

2005-06

TASMANIAN BUDGET

Presented by the Honourable Paul Lennon MHA, Premier and Treasurer



Our State. Our lifestyle.

OUR COMMUNITIES



Tasmania

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Our State. Our Communities.

Tasmania is as strong as its communities – and its people.

Our strategic package of spending is geared to supporting families and keeping our communities strong and vibrant.

The unique advantages Tasmania enjoys set us apart. They give us cause for pride and the motivation for ensuring that the Tasmania we create is a better place than the Tasmania we inherited.

**Paul Lennon
Premier**

Tasmania's unique lifestyle sets us apart from every other State.

No other region offers the combination of factors that makes living in Tasmania so rewarding.

The lifestyle we choose is underpinned by a strong economy, which has undergone fundamental structural change since 1998.

The social change in Tasmania has seen the emergence of a new, more rewarding, more tolerant society built around stronger communities.

The people of Tasmania – through processes such as *Tasmania Together* and direct contact with government ministers at community forums – now have a loud voice in framing government policy.

The 2005-06 Budget bolsters our communities with a range of policy initiatives designed to improve our lifestyle, and to keep the momentum going.

Our Commitment to Health

In 2005-06, spending for the Department of Health and Human Services will increase by **\$187 million**. That's more than **\$512,000 extra every day** – and it's locked in for the future.

This massive increase in funding of 19% in just one year brings total spending on health in Tasmania to just under **\$1.2 billion** – by far the largest allocation in the State's history.

It will mean **more doctors, more nurses, more dentists, more health professionals** working with **better equipment in better hospitals and better health facilities** – delivering **more services** to all Tasmanians.

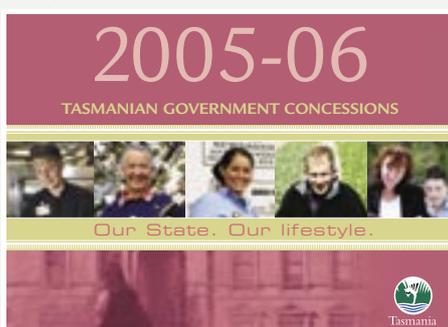
Highlights include:

- **\$496 million** more for **hospital and ambulance services**, including \$35 million for additional specialists at the Royal Hobart Hospital, ongoing funding for the Better Hospitals package and for the two-campus North West Regional Hospital.
- **\$50 million** for the redevelopment of the **Royal Hobart Hospital** and **\$27 million** for **health infrastructure**, including regional hospitals at Scottsdale, Smithton, Queenstown and George Town.
- **\$100 million** more for **mental health**, including **\$47 million** to progress the recommendations of the Bridging the Gap Review and ensuring the continuation of 22,900 service contacts in 2005-06 and beyond.

Supporting Our People 2005-06 Concessions Booklet

The Government provides concessions and subsidies worth over \$200 million a year. An updated booklet containing a comprehensive list of all concessions is available by phoning 6233 6577 or email Faye.Verrell@dpac.tas.gov.au.

Housing Tasmania tenants will receive a copy in the post.





- Additional funding of **\$80 million** for **disability services**, including \$27 million to maintain services to members of our community in group homes, the Southern Intensive Support Unit and acquired brain injury accommodation options, and \$6.6 million to fund 30,000 hours per annum of home and community care services to some of the most disadvantaged members of our community.
- An additional **\$8.1 million** for more **child protection officers**, who are vital in looking after children at danger in our community, and \$1.8 million under the Kinship Care Program to provide comprehensive case management services for 44 children.
- **\$3.4 million** to further improve **oral health services**, including employing two additional dentists, providing an additional surgery at Clarence and upgrading the surgery on Flinders Island.
- **\$28 million** to be spent in 2005-06 on the Government's Affordable **Housing** Strategy Stage 1 and an additional \$5 million to help people to continue to rent private housing, particularly tenants with high or complex needs.

Our Education

Educating Tasmanians represents a **\$943 million** commitment in 2005-06, including **\$50 million** in capital developments and improvements. Since 1998 a massive \$227 million more has been injected by the State Government into Tasmania's schools (an increase of 43%) and this Budget provides an additional \$188 million over the next four years.

