction in this space.
- This will support disadvantaged Tasmanian children to develop as healthy, safe and law-abiding people and make our community safer.
- The age of criminal responsibility in most Australian jurisdictions, including Tasmania, is 10. This applies with a legal presumption that children aged 10 to 13 inclusive cannot be guilty of an offence. The prosecution can rebut this if it proves the child 'had sufficient capacity to know' what they were doing was wrong.
- This system, at its core, is hundreds of years old. It is not supported by modern evidence, which shows that a criminal justice response for such young children is counter-productive for them and for society.
- The Australian Capital Territory has used a staged approach, lifting the age to 12 in 2023 and then to 14 in July 2025.
- Victoria passed legislation in 2024 to raise its age to 12, to commence by the end of September 2025.
- Our government will implement Recommendation 12.11 of the Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings.
- We will develop and provide community-based health, welfare and disability programs and services tailored to meet the needs of kids under 14 displaying antisocial behaviour, and to address factors contributing to it.

- This will create a system that supports our legislation to increase the age of criminal responsibility to 14 years, without exception.
- We will also work towards increasing the minimum age of detention, including remand, to 16. We will develop alternatives to detention for children aged 14 and 15 found guilty of serious violent offences and who may be a danger to themselves or the community.
- The Commission of Inquiry suggested this all be done by 1 July 2029.
- Substituting a therapeutic response for younger children will address, earlier in their lives, underlying causes of offending and unmet needs - to improve their futures and enhance community safety. Developing new tools and responses will impact and benefit all children under 16, and our society more generally.

If required:

Doli incapax

- In July 2025, the Government made an election commitment to review the principle of *doli incapax*, including a possible reversal of the onus of proof.
- *Doli incapax* is the Latin name for a legal presumption that children aged 10 to 13 inclusive cannot be guilty of an offence. The prosecution can rebut this if it proves the child 'had sufficient capacity to know' what they were doing was wrong.
- I can confirm that my Department will be reviewing this and providing advice to me on whether such a reversal is recommended.
- However, that principle is set to be repealed by July 2029 anyway, through our commitment to fulfil all 191 recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry, in full.
- Raising the age to 14 without exception will repeal it.
- We have the Commission of Inquiry's report and our Youth Justice Blueprint for a multi-systemic response to youth justice.
- This complex, important issue will require legislation which follows system planning and funding crossing multiple Tasmanian government,

ministerial and departmental responsibilities. It goes far beyond a simple change of the age in our Criminal Code.

- We will still need responses to stop problematic behaviour and assist people affected by it. One example is police powers: like using places of safety and alternative engagement methods. Another is diversion and mandatory engagement.
- We will consult extensively with stakeholders, particularly to ensure appropriate supports for young people who may otherwise be caught up in our justice system or who are at risk.

BACKGROUND

Reform in other jurisdictions

- Northern Territory (NT) raised the minimum age of criminal responsibility (MACR) to 12 without exceptions on 1 August 2023. A new government reversed this - the age is again 10 and the under 14s presumption (*doli incapax*) applies - meaning children aged 10-13 can only be criminally responsible for an offence if the child knows that the conduct is wrong - a question of fact which the prosecution must prove beyond a reasonable doubt.
- The Australian Capital Territory introduced a bill in May 2023 with a phased approach, raising the MACR to 12 and later to 14, with exceptions for 12- and 13-year-olds who commit certain exceptionally serious, intentionally violent offences. The bill passed and initial parts (including the age of 12) commenced on 22 November 2023. The age became 14 on 1 July 2025.
- In April 2023, Victoria announced it would table legislation to lift the MACR to 12 and the *Youth Justice Act 2024* (VIC) gained assent on 10 September 2024. It raised the Victorian MACR to 12 and incorporates the *doli incapax* presumption for 12- and 13-year-olds. The relevant sections will commence on 30 September 2025, if they are not proclaimed earlier. Victoria had also promised to legislate separately to lift the age to 14 within 4 years, with exceptions for certain serious crimes. However, it has since abandoned this.
- The South Australian government has also stepped back from reform. It ran consultation on possibly raising the MACR to 12 in early 2024. However, on 5 March 2025, the Attorney-General, Kyam Maher MLC, [told](#) the Legislative Council:

This government has not had a policy to raise the [MACR]. Certainly under the former government... started a process with other states looking nationally - all states were involved in the project - at the [MACR]... We have never said that this is a priority for this government. Certainly, we are keen to explore any option that has the potential to make the community safer, and we will continue to do that.

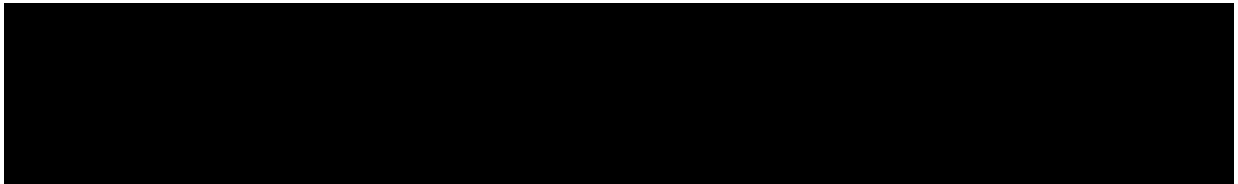
- The concept which had formed the basis for consultation had involved:
 - exceptions for children aged 10 or 11: murder, manslaughter, rape or causing serious harm (keeping the *doli incapax* presumption)
 - a three-tier alternative diversion model response, increasing in intensity depending on the child's behaviour and their needs. These would entail community, mediated and mandatory action plans (the latter via formal SACAT orders)
 - as a last-resort, subject to strict criteria, criminally prosecuting 10- and 11-year-olds for behaviour that would constitute other specified, non-exception

offences would remain open in cases of repeated extreme, harmful or violent non-exempt behaviour where a mandatory action plan had failed

- including victims in action plans where appropriate, and preserving access to victims of crime compensation and
 - a review after 2 years.
- On 6 March 2025, Attorney-General Maher [told](#) the Legislative Council that the former government's discussion paper 'had a model without any commitment to implementing the model... they were proposals for the sake of a discussion paper, not a government policy'.
 - It appears almost certain that Queensland and Western Australia will not make any change in the foreseeable future.

Further comments on the Tasmanian position

- The Tasmanian Commission of Inquiry report is silent on utilising a staged approach regarding the MACR.
- Tasmania is the only jurisdiction committed to a minimum age of *detention*.
- The Government's MACR (and age of detention) commitment is almost universally supported by stakeholders and political parties. Many have been calling for such reform for years.
- **Exempt under s 27** 
- The September 2023 Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with a Disability recommended (8.22) that 'states and territories that have not already done so should introduce legislation to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to 14'.



BUDGET ESTIMATES BRIEF

Subject:	OPCAT (inc National Preventive Mechanism/Funding)
Election Commitment:	N/A
Key Department Spokesperson:	Colin Shepherd, Deputy Secretary, Corrective Services

KEY MESSAGES

- The 2023-24 Annual Report of the Australian National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) provides useful insight into how Tasmania is faring in Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT) implementation.
- You possibly will have seen that Australian NPM notes that '[the Tasmanian Government has made] **the single largest financial contribution to date by an Australian government in relation to OPCAT implementation**' (page 49).
- I am proud that our Government has invested more than any other Government in Australia to establish robust oversight mechanisms for people deprived of their liberty, including the Commonwealth NPM. We are literally nation-leading in OPCAT implementation.
- Comparatively, no other jurisdiction provides an express line item of budget funding to NPMs. Jurisdictions that have progressed OPCAT implementation, such as the ACT, SA, WA and NT, require NPMs to draw on the budget allocations for the oversight body that has been delegated NPM functions.
- NSW, QLD and VIC have not yet identified a NPM body. Those jurisdictions have expressed that they will not implement the OPCAT or NPM until the Australian Government commits to ongoing co-funding due to the Commonwealth ratifying the OPCAT on behalf of states and territories. Our Government has funded the Tasmanian NPM well beyond the \$155,000 contribution from the Commonwealth.

- The work that Tasmania's NPM has undertaken because of our investment, which from November 2021 to 30 June 2025 has been approximately \$1.5 million, has enabled the development of custodial 'expectations' or standards for different types of detention.
- I appreciate that last year Tasmania's NPM was critical of its funding allocation, with \$300,000 per annum provided to continue operationalising OPCAT. I understand that Tasmania's NPM has nonetheless commenced undertaking inspections in places of detention, within its budget envelope.
- The NPM is one oversight function, which is accompanied by a suite of other independent oversight mechanisms, such as the Custodial Inspector and Ombudsman, which ensures that our systems and places of detention keep people safe.
- We care about the standards of care for people in detention facilities, and we look forward to enabling the work of the Tasmanian NPM to continue.

Funding for the NPM

- The Government has committed to funding the Tasmanian NPM. We have demonstrated our commitment by investing more than any other Government in Australia.
- The Tasmanian 2024 Budget provided:
 - \$200,000 for increased monitoring of AYDC per year for 2 years and
 - permanent annual funding of \$300,000 to implement the Tasmanian NPM improve custodial oversight and monitoring of non-custodial settings and give effect to related Commission of Inquiry recommendations.
- I am aware that the NPM has in the past been pessimistic about the Office's capacity to conduct visits to those places of detention not covered by the Custodial Inspector (such as secure mental health and disability facilities and police lock-ups).
- Some of the NPM's concerns, as I understand them, relate to the need to include relevant subject matter expertise in each visit undertaken.

- Additional funding of \$250,000 per year for 2 years has been provided in the 2025-26 Budget to improve custodial oversight and monitoring of non-custodial settings.

IF ASKED – NPM’s report recommendations

- The Tasmanian NPM has issued two reports:
 - the Implementation Report, Preventing Ill-Treatment and Torture in Tasmania, in December 2023
 - the Supplementary Implementation Report, on 26 November 2024.
- I am receiving advice from my Department on the NPM’s reports and recommendations. It’s not as simple as saying “I agree and will implement the recommendations”. The NPM’s recommendations intersect with the Commissioner for Children and Young People and Tasmania’s Custodial Inspector, and we are taking the time and care needed to ensure that we have an appropriate oversight framework that serves Tasmanians in the most efficient manner.

KEY FIGURES

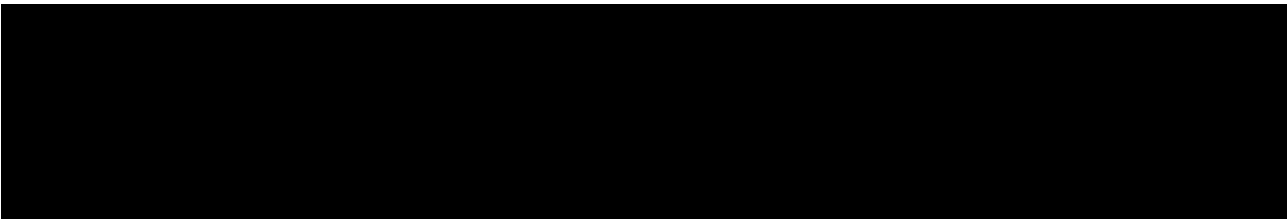
- Since November 2021, the Tasmanian Government has allocated funding of approximately \$3.4 million to the Tasmanian NPM to implement and operate Tasmania’s OPCAT framework.
- The 2024-25 Budget permanently allocated \$300,000 per year over the forward estimates to Tasmania’s NPM.
- For the 2024-25 State Budget, the NPM had requested annual allocations from 2024-25 of \$2.81m, \$3.046m, \$2.937m and \$2.954m.
- The 2025-26 Budget allocates a further \$250,000 per annum for two years to enhance the operations of the Tasmanian NPM.

BACKGROUND

- In December 2017, the Australian Government ratified OPCAT.
- Under Part IV of OPCAT in particular, each jurisdiction is required to establish a 'National Preventive Mechanism' (NPM) covering places of detention within its jurisdiction. To coordinate jurisdictions' NPMs, the Commonwealth has nominated the Commonwealth Ombudsman as the National Preventive Mechanism Coordinator.
- OPCAT provides for a two-part system for inspecting places of detention, including allowing periodic visits by the United Nations Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture (SPT) and establishing a domestic NPM to conduct routine visits to places of detention and monitor the treatment of persons in detention in Australia.
- Under the Protocol, Australia was required to be OPCAT compliant by 20 January 2022. Due to Australia's federated system of government, each jurisdiction is required to ensure that it is OPCAT compliant.
- New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria have not yet identified a National Preventive Mechanism body. Those jurisdictions have indicated that they will not nominate NPM until the Commonwealth Government commits to ongoing co-funding due to the Commonwealth's ratifying the OPCAT on behalf of states and territories.
- Recommendations from the Tasmanian NPM's Implementation Report, Preventing Ill-Treatment and Torture in Tasmania, are:
 - Recommendation 1: That the Tasmanian NPM be established as a new specialised institution, separate from the Ombudsman.
 - Recommendation 2: That the person appointed as Tasmanian NPM concurrently serve as Custodial Inspector, which is also to be separated from the Ombudsman, and the offices combined under the recommended governance model.
 - Recommendation 3: That the Tasmanian NPM delegate authority to the Commissioner for Children and Young People and establish a joint process agreement for the exercise of functions pertaining to children and young people.
 - Recommendation 4: That the Commissioner for Children and Young People and the Custodial Inspector be specifically resourced to contribute to the delivery of the Tasmanian NPM.
 - Recommendation 5: That the Tasmanian NPM and Commissioner for Children and Young People be co-located in a purpose designed office setting.
 - Recommendation 6: That the Tasmanian NPM establish a formal and permanent Civil Society Advisory Council, which is integrated into its governance structure.
 - Recommendation 7: That the Tasmanian NPM's corporate services are provided by an agency over which it will not exercise oversight.

- Recommendation 8: That the Tasmanian NPM and Commissioner for Children and Young People engage cooperatively and provide advice to Government on an agreed approach to the implementation of Commission of Inquiry recommendations related to OPCAT and youth justice inspections.
- Additionally, the NPM released a Supplementary Implementation Report which makes an additional 4 recommendations. The supplementary report focuses on the NPM's functions in community-based residential health and social care settings.
- The Tasmanian Government has not yet responded to the NPM's Implementation Report, primarily due to the nexus between the Tasmanian NPM's Budget Submission and the NPM's recommendations. Once the state Budget is known, the Department can provide further advice on the NPM's recommendations.
- It is noted that the scope of OPCAT extends to secure health facilities, police lock ups and other places of detention; as such the responsibility for these settings may sit with a number of different Ministers.
- The NPM's Implementation Report concerning the Commission for Children and Young People does not directly align with those of the Commission of Inquiry's recommendations. The Department, through Strategic Legislation and Policy, is preparing advice to Government.
- Nationally, Attorneys-General have agreed, through the Standing Council of Attorneys-General, to continue working together on the implementation of OPCAT.
- In March 2024, Tasmania hosted the National OPCAT Symposium which brought together Australian NPMs, leading experts and civil society to discuss key practice issues, insights and shared learnings.

Funding

- The Commonwealth Government provided a small one-off contribution of \$155,000 to the implementation of OPCAT in Tasmania. Our Government is continuing its engagement with the Commonwealth Government to seek ongoing co-funding of the NPM.
 - It is understood that some jurisdictions continue to work with the Commonwealth Government regarding the funding of OPCAT. Assurances have been given to Tasmania that if the Commonwealth agrees to a better funding deal to other states and territories, Tasmania will not be disadvantaged by its early acceptance of the funding arrangements.
- 

BUDGET ESTIMATES BRIEF

Subject:	Safe at Home Family Violence Service System
Election Commitment:	N/A
Key Department Spokesperson:	Rebecca Flakelar, Director, Safe at Home

KEY MESSAGES

- Preventing and responding to family violence is a top priority for the Tasmanian Government and we remain committed to doing everything we can to ensure all Tasmanians are safe, respected and free from all forms of family and sexual violence.
- As Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation, I am committed to ensuring that the Government does everything we can to make sure that all Tasmanian women and children, as well as the broader community, remain safe and protected.
- Safe at Home continues to deliver an integrated criminal justice response to family violence in Tasmania. The Safe at Home service system is designed to meet the needs of victim-survivors, both adult and children, while holding perpetrators accountable for their behaviour.
- The four objectives of Safe at Home are to:
 - improve the safety of adult and child victim-survivors of family violence in the short and long term
 - ensure that perpetrators are held accountable for family violence as a crime, and change their offending behaviour
 - reduce the incidence and severity of family violence in the longer term
 - minimise the negative impacts of contact with the criminal justice system on adult and child victim-survivors.

- Since 2022-23, the Tasmanian Government invested recurring operational funding of \$4.86 million for the Safe at Home Family Violence Service System.
- **This funding has been made permanent**, in response to community needs and will ensure Safe at Home, as Tasmania's nationally recognised integrated criminal justice response to family violence, is able to support the prevention of family violence. The funding provides:
 - \$784,000 per annum for the Department of Justice
 - \$447,000 per annum for Tasmania Legal Aid (TLA)
 - \$2.512 million per annum for the Department of Health
 - \$635,000 per annum for the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management
 - \$488,000 per annum for the Department for Education, Children and Young People.
- The 2024-25 Budget allocation extended those existing Safe at Home initiatives delivered by the Department of Justice and TLA on a permanent basis including:
 - expansion of the phone service at the Hobart Magistrates Court providing victims of family violence a direct line to the Court Support and Liaison Service, enabling immediate over the phone family violence advice and support to the Launceston, Burnie and Devonport Magistrates Courts
 - additional grant funding for TLA for Safe at Home related matters which responds to conflicts of interest and over-capacity (grants of aid) and service costs (official delivery of documents)
 - provides additional administrative support to these services to improve the service delivery to vulnerable Tasmanians.