This includes:

- **\$17.2 million** to support students with high needs.
- A **\$12.6 million** Skills for Growth package.
- **\$7.8 million** to provide every teacher with a laptop computer.
- The establishment of a Centre for Extended Learning Opportunities at an additional cost of **\$3 million**.
- **\$1.2 million** for an Institute of Inclusive Learning Communities.
- **\$1.4 million** to establish two new Online Access Centres in Glenorchy and Clarence Plains, and to assist OACs to provide free access to computers and the Internet to the most disadvantaged in our community.

Our Safe Communities

Tasmania is the safest State in Australia, with crime rates falling by 8% last year. This Budget includes measures designed to make our streets and our homes safer. An additional \$132 million will be provided over the next four years for police and justice services.

- The police force will be boosted by **48 officers** at a cost of **\$11.8 million** over four years.
- \$90 million is being invested in building a new prison. An additional **\$23.5 million** is being allocated to ensure that the re-development captures a cultural change in the way the prison system operates – including 30 more prison officers and 23 additional support staff.
- Additional funding is also provided for the Director of Public Prosecutions office (\$800,000) Legal Aid (\$1.4 million) and Community Corrections (\$800,000).

Our Environment Package

Tasmania's reputation is synonymous with quality. The Budget contains a package of important initiatives totalling \$30 million over the next four years.

- More effort is being dedicated to building Tasmania's biosecurity protection through a **\$6.4 million** commitment to provide more quarantine officers and increased effort.
- **\$2 million** for a program of water testing to maintain the quality and safety of Tasmania's water.
- **\$4.6 million** has been set aside for a Living Environment Program.
- **\$9 million** to improve visitor facilities in our national parks.
- **\$5.3 million** for Parks and Wildlife Service's maintenance and planning.
- **\$1.1 million** for the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens.





Tax Relief

Tasmanians will benefit from tax cuts and concessions delivered in the 2005-06 Budget, including:

- **\$13 million** in land tax relief (a cut of 25%).
- **\$8.3 million** in assistance to first home buyers.
- Mortgage duty cut by 50% on July 1, 2006 and abolished on July 1, 2007 at a full cost of **\$17 million** per annum.

The tax cuts committed to in the 2005-06 Budget will increase the benefits to the Tasmanian community in tax relief to more than **\$148 million every year.**

What the new tax cuts mean for families

A family with a shack and land valued at \$150,000 – **a saving in land tax of \$380 every year**

A retired couple with property investments with a combined land value of \$300,000 – **a saving in land tax of \$2,430 every year**

A young family buying their first home valued at \$180,000 – **a saving in transfer duty of \$4,000**

A family taking out a mortgage of \$160,000 – **a saving in mortgage duty (when abolished) of \$550**

A family taking out a mortgage of \$300,000 – **a saving in mortgage duty (when abolished) of \$1,040**

A family with a standard bank account – **a saving of \$39 in debits duty every year**

Our Heritage and the Arts

Our heritage and the arts are a vital part of what makes the Tasmanian lifestyle so special.

- **\$2 million** over four years for our renowned Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra.



- **\$4 million** for the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery to improve maintenance and security of its valuable collections.
- **\$540,000** to prepare new Tasmanian Aboriginal heritage legislation.

Our Healthy Lifestyle

The promotion of a healthy lifestyle is a key factor in improving the long-term health of our community.

- **\$700,000** to develop sport in our schools and support our Playground Blitz, Health and Wellbeing and Premier's Physical Activity Council initiatives.
- **\$1.1 million** to reinvigorate the Wirksworth Camp.
- **\$851,000** to assist Project Hahn with the valuable work it undertakes in our community.
- **\$200,000** in 2004-05 for new equipment for the Tasmanian Institute of Sport.
- **\$8 million** for northern Tasmanian sports, including the Silverdome, Elphin Sports Centre and the new Aquatic Centre in Launceston.

Our Infrastructure

Appropriate public and social infrastructure is vital to our Tasmanian way of life. This Government's record in investing in Tasmania's infrastructure is second to none. The 2005-06 Budget includes **\$600 million** for infrastructure, including:

- **\$50 million** for redevelopment of the Royal Hobart Hospital.
- **\$271 million** in funding for our roads as part of the Government's ongoing roads program.
- **\$50 million** to improve our schools, colleges and TAFE facilities.
- **\$2 million** to improve main streets as part of the Government's Main Street Makeover initiative.
- **\$45 million** for housing.
- **\$60 million** for important economic development projects.
- **\$1.8 million** in 2004-05 for new fire engines and **\$200,000** for breathing apparatus for our firefighters.