- Ongoing funding to other agencies to continue the delivery of services includes:
 - additional staffing for the Children and Young Person's Program (ChYPP) and additional staffing for the adult program for the Family Violence Counselling and Support Service
 - additional staffing for Safe at Home Police Prosecution.
- Furthermore, additional Safe at Home Family Violence Service System funding was provided to the Department of Health, Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Department for Education, Children and Young People on a permanent basis for:
 - additional staffing for Allied Health Professional Extended Hours Service; additional staffing for administrative support; and additional staffing for program support for the Family Violence Counselling and Support Service
 - additional staffing for Safe at Home Police Prosecution
 - additional staffing for Safe Homes, Safe Families Social Workers.
- The Australian Government has allocated \$2 million to the Department of Justice (via DPAC) under the Innovative Perpetrator Response project. Funding has been provided until 30 June 2027.
 - Access to rehabilitative services and programs for family violence perpetrators is essential to achieve long-term change in family violence offending rates. A key reform of the *Family Violence Reforms Act 2022* allows for mandated behaviour change program participation as part of a Family Violence Order. The amendment empowers the courts to direct a perpetrator to undertake a rehabilitation program at the earliest opportunity in the court process, enabling targeted intervention that addresses the perpetrator's behaviour while holding them accountable for their actions. It will overcome an existing barrier where a court cannot order rehabilitation program participation until a conviction is recorded.

- The Department of Justice is leading the trial with Relationships Australia delivering an adapted version of the Men's behaviour change program for family violence perpetrators statewide.
- The Australian Government has further allocated \$1,282,818 to the Department of Justice Tasmania Prison Service (TPS) under the Innovative Perpetrator Response project. Funding has been provided until 30 June 2027.
 - Current family violence intervention programs provided by the Tasmanian Government can only be accessed by offenders who have been convicted and sentenced for a family violence offence. These offenders need to be sentenced for a sufficient period to complete the program, which is between 6 to 9 months in duration. The TPS has identified a pattern whereby offenders are likely to experience delays in sentencing, therefore are released upon sentence, with time served, or they receive a comparatively shorter sentence due to the time they have been on remand. This impacts their ability to engage in a behaviour change program.
 - This trial will enable targeted intervention that addresses the perpetrator's behaviour while holding them accountable for their actions.
 - The Department of Justice will lead the trial which will be conducted at the Risdon Prison Complex by the TPS.

KEY FIGURES

- SafeHome Statistics 1 July 2024 - 30 June 2025

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Number of cases considered by regional Safe at Home Integrated Case Coordination Meetings	19,903	22,771	25,732
Number of Flexible Support Packages requested	201	165	177
Number of Keeping Women Safe in their Homes Program funding requested	223	276	248

- Family Violence Statistics 1 July 2024 - 30 June 2025

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Tasmania Police Family Violence Management System Reports	7,437	8,385	9,712
Family Violence Incidents	4,680	5,363	6,488
Family Violence Arguments	2,757	3,022	3,224
Risk Assessment Screening Tool (RAST) classifications	Low - 2,343 Medium - 2,050 High - 287	Low - 2,600 Medium - 2,410 High - 353	Low - 3,194 Medium - 2,929 High - 365
Police Family Violence Orders	2,097	2,183	2,468
Applications for Family Violence Orders	360	408	476

Source: Tasmania Police FVMS, as at 30 June 2025

- Secured as Permanent Funding in the 2024-25 Budget

			2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Unit	Status	Summary	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Department of Justice					
Safe at Home Coordination Unit	Continuation	Additional hours for existing Safe at Home Coordination Unit support (0.5 FTE)	59	59	59
	Continuation	Policy Officer (1 FTE)	191	191	191
	Continuation	Administrative Support position (0.6 FTE).	66	66	66
Court Support and Liaison Service	Continuation	Additional Court Support and Liaison Officer (South) (1 FTE)	124	124	124
	Continuation	Additional Court Support and Liaison Officer (Nth/N-W) (1 FTE)	124	124	124
Magistrates Court of Tasmania	Continuation	Administrative Assistant (2 FTE)	220	220	220
Tasmania Legal Aid					
Tasmania Legal Aid	Continuation	Safe at Home Legal Practitioner (North-West) (1 FTE)	195	195	195
	Continuation	Conflicts and Over-Capacity (grants of aid)	133	133	133
	Continuation	Service (official delivery of documents) costs	9	9	9
	Continuation	Legal Secretary (Nth-W) (1 FTE)	110	110	110
Department of Health					
Family Violence Counselling and Support Service	Continuation	Extended Hours Service Allied Health Professional positions (2 FTE).	242	242	242
	Continuation	Allied Health Professional (3.5 FTE) positions state-wide (1.5 FTE Nth-W, 1 FTE Nth, 1 FTE Sth) for the FVCSS Adult Program	424	424	424
	Continuation	Allied Health Professional (1.7 FTE) position for the FVCSS Adult Program	225	225	225
	Continuation	Allied Health Professional (4 FTE) ChYPP clinician positions	484	484	484
	Continuation	1 FTE Allied Health Professional (level 3) for the Extended Hours Service	132	132	132
	Continuation	Additional 2.5 FTE Allied Health Professional (level 1/2) to increase the Extended Hours Service	303	303	303
	Continuation	Additional 1 FTE General Stream Band 4 Executive Support Officer	105	105	105
	Continuation	Additional 3 FTE Allied Health Professional (level 1/2) positions - Regional FV Liaison Officers	363	363	363

	Continuation	Additional 1 FTE General Stream Band 5 FVCSS Project Officer	115	115	115
	Continuation	Additional 0.5 FTE Allied Health Professional (level 3) position - ChYPP Psychologist	66	66	66
	Continuation	Additional 0.4 FTE Allied Health Professional (level 3) position - CHYPP Team Leader Nth and Nth-W (0.4 FTE)	53	53	53
Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management					
Safe at Home Police Prosecution	Continuation	Safe at Home Police Prosecutors (3 FTE)	272	272	272
	Continuation	Safe at Home Police Prosecutors (4 FTE) (1 FTE North, 1 FTE South, 2 FTE North-West)	363	363	363
Department of Education					
Safe Homes, Safe Families Social Workers	Continuation	Social Workers (3 FTE)	340	340	340
	Continuation	Investigator (1 FTE)	148	148	148
Total Cost			4,866	4,866	4,866

- This is summarised per Department as per the following table

Department	2024-25 \$'000	2025-26 \$'000
Department of Justice	784	784
Tasmania Legal Aid	447	447
Department of Health	2,512	2,512
Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management	635	635
Department for Education, Children and Young People	488	488
Total Funding Provided	4,866	4,866

BACKGROUND

- Safe at Home is the Tasmanian Government's integrated criminal justice response to family violence. The Safe at Home service system is underpinned by the *Family Violence Act 2004*. Safe at Home represents a partnership between 5 departments, those being:
 - Department of Justice
 - Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management
 - Department for Education, Children and Young People
 - Department of Health
 - Tasmania Legal Aid.
- The Department of Justice is the lead agency overseeing Safe at Home. Within the abovementioned departments, Safe at Home is comprised of 12 business units, those being:
 - Safe at Home Coordination Unit (Department of Justice)
 - Family Violence Units (Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management)
 - Family Violence Counselling and Support Service (Department of Health)
 - Court Support and Liaison Service (Department of Justice)
 - Specialist Lawyers - Tasmania Legal Aid
 - Specialist Police Prosecutors (Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management)
 - Community Corrections, Family Violence Offender Intervention Program (Department of Justice)
 - Family Violence Response and Referral Line (Department for Children, Education and Young People)
 - Defendant Health Liaison Service (Department of Health)
 - Child Safety Services (Department for Children, Education and Young People)
 - Specialist Social Workers (Department for Children, Education and Young People)
 - Tasmania Prison Service (Department of Justice).

- Integrated Case Coordination (ICC) is a key feature of the Safe at Home program. ICC acts as a safety hub in each region for family violence cases, ensuring all risk and safety aspects of family violence cases are discussed and appropriate actions decided. ICC meetings are held on a weekly basis in each of the 4 regions throughout the state and are attended by service providers in the Safe at Home service system.

Family Violence Service System Review

- The Family Violence Service System Review findings in relation to Safe at Home were that:
 - Safe at Home continues to deliver a nation leading integrated criminal justice response to family violence, which has been enhanced by investment in schools and community-based specialist family violence services under Safe Homes, Safe Families.
 - Following the release of Safe Homes, Safe Families, demand for Safe at Home services has increased significantly.
 - Safe at Home services have seen a significant increase in historical and complex family violence being reported, which require intensive interventions and responses using substantial time and resources.
 - Safe at Home data demonstrates a significant increase in both ICC case discussions, reflecting the increase in reporting, as well as an increase in the complexity of matters and recorded actions allocated for active case management since 2015.
 - Safe at Home has an established case-conference protocol which incorporates non-Safe at Home services to address risk and safety concerns of identified high-risk families. There are also informal arrangements in place between Safe at Home agencies and non-Safe at Home services for information sharing. However, developing a contemporary, best-practice information sharing framework for government and non-government services in relation to family violence matters would enhance the service system.

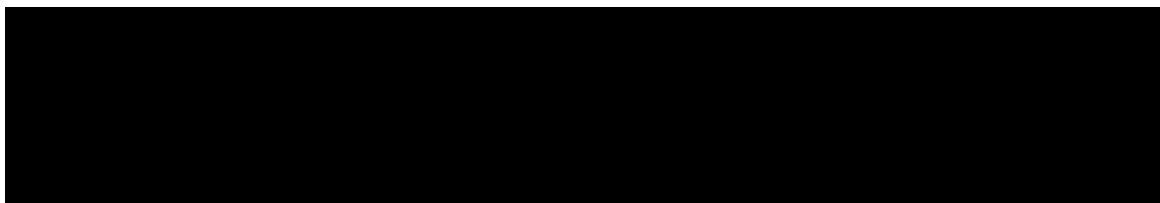
Reviews of Safe at Home

- Safe at Home has undergone 4 reviews:
 - the Urbis review of the *Family Violence Act 2004* (2007)
 - the Success Works review of the Safe at Home integrated response system (2008)
 - an Internal Performance Review (2014)
 - the Family Violence Service System Review in 2019.

- The reviews confirmed that Safe at Home has continued to be a leading model of an integrated criminal justice response to family violence in Australia.
- The legislation that underpins the Safe at Home response has also been reviewed as part of the Safe Homes, Safe Families Family Violence Action Plan.
- Over 30 amendments to the *Family Violence Act 2004* and associated legislation have been enacted to improve and enhance the Safe at Home response.

Police Family Violence Orders and Police Applications for Family Violence Orders

- Tasmania Police are guided by the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management Family Violence Manual when deciding to issue a Police Family Violence Order (PFVO) or to apply to the Magistrates Court for a Family Violence Order (FVO).
- Where there are no protective orders in existence, police officers have been instructed to consider the circumstances of the incident, including the Risk Assessment Screening Tool (RAST) score, to determine the most appropriate course of action. It is the responsibility of the validating police supervisor (of the rank of sergeant or above) to ensure the appropriate response is provided to address issues of risk and safety for affected adults and children.
- Police officers will consider making an application for an FVO where:
 - the circumstances warrant an application for an FVO as the offender is held for court on substantive matters involving the victim of a family violence incident (i.e. assault or wounding)
 - there is a current Family Court Order in relation to the parties and conditions exist which present a risk to the victim or affected children
 - members wish to include conditions on the order which are not available to police on a PFVO.



BUDGET ESTIMATES BRIEF

Subject:	Misidentification of Predominant Aggressor (Police Family Violence Orders)
Election Commitment:	N/A
Key Department Spokesperson:	Rebecca Flakelar, Director, Safe at Home

KEY MESSAGES

- Family violence is unacceptable. There are serious and long-term negative impacts to people who experience family violence, and the Tasmanian Government is committed to ending all forms of family and sexual violence.
- Tasmania's Third Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan 2022 – 2027: Survivors at the Centre, is the Tasmanian Government's coordinated, whole-of-government action plan to respond to family and sexual violence.
- I acknowledge those dedicated advocates for all people affected by family violence. Their contributions to policy, civil and criminal justice reforms are vital to ensure that the needs of our community are heard and addressed.
- We know the impact that misidentification in a Police Family Violence Order (PFVO) can have on victim-survivors. That is why the Government convened a high-level working group to examine the issue of misidentification of the predominant aggressor. The working group included representatives from government and non-government organisations.
- Informed by this Working Group, on 13 May 2025, I released the Family Violence (Miscellaneous Reforms) Bill 2025.

- Importantly, this Bill will amend the *Family Violence Act 2004* to provide the Commissioner of Police, or an authorised police officer of the rank of inspector or above, with the power to vary or revoke a PFVO in prescribed circumstances, such as when a victim has been misidentified as the perpetrator.
- The Bill replaces section 14(7) with a new provision so that the Commissioner of Police or an authorised police officer of the rank of inspector or above can review a PFVO. Following the review, the inspector can vary or revoke the order if satisfied that the variation or revocation meets all three of these requirements:
 - it is in the interests of justice (this term relates to fairness and equity - for example, revoking a PFVO on the basis the person named in the PFVO is not the predominant aggressor and the PFVO in respect of that person is no longer appropriate; or varying a PFVO as the conditions are not appropriate); and
 - it promotes the objects of the Act (that is, the safety, psychological wellbeing and interests of people affected by family violence are the paramount considerations); and
 - it will not adversely affect the safety and interests of an affected person or affected child (this is part of the current test, and means people affected by the family violence).
- In addition to this legislation, responses to key issues discussed by the working group continue to progress. These include:
 - Tasmania Police continue to improve training for personnel to further support incident responses. This includes Coercive Control training that has been delivered in partnership with Safe at Home and The Small Steps 4 Hannah Foundation. Since the training began in September 2024, there has been a 50% increase in police-initiated emotional abuse offences.
 - This Coercive Control training has been delivered to government and non-government organisations that work within the family violence sector. Sessions have been held across the state since September 2024. To date we have seen over 1,200 people attend across more than 80 agencies.

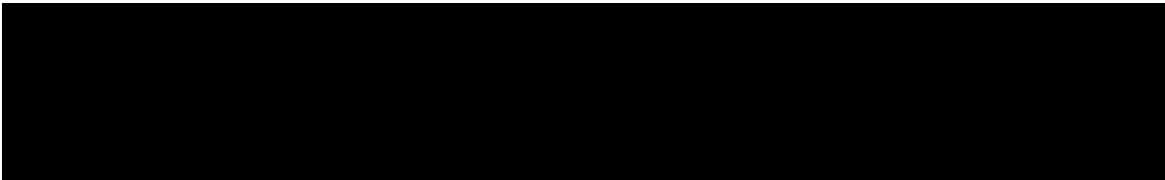
- The training explains coercive control and helps participants identify the red flags that are often hidden in plain sight. Experienced Tasmania Police and Safe at Home practitioners related Hannah Clarke's story to the Tasmanian context, legislation and service systems.
- This approach is the first of its kind and has gained interest across Australia. Feedback from across the sector has been overwhelmingly positive, leading to productive discussions and positive partnerships being forged.
- As a result of interest in the delivery model and the positive feedback from participants, the training has now expanded into the Tasmania Prison Service, and other key stakeholders are seeking support to develop agency-specific models. Ongoing discussion through Safe at Home forums such as the weekly Integrated Case Coordination (ICC) meeting. ICC is held in each of Tasmania's four regions and attended by all service providers in the Safe at Home service system. Through this integrated service response to reported incidents of family violence, misidentification of the predominant aggressor can be identified, and police will apply to have an incorrectly issued order revoked.
- The Department of Premier and Cabinet has established the Victim-Survivor Advisory Council. This will enable the Government and agencies to hear from victim-survivors on what is working and what is not and will allow us to continue to improve our response to family violence, including reducing the risk of misidentification.
- The Government's plan for the 'First 100 Days' in office also includes a commitment to release a discussion paper on broader family violence legislative reforms. It is the intention of this paper to start a community-wide conversation about the areas that are most in need of review and reform and use this information to inform future amendments to the *Family Violence Act 2004*.

BACKGROUND

- Safe at Home is Tasmania's integrated criminal justice response to family violence. Operating since 2004 and positioned within the Department of Justice. The service is underpinned by the *Family Violence Act 2004* and involves an organisation of government and non-government partners working together to address the risk and safety needs of victims and children, and to hold perpetrators accountable.
- Where a family violence incident occurs, Tasmania Police personnel utilise their training and professional judgement when risk assessing a family violence incident and forming a determination about the respective parties (including physical evidence and statements), immediate and ongoing safety concerns, and appropriate police responses (including issue of a PFVO, and/or arrest, which may lead to charges).
- Tasmania Police can issue PFVOs if a sergeant or a police officer authorised by the Commissioner of Police is satisfied that a person has committed, or is likely to commit, a family violence offence. A PFVO can be issued where the risk assessment indicates a low or medium risk of further family violence offending, and where such an order is necessary to protect the safety, wellbeing and interests of adult and child victim-survivors.
- A PFVO is ostensibly issued to protect both parties:
 - a victim is protected by virtue of detailed conditions on the order that a respondent is required not to breach
 - a respondent is protected by virtue of the conditions acting as protective factors to ensure they do not engage in further or future behaviours that sustain or increase their problematic behaviour.
- All Tasmanian PFVOs make the content of the order, offender obligations and breach consequences clear. PFVOs are an important component of a legal framework that is aimed at enhancing victim-survivor safety and wellbeing as they provide immediate protection for victims and remove the necessity for court appearances.
- The incident and the PFVO are also reviewed by the Family Violence Unit and the Safe Families Coordination Unit which is represented by multiple Government agencies.
- If the risk assessment indicates high risk of further family violence offending, police will apply for a Family Violence Order (FVO) in the Magistrates Court, unless in all circumstances it can be justified that a PFVO is appropriate. PFVOs are designed to provide police with the flexibility to make orders to suit the circumstances of each family violence incident.

- To prevent misidentification of a predominant aggressor at a family violence incident, the issuing of PFVOs by Tasmania Police are also subject to internal checks and balances through DPFEM and the Safe at Home integrated criminal justice response, for example:
 - Tasmania Police conduct a thorough investigation of an incident, gather information about each of the respective parties to an incident, establish what has occurred, address the issue of victim safety and the safety of any affected children, and hold an identified perpetrator to account.
 - Tasmania Police family violence reports must be validated by a supervisor (usually a Sergeant of Police), and a PFVO can only be issued by a sergeant, or a police officer authorised by the Commissioner for Police. Further oversight is provided by a detective inspector.
 - The weekly Safe at Home Integrated Case Coordination (ICC) meetings also review every family violence matter that has been reported to Tasmania Police state-wide.
- ICC meetings are attended by all relevant Safe at Home service providers including Tasmania Police, Police Prosecution, Child Safety Service, Family Violence Counselling and Support Service, Court Support and Liaison Service, Specialists Social Workers, Defendant Health Liaison Officers, and Safe at Home Coordination Unit administrative staff.
- The aim of the ICC approach is to contribute to the safety of adult and child victims of family violence and mitigate against the risk that an offender will repeat or escalate their violence, by coordinating an integrated service response to reported incidents of family violence. ICC meetings provide another opportunity to identify if an order has been issued incorrectly. If an order has been issued incorrectly, Tasmania Police will apply to revoke the order, by applying to the court.
- Should an individual believe they have been misidentified as a predominant aggressor, and named as a respondent on a PFVO, he or she can apply to have the order revoked. At this time, revocation of a PFVO can only be sought through the Magistrates Court of Tasmania. Both parties to the PFVO do not need to agree when seeking a revocation; however, the respondent is required to detail reasons to the Magistrate why a revocation is being sought.
- Tasmania Police, in conjunction with the University of Tasmania, provide extensive family violence training to recruits. They are taught not just about offences, but how to understand and support victim-survivors and what support services are available.

- New mandatory family violence training for all police officers has been introduced to help address misidentification:
 - Tasmania Police members participated in relation to 'Misidentification' and 'Coercive Control'. The Coercive Control training was conducted by the Small Steps 4 Hannah Foundation in collaboration with Tasmania Police and the Department of Justice. Over 1000 sworn and unsworn members of Tasmania Police attended the training around the state. This training is mandatory for all sworn police and those dealing directly with victims of family violence, including Radio Dispatch Services (RDS) operators.
 - Over 1200 people across 80 government and non-government agencies involved with Safe at Home attended sessions around Tasmania.
 - The Small Steps 4 Hannah Foundation, in collaboration with Tasmania Police and the Department of Justice, also presented to Tasmanian State Government male leaders at Parliament House in November 2024
 - Family violence 'refresher' training is conducted by members of all ranks, with further training currently in development.

- Exempt under s 26
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BUDGET ESTIMATES BRIEF

Subject:	Housing Assistance for Ex-Prisoners
Election Commitment:	N/A
Key Department Spokesperson:	Colin Shepherd, Deputy Secretary Corrective Services

KEY MESSAGES

- The Government continues to explore ways to improve access to housing for people returning to the community following a period in custody. This is underscored by the Government's commitment to extending funding to continue to provide assistance for transitional support and accommodation in line with the Tasmanian Housing Strategy.
- Since 2018, the Department of Justice has partnered with The Salvation Army on the Specialist Throughcare Reintegration Program, Beyond the Wire.
- Beyond the Wire offers a multi-partner throughcare service for high and complex needs individuals who are leaving custody and who have chronic accommodation and support needs. This cohort of prisoners is more likely to have a history of prior convictions and relapse, often returning to prison following release into the community without appropriate accommodation and specialist support.
- Beyond the Wire provides those leaving custody with access to case management, service coordination and planning prior to their release from custody. Our Government remains committed to ensuring that prisoners have access to throughcare services, such as Beyond the Wire. The Department of Justice is currently working on developing a new deed with The Salvation Army, which will commence in December 2025.
- In the 2024-25 Budget, our Government funded the establishment of transitional housing for women leaving prison in the North or North-West of Tasmania. My Department is working with Homes Tasmania and community service provider to develop a reintegration program and purchase property for transitional female accommodation.

- As part of our funding commitment, the Government has also introduced a Prisoner Rapid Rehousing Program. This valuable initiative provides those leaving the Tasmania Prison Service (TPS) with transitional accommodation.
- Tenants of Prisoner Rapid Rehousing properties are also provided with support through Beyond the Wire to transition back into the community, to access and maintain long-term stable accommodation and to address issues that may contribute to reoffending.
- These programs are delivered through collaboration between several non-government organisations to provide state-wide access to the services (Anglicare Tasmania; CatholicCare; Colony 47; Hobart City Mission; The Salvation Army Tasmania).
- Housing can be a real challenge for people leaving prison. It may be that a prisoner has accommodation available but that the accommodation is not suitable for community-based orders, such as parole.
- It could be that the proposed address would breach a family violence order, would pose a risk to re-offending, or difficult family relationships mean that the address is therefore not appropriate. We continue to work with prisoners and stakeholders, such as The Salvation Army and Homes Tasmania to assist prisoners to find appropriate accommodation on release.

Housing Connect

- Former prisoners leaving custody and requiring housing assistance also receive support through Housing Connect, an organisation that provides services for all Tasmanians in need of housing assistance.
- Prisoners can request a housing needs assessment through Housing Connect up to 30 weeks before their anticipated release date.

KEY FIGURES

- From 1 July 2024, there have been 15 new participants in the program and, as at 30 June 2025, there were a total of 45 prisoners receiving support via the Beyond the Wire program.

- Prisoner Rapid Rehousing aims to create a pool of 12 dedicated properties, either private rentals or owned by community housing providers, with suitable prisoners matched to accommodation from the pool of properties.
- As at 30 June 2025, 10 properties are tenanted through the Rapid Rehousing program to Beyond The Wire participants. Of the remaining 2 properties, one has been nominated as a parole address and is awaiting a Parole Board decision and one has been recently vacated.
- The properties are transitional properties, which means the lease operates for one year before each client is assisted to transition to alternative ongoing accommodation by Centacare Evolve Housing.

BACKGROUND

Prisoner Rapid Rehousing

- Prisoner Rapid Rehousing is a housing assistance initiative funded by the Department of Justice and administered by Housing Tasmania. Prisoner Rapid Rehousing is a partnership between Housing Tasmania and the Department of Justice, registered community housing providers, Housing Connect and The Salvation Army.
- The initiative provides prisoners exiting the TPS with transitional accommodation (leases up to 12 months) at subsidised rent.
- The initiative is designed to address known blockages that leave prisoners exiting prison without secure accommodation.
- Prisoner Rapid Rehousing tenants are provided with support to transition back into the community, to access and maintain stable accommodation, and to address issues which may contribute to reoffending through Beyond the Wire.
- Beyond the Wire participants may not be offered housing through the Rapid Rehousing program but remain eligible for support through Beyond the Wire.

Housing Connect

- Individuals leaving prison and requiring housing assistance also continue to receive support through Housing Connect.

Impact on Parole Board Applications

- The following statistics have been provided by the Parole Board for the reporting period (1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025):
 - 235 parole applications were considered
 - 0 parole applicants were refused parole due to accommodation issues
 - 77 parole applicants had their application for parole adjourned due to accommodation issues.
- Of the 77 applicants who had their application adjourned due to accommodation issues:¹
 - 11 applicants had no accommodation to put forward
 - 66 applicants underwent home assessments by Community Corrections, which were assessed as unsuitable.

¹ Of the figures noted a number of the applications may have been heard by the Parole Board on multiple occasions.

BUDGET ESTIMATES BRIEF

Subject:	Legislative Council Inquiry into Tasmanian Adult Imprisonment and Youth Detention Matters
Election Commitment:	N/A
Key Department Spokesperson:	Colin Shepherd, Deputy Secretary, Corrective Services

KEY MESSAGES

- As Members would be aware, the Legislative Council Inquiry into Tasmanian Adult Imprisonment and Youth Detention Matters Final Report was tabled in Parliament on 2 April 2025.
- I thank the honourable Council members for their diligence and practical recommendations.
- The Final Report contains 103 findings and 46 recommendations. I am able to speak to matters concerning the Inquiry's findings in relation to adult correctional facilities, but defer to my colleague, the Minister for Children and Youth, on matters relevant to youth detention.
- My Department is preparing advice which will inform the Tasmanian Government's response to the Final Report. From what I have seen of the Final Report, we are well on track with a number of the recommendations, bearing in mind that the hearings that informed the Committee's hearings occurred primarily in 2023.
- Some of the Committee's work falls squarely in the Corrective Services portfolio and we have already implemented a number of the recommendations, which speaks to the alignment in the Committee's views and evidence-based best practice. Some of the initiatives that are well underway include:
 - we are developing a new residential alcohol and drug treatment unit at the Risdon Prison Complex.
 - the establishment of an innovative family violence response program for unsentenced prisoners on remand for family violence offences, in

addition to the Family Violence Offender Intervention Program available to sentenced prisoners

- we provided \$1 million to Brain Injury Awareness Tasmania (BIAT) to continue to deliver the JustACE program to raise awareness and develop skills for working with people with brain injury in 2024-25, including acquired brain injury and foetal alcohol spectrum disorder. A further \$550,000 has been committed to be provided in 2025-26 to continue delivery of this program until 31 December 2025.
- our Government has committed funding to a transitional through-care housing initiative for women transitioning back into the community in the North or North-West of Tasmania
- Other Committee recommendations require a whole of Government, and even whole of community, approach - such as housing, mental health services and drug rehabilitation. These issues are not Tasmania-specific issues. However, our Government is making strong investments across connected social policy areas, and we remain committed to making progress in these areas.

NCF and modernisation of Corrective Services

- While we are not proceeding with the Northern Correctional Facility, we have an opportunity to really consider what our corrections system wishes to achieve – and I can say firmly, that our corrections system is committed to the modernisation of our facilities and technologies that will enable opportunities for offenders for rehabilitation and reintegration.
- The modernisation of our corrections system includes the positive steps we've taken in our technological advancements through home detention orders and our Electronic Monitoring Program.
- Our Government has invested into expanding the use of electronic monitoring
- We are exploring in-cell technology to allow prisoners to maintain regular contact with their families, undertake online learning and development opportunities and better engagement with lawyers and the justice process.
- Our Government is also open to considering future use of the existing Ashley Youth Detention Centre site following its planned closure.

- Our Government is committed to looking at the options for the replacement of the Launceston Reception Prison and have committed additional funding of \$450,000 to develop a detailed business for a new reception prison with prisoner accommodation and accompanying recreation, support and training spaces within the Launceston CBD.
- These are in addition to the existing rehabilitation and reintegration programs delivered in the TPS and Community Corrections, including:
 - high intensity intervention programs focusing on the drivers of crime, specifically in relation to crimes of violence, family violence, sexual offending, drug and alcohol addiction and general offending
 - programs focused on building the capacity of offenders, including building resilience, emotional regulation and problem-solving skills
 - assessment, planning and referrals to support a prisoner's reintegration into the community, including support for accommodation, employment and alcohol and drug use through partnerships with community organisations.

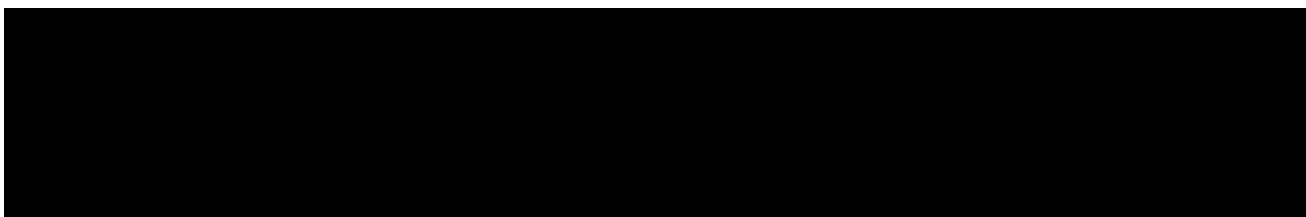
Trauma Informed Practice

- Nationally, and internationally, corrections systems are starting to consider the contribution of trauma to offending and how a trauma-informed framework for custodial management might better address the needs of some offenders and remandees.
- The Mary Hutchinson Women's Prison (MHWP) has been identified as a good starting point to introduce more trauma-informed ways of operating. I am informed that the TPS has recently procured specialist trauma-informed training delivery from the Blue Knot Foundation. This training will be delivered to more than 60 correctional, therapeutic and management staff at MWHP.
- Senior staff have already received training on trauma-informed practice from our TPS therapeutic staff, however the addition of specialist training for **all** staff is expected to improve outcomes for female prisoners.
- The development of practices, policies and procedures has been reviewed to ensure that gender sensitive processes are established for the management of female prisoners.

- Staff working in reception prisons and senior managers have also received specialised trauma-informed training for engaging with young people who are coming into contact with the Justice system. The training was developed and delivered by the Australian Childhood Foundation in May and August 2024.
- Initiatives like the introduction of body scanners into Watch Houses demonstrate our commitment to minimising harm, distress and trauma of people who are coming into custody by reducing the requirement for personal searches in prison settings.

BACKGROUND

- On 27 October 2022, the Legislative Council resolved to form a committee to conduct an inquiry with the following Terms of Reference:
- To inquire into and report upon Tasmanian corrective services and justice system matters related to adult imprisonment and youth detention including:
 - factors influencing increases in Tasmania’s prisoner population and associated costs
 - the use of evidence-based strategies to reduce contact with the justice system and recidivism
 - the provision of, and participation in, services for people in prison and leaving prison (health housing and legal services)
 - training and support initiatives for corrective service staff related to increasing individual well-being, professionalism, resilience and reduced absenteeism
 - innovations and improvements to the management and delivery of corrective services that may be applied in Tasmania, including to future prison/detention centre design
 - any other incidental matters.
- The Committee received 67 submissions.
- Hearings were conducted on various dates between 20 June 2023 and 10 August 2023 with witnesses from within the Department, independent statutory officers, community service providers and lived experience witnesses.
- The Committee also travelled to South Australia where it met with Executives who have successfully reduced South Australia’s recidivism rate, visited Adelaide’s women’s prison and a new accommodation block at Yatala, and examined the electronic monitoring of people on bail.
- On 2 April 2025, the Committee tabled its Final Report in Parliament. The Department will provide advice on the Final Report, its findings and recommendations to the Government in due course.



BUDGET ESTIMATES BRIEF

Subject:	AYDC Site Consultation and Engagement with Neighbours of Ashley
Election Commitment:	
Key Department Spokesperson:	A/Deputy Secretary Strategy, Governance and Major Projects

KEY MESSAGES

- After careful consideration, our Government made the decision to not proceed with the investment of \$270 million for the development of the Northern Correctional Facility (NCF).
- Instead, investment in infrastructure and supporting services at the existing Risdon Prison site has been provided with an increased focus on rehabilitation and diversion of offenders from custodial sentences. This will be achieved through the provision of greater rehabilitation, education and training opportunities for prisoners.
- The program includes co-funding the purchase of property to accommodate North-West based female prisoners transitioning from custody back into the community; an expansion of drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs; investment in a pilot program for in-cell technology; additional funding for the new Risdon kitchen; and other office and program spaces to allow for the delivery of more intervention and rehabilitation programs to prisoners at the Risdon Prison site.
- The Department understands the Government remains open to potentially considering using the Ashley Youth Detention Centre (AYDC) site as a future northern based correctional facility site once the Department *for* Education, Children and Young People has vacated the existing facility.
- If the decision is to use the facility as a future prison for adults, the Department would - in accordance with the Commission of Inquiry's recommendation - ensure that no prisoners/detainees would be placed there without their consent.

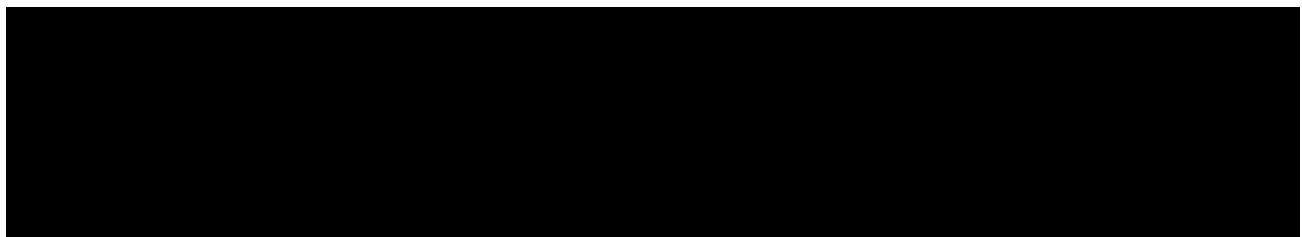
- As has happened previously, the Government will ensure that any future decision regarding the purpose for which the AYDC site will be used following its closure, will be made after consultation with the local community, including the near neighbours.

BACKGROUND

- The \$270 million, up to 270-bed Northern Correctional Facility (NCF) project (previously the Northern Regional Prison) was announced in early 2018, following the development of the Strategic Infrastructure Framework for Custodial Corrections in Tasmania.
- On 9 September 2021, the Tasmanian Government announced the impending closure of the Ashley Youth Detention Centre (AYDC) which presented an opportunity to consider the development of the NCF at this location.
- Following extensive consultation and preliminary investigations of the AYDC site, which indicated that the site was well-suited as a location for a modern correctional facility in northern Tasmania, with a custodial facility a permitted use within the current zone for the site under the Tasmanian Planning Scheme for the Meander Valley, the Government subsequently announced in May 2022 that the AYDC site was now the only site being considered for the NCF.
- On 9 July 2024, Cabinet decided (CBD-240700116) not to proceed with the \$270 million project to develop the NCF. At the same time, in collaboration with the Department of Justice, the Government identified a number of alternative opportunities to address some of the current capacity and infrastructure issues being experienced by the TPS, with a particular focus on rehabilitation and reducing recidivism. This was announced by the Minister on 30 August 2024.
- The Government has provided \$20 million in funding that will allow for:
 - Investment into a residential alcohol and drug treatment facility. The unit will host expanded drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs and delivery spaces for more intervention and rehabilitation programs.
 - The provision of funding to employ staff to provide additional opportunities for training, education and activities at the existing Risdon Prison site (including specific training and activities for Aboriginal prisoners) offering increased rehabilitation and reintegration opportunities.
 - Developing new office space for the expanding Intervention and Reintegration Services to enable better integration of services.
 - Developing new in-cell technology options that will enable the delivery of treatment programs and educational opportunities to prisoners in their cells.
 - The purchase of property for NW based female prisoners transiting out of custody back into the community.
- Further, the Department also provided advice on options for accommodating minimum-security prisoners from the North and Northwest with a focus on

rehabilitation, education, and rural training/employment opportunities, including through adaptive re-use of the AYDC site.

- While investment into the Risdon Prison site and supporting services, as well as the previously committed \$77.5 million, will assist the TPS in the short to medium term, the absence of suitable correctional facilities in Northern Tasmania continues to disadvantage prisoners and remandees from those areas.
- Whilst repurposing the current AYDC site will not enable delivery of the full scope of the NCF project, it will provide the opportunity for the TPS to align with best practice operating standards.
- Repurposing the existing AYDC facilities following the closure, presents a unique opportunity for the TPS to accommodate low-medium security prisoners in a setting focused on rehabilitation and education. This adaptive reuse could also support rural training and employment initiatives, aligning with the Department's broader goals of improving prisoner outcomes and community reintegration.
- Creating a state-wide Tasmania Prison Service would also provide access to an employment pool in the north of the state that would potentially help to alleviate the correctional officer staff shortages currently facing the TPS.
- In addition, the Government recognises that the existing Launceston Reception Prison (LRP) is unsuitable for the long-term accommodation of prisoners, with a number of reports having been prepared by external reviewers expressing concerns about this site and recommending its closure. (refer separate BEB Launceston Reception Prison (Future Plans)).
- The Government has indicated that it will look to explore options for the replacement of the LRP, however, the complexities of finding a suitable space for a replacement prison, close to the Launceston CBD, and addressing issues of cost, planning permissions, and community consultation are not being underestimated.
- Further, following the decision to not develop the northern correctional facility, the Government remains committed to ensuring there is a strong pipeline of work in Northern Tasmania that creates and sustains employment and boosts the local economy – particularly in the Meander Valley Region.



BUDGET ESTIMATES BRIEF

Subject:	Tasmanian Planning Commission - Budget and Performance
Election Commitment:	Not applicable
Key Department Spokesperson:	John Ramsay, Executive Commissioner

KEY MESSAGES

- The Government supports the continued independent land use planning assessment and decision-making powers and functions of the Tasmanian Planning Commission.
- Finalising the transition of interim planning schemes to the Tasmanian Planning Scheme remains a high priority for the Government and the work of the Tasmanian Planning Commission. Only one of the 29 municipalities remains to have its Local Provisions Schedule approved.
- In addition to the Tasmanian Planning Scheme work, the Commission is independently assessing 6 major projects.
- The Commission continues to assess draft amendments to remaining Interim Planning Scheme and Local Provision Schedules of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme.
- The Commission has reported on the draft Tasmanian Planning Policies and amendments to the State Planning Provisions
- The Commission operated within its budget for the 2024-25 financial year.

BACKGROUND

Tasmanian Planning Scheme (TPS)

- As of 30 June 2025, 29 Local Provision Schedules (LPS) were received.
- 28 LPSs have been approved and the TPS is in operation in those municipal areas.
- The remaining 1 LPS (Kingborough) is in the hearing stages of the assessment process. Exempt under s 27

Human Resources

- The Commission has managed its delegate and staff resources within its budget allocation.
- The Commission has 7 Commissioners and two Deputy Commissioners.
- The Commission has a organisation structure comprising 15 professional planning staff, 2 spatial analysts and 7 administrative staff.
- To undertake assessment hearings, the Commission has 5 Commissioners, 3 Senior Planning Consultants, 8 casual Senior Planning Consultants and one former Commissioner, all who can act as delegates on the Commission assessment panels.
- The need for delegate and staff resources is expected to remain high.
- The challenge for the Commission in 2025-26 will be to effectively allocate the existing qualified planning staff and experienced delegates to undertake assessments and conduct required hearings for the anticipated workload due to a combination of consideration of:
 - planning scheme amendments to approved Local Provisions Schedules
 - finalisation of the Kingborough LPS
 - implementation of any approved Tasmanian Planning Policies
 - review of an amendment to the State Coastal Policy
 - amendments to the State Planning Provisions
 - assessment of the following major projects - the NW Tasmania Transmission Line Upgrades Project; North East Wind; Whaleback Ridge Wind; Bell Bay Wind; Cellars Hill Wind; Kangaroo Bay Hotel.

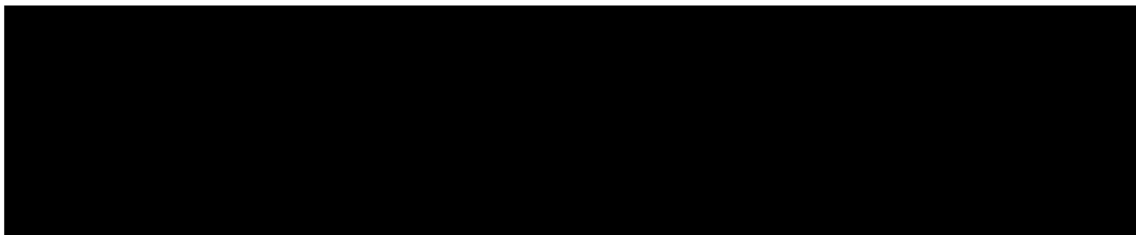
Performance

Draft amendments	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Draft planning scheme amendment applications received			
Number received under section 35 of LUPAA (former provisions) and 40F (current)	23	28	26
Number received following public exhibition under section 39 (former) LUPAA, 35KB and 40K of (current) LUPAA, Commission approves not to exhibit under 40I of (current) LUPAA	22	33	20
Number received under section 35KB and 40K of LUPAA	26	23	11
Section 40N – direct substantial modification after decision on part of an amendment	-	3	1
Draft planning scheme amendment applications assessed (section 40 of former provisions)			
Number approved without modification	16	24	9
Number approved with modifications	21	40	17
Number altered to a substantial degree	3	2	1
Number rejected	3	6	1
Other e.g. no jurisdiction to assess or withdrawn	2	3	5
Section 40N(1)(c)(i) reject draft amendment and direct planning authority to substantially modify/or substitute amendment	-	4	1
Total number considered	45	74	34
Median number of assessment days	139	105	96
Draft planning scheme amendment applications assessed (section 40L of current provisions)	?		
Combined permit applications assessed (section 40A of former provisions)			
Number confirmed without modification	0	1	0
Number approved with modifications	9	8	1
Number refused	3	4	0
Other e.g. no jurisdiction to assess or withdraw	1	3	0
Total number	13	15	1
Combined permit applications assessed (section 40T of current provisions)			
Number confirmed without modification	0	1	0
Number approved with modifications	2	6	3
Number refused	1	3	1
Other e.g. no jurisdiction to assess or withdraw	1	1	0
Total number	4	11	4

Local Provisions Schedules (LPSs)	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
LPSs received	0	1	All 29 received	-	-
Post lodgement conferences (held before approval for exhibition)	6	3	4	2	-
Exhibition commenced	5	8	3	1	2
Planning Authority directed to substantially modify draft LPS	2	10	5 (28 amendments)	6	12
LPSs approved (section 35L)	6	8	7	2	4

Other Assessments

- State Planning Policies - amendment 02-2024 – Container Refund Facilities.
- Draft Maria Island National Park and Ile des Phoques Nature Reserve Management Plan.



BUDGET ESTIMATES BRIEF

Subject:	Tasmanian Planning Commission - Major Projects
Election Commitment:	Not applicable
Key TPC Spokesperson:	John Ramsay - Executive Commissioner

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 five major projects and one major infrastructure project in the assessment process. These projects are the North East Wind, Whaleback Ridge Renewable Energy, Bell Bay Wind Farm, Cellars Hill Wind Farm, Kangaroo Bay Hotel major projects, and the North West Transmission Line Project.
- The Commission also has an ongoing role in permit condition approvals for the New Bridgewater Bridge Major Project Permit determined on 18 May 2022.
- 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 major project impact statements, assist Development Assessment Panels 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.

- Following consultation with relevant agencies and industry on the project a process and timeframe for completion will be set.
- **North East Wind Major Project** - the Commission received the declaration of the major project on 12 August 2022.
- 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 to delay 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 a coordinated exhibition of the draft assessment criteria and Commonwealth's Environmental Impact Statement guidelines in late June 2023, and consideration of representations, the final assessment criteria were determined by the Commission's Development Assessment Panel on 18 August 2023.
- The Development Assessment Panel has agreed to the proponent's request to extend the deadline for submitting the Major Project Impact Statement until August 2026.
- The Development Assessment Panel comprising Commissioner Nick Heath as chairperson, along with Louise Gilfedder, Michael Hogan, Commissioner Max Kitchell, and Anne McConnel has been appointed.
- The proponent paid the costs incurred in preparing and determining the assessment criteria, totalling \$231,000 (GST incl).
- **Whaleback Ridge Renewable Energy**, a wind farm, was declared a major project by the Minister for Planning on 1 March 2024.
- The Development Assessment Panel comprising Commissioner Max Kitchell as chairperson, along with Michael Green, John Hickey,

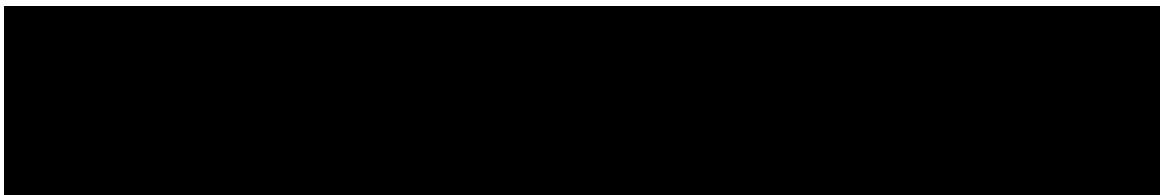
Michael Hogan and Eleni Taylor-Wood as members, was appointed on 17 April 2024.

- 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 Development Assessment Panel agreed to the proponent's request to extend the deadline for submitting the Major Project Impact Statement until 21 August 2026.
- The proponent, Westcoast Renewable Energy Pty Ltd, has been invoiced for the costs incurred in preparing and determining the assessment criteria, totalling \$98,289.66 (incl. GST).
- The **Bell Bay Wind Farm** was declared a major project by the Minister for Housing and Planning on 2 August 2024.
- The Development Assessment Panel comprising Commissioner Pam Allan as chairperson along with Alex Brownlie, Louise Gilfedder and Michael Hogan as members, was appointed on 2 September 2024.
- An extension of time for 10 days to consider the comments from land owners/occupiers and regulators was granted by the Minister on 24 August 2024.
- Following public exhibition and consideration of representations and advice from regulators the Panel determined the assessment criteria on 4 December 2024.
- The proponent, Equis Wind (Australia) Projects (LHWF2) Pty Ltd, has been invoiced for the costs incurred in preparing and determining the assessment criteria, totalling \$60,881.99 (incl. GST).
- The Major Project Impact Statement for the Bell Bay Wind Farm, at the request of the proponent, is due to be lodged by 4 December 2026.

- The **Kangaroo Bay Hotel** was declared by the Minister for Housing and Planning on 16 October 2024.
- The Development Assessment Panel comprising Commissioner Pam Allan as chairperson along with Alex Brownlie, Jamieson Allom and Rohan Probert as members, was appointed on 11 November 2024.
- An extension of time for 40 days to prepare the draft assessment criteria so that exhibition did not occur over the Christmas period was granted by the Minister on 22 November 2024.
- Following public exhibition and consideration of representations and advice from regulators, the Panel determined the assessment criteria on 25 February 2025.
- The Major Project Impact Statement for the Kangaroo Bay Hotel is anticipated to be lodged in December 2025.
- The proponent, Chambroad Overseas Investment Australia Pty Ltd, has not yet been invoiced for the costs incurred in preparing the assessment criteria.
- The **Cellars Hill Wind Farm** was declared by the Minister for Housing and Planning on 31 January 2025.
- The Development Assessment Panel comprising Commissioner Paul West as chairperson along with Alex Brownlie, Louise Gilfedder and Michael Hogan as members, was appointed on 3 March 2025.
- On the request of the proponent the Panel 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 panel to assess and report to the Commonwealth on the impacts of this project on Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES). 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 after receiving final advice from the Commonwealth, was approved for preparing draft assessment criteria, determining final assessment criteria, and preparing an initial assessment report of the proponents major Project Impact Statement.
- The Panel exhibited draft assessment criteria and guidelines for assessment of matters of national environmental significance from 17 July until 30 July.
- Following consideration of representations and guidance from the EPA, the Panel determined the assessment criteria and MNES guidelines on 18 September 2025.
- **North West Transmission 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 Commission has appointed an assessment panel comprising former Commissioner Roger Howlett as chairperson and Commissioner Max Kitchell, Michael Hogan, Kevin Hazell, and Sarah Munks 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, that 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.
- The application was referred under the LUPA Act to TasWater and the Tasmanian Heritage Council and referred as required by the assessment accreditation to the Commonwealth for comment on 23 May 2025.
- On 25 June 2025, the Commission issued a request for additional information, covering a range of matters, including MNES.
- The application was publicly exhibited from 29 September until 18 October. 28 Representations were received.
- The Panel is currently in the process of determining the application.



BUDGET ESTIMATES BRIEF

Subject:	Short Stay Accommodation
Election Commitment:	N/A
Key Department Spokesperson:	Ross Smith, Deputy Secretary, Regulation and Service Delivery

KEY MESSAGES

- The provisions of Tasmania's *Short Stay Accommodation Act 2019* require booking platform providers to report data about short stay properties.
- Booking platform providers must submit listing data to the Director of Building Control within 30 days after the end of each quarter. The information currently supplied includes:
 - listing property addresses
 - number of bedrooms
 - any permit details.
- Each quarter, once the data is analysed, Tasmania's Director of Building Control sends the relevant findings to each local planning authority.
- The gathered information helps local councils make decisions about planning rules with a goal of ensuring short stay providers follow regulations, including the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* and *Building Act 2016*.
- In 2021, Shelter Tasmania asked Professor Peter Phibbs to research whether short stay rentals affect the availability of long-term rental properties in Tasmania. Short stay data continues to be shared with Shelter Tasmania, so Professor Phibbs can continue to produce 6-monthly reports, examining patterns in short-term rentals and their connection to the broader housing situation.

- The Director of Building Control has reported and publicly published data since the last quarter of 2019, which is available on the Consumer, Building and Occupational Services (CBOS) website.
- The current reporting process is cumbersome and subject to significant manual intervention which increases the likelihood of error and delays the publishing of results.
- A new reporting system is being trialled which will publish data soon after the end of the reporting period in a public dashboard.
- It is anticipated the new dashboard will be available before the end of the year.

KEY FIGURES

- CBOS collects data about short stay accommodation, which commenced in 2019, and produced its first report on the issue for the last quarter of 2019.
- Report 1 recorded 5,487 short stay properties, with 2,374 (43.3%) identified as a principal place of residence, meaning 3,113 (56.7%) were not, although 1,083 reported they did not require a planning permit.
- In sum, data from Greater Hobart supports the conclusion that most accommodation sites were part of a principal residence (55%), as compared to the rest of Tasmania.
- In comparison, the data from the latest published Report 20 (July to September 2024) records 8,138 properties as being available for short stay accommodation. This time 4,215 (51.8%) were recognised as being in a primary residence, with 3,922 (48.2%) not being so (one property did not report on primary residence status).
- This means that across 4 years of reporting, Tasmania recorded an increase of 2,651 available short stay properties, or as expressed as a percentage, an increase of 48.31%.
- Report 20 shows data from Greater Hobart recording 67.8% as being part of a principal place of residence, again, with the remainder of the State recording a higher percentage of investment properties or shacks being used for the purpose.

BACKGROUND

Director's Determination - Short or Medium Term Visitor Accommodation

- Buildings used for short-term holiday accommodation in Tasmania must meet extra safety standards. The Director of Building Control outlined the additional measures in the Director's Determination on Short or Medium Term Visitor Accommodation, developed in accordance with the *Building Act 2016*. These requirements deal with issues like smoke alarms and building maintenance.
- The safety requirements for holiday rentals are stricter than those for regular homes, as they are designed to protect visitors staying in the properties.

Data collection/reporting discrepancies

- Data discrepancies occur because booking platform providers and short stay premises providers often provide conflicting information across different platforms for the same listing. The data reported by booking platforms can vary due to differences in their datasets. CBOS uses a spreadsheet to reconcile these discrepancies by cleaning and merging the data for reporting.
- This process is complex and prone to errors, leading to inconsistencies that require manual correction, especially regarding residential addresses. Dealing with the discrepancies is time-consuming.
- CBOS has collaborated over time with booking platform providers to improve the quality of data submissions, which has led to some positive changes.

Reporting delays

- Booking platforms are required to report data each quarter to CBOS. Report 20 is the latest version of the data, covering the third quarter of 2024.
- Data reporting has been delayed since the inception of the process, mostly due now to difficulties and inconsistencies in the supplied data. Previously, there were delays in obtaining data from booking providers. Although some improvements have occurred, the underlying issues remain.
- The Department is exploring mechanisms for improving existing data reporting internally to achieve more timely reporting.

Reporting error – Report 20

- The original Report 20 that was published on the CBOS website, contained an error in Appendix 1, where data from a previous reporting period was mistakenly included. This affected the summary of reported premises by local government area and resulted in inconsistencies with the main body of the report.

- After identifying the issue, an amended version of the report was produced. The corrected Appendix 1 now accurately reflects data for the July–September 2024 reporting period and aligns with the summary statistics presented earlier in the report.
- A comparison of the two versions reveals:
 - The total number of reported premises in the amended version is 8,138 (one property does not report primary residence status so does not fit into reporting columns meaning the total in the tables is 8,137), consistent with the breakdown by primary residence and planning permit status. The original version included outdated figures that did not match the reporting period.
 - The local government area breakdown in the amended Appendix 1 has been updated to reflect current data, correcting discrepancies in individual council totals.
 - All other sections of the report - including the introduction, methodology, summary of results, observations, and trends - are identical between the original and amended versions.
- For transparency, the original version has been retained in Appendix 2 of the amended report.

