

STRONG ECONOMY. STRONG COMMUNITIES.



Health and Human Services fact sheet

Strengthening our health and human services

A strong economy and strong communities rely on strong health and human services.

These services keep us fit to work in our growing economy and provide a safety net for those who need a helping hand.

Following years of neglect in the 1990s the Tasmanian Government is rebuilding Tasmania's health system from the ground up.

With the implementation of its major 2006 election commitments and other Budget initiatives the Tasmanian Government will spend \$550 million more each year on health and human services than when it came to office in 1998.

The 2006-07 Budget increases funding by 9.6% to almost \$1.3 billion. This significant boost forms part of the Government's plan to deliver better health and human services for all Tasmanians.

That plan is about cutting red tape, providing more treatments and operations in our hospitals and delivering better health care, housing and human services on the ground for Tasmanians in need.

The 2006-07 Budget recognises the time is here to build confidence in Tasmania's health and human services. We know there is more to be done, but the State Government has the plan to achieve it.

Delivering our commitments

The 2006-07 Budget will begin to deliver the Government's 2006 election commitments and other key initiatives focussed on improving health care and services for all Tasmanians.

Initiative	Benefit
Rebuilding the Royal Hobart Hospital for the future Progressive employment of an extra 450 full- and part-time staff, \$13.2 million for equipment and capital upgrades and \$4.4 million for a linear accelerator	More specialists, doctors, nurses, support staff and medical equipment in the Royal to help deliver the best possible care for all Tasmanians
Supporting the Launceston General Hospital \$12 million to build a Department of Emergency Medicine, \$8 million for more medical procedures, \$6.9 million for new medical equipment	Better health services and facilities for northern Tasmanians including additional elective surgery procedures
Committing to our north-west hospitals \$5 million for emergency medicine and theatre recovery at the Mersey campus of the NW Regional Hospital and \$600,000 for new equipment at the Burnie Hospital	Delivering improved access to high standard health facilities and specialist equipment for the people of north-west Tasmania
\$25 million hospital equipment fund	Improved access to high standard health care for all Tasmanians
Providing professional support for nurses Appointment of 43 additional clinical nurse educators	Improving health care for Tasmanians through better on-site training for nurses, enrolled nurses, graduate nurses and preceptors
Improving our ambulance service 100 new ambulances and a new ambulance crew in Launceston and Hobart	Improving health care for Tasmanians when they need it most
Better dental care Abolition of the \$25 co-payment, 48,000 more general dental treatments in the private sector; 7 more dentists, 6 new dental surgeries, 2 new dental treatment facilities and an educational facility	Improved access to quality dental care for all Tasmanians and especially in areas where dentists are difficult to recruit
Affordable housing \$6 million on an ongoing basis to support Tasmania's new Affordable Housing Organisation's target to build 700 new properties in the next 4 years	Improved access to affordable housing for those Tasmanians in greatest need
Child protection services \$1.7 million for increased staffing including 7 new case workers and 5 psychologists and to expand support services	Increase the level and range of support available to families, children and victims of child abuse in Tasmania
Other initiatives include: newborn baby hearing screening, an improved GP assist service, extension of the Aurora electricity concession	Improved access to health services and concessions for all Tasmanians



Did you know?

- Every day the Department of Health and Human Services:
 - helps more than **23,500 people** through public housing;
 - provides services to more than **3,500 people** with a disability;
 - helps a further **2,500 people** in their homes;
 - responds to about **170 ambulance callouts**;
 - sees more than **1,000 people** in our hospitals;
 - provides more than **2,000 services** in our outpatient clinics; and
 - protects and supports **hundreds** of at-risk or abused children.
- The average waiting time for elective surgery in Tasmania has fallen by almost 20% from 42 days in 2003-04 to **34 days** in 2004-05.
- The number of patients admitted to public hospitals in Tasmania increased by **almost 6,000** in 2004-05.
- The number of patients treated in emergency departments increased by **more than 20,000** in 2004-05.
- The State Labor Government has boosted its health workforce by **over 200 doctors** (a 50% increase) and **almost 700 nurses** (a 30% increase).
- In 2006-07 the Government will provide **concessions worth \$269 million** to the Tasmanian community. This includes concessions worth \$72 million provided by the Department of Health and Human Services.

Looking to the future

With increasing demands from an ageing population, escalating medical costs and a worldwide shortage of staff, the challenge to deliver quality health and human services in Tasmania is greater than ever.

The State Government will continue its plan to rebuild Tasmania's health and human services from the ground up, so Tasmanians can feel safe that when they fall ill or on hard times, someone will look after them.

The 2006-07 Budget completes the foundation for this plan, and delivers on Labor's significant 2006 election commitments.

It recognises we've come a long way, but provides the backing our health and human services need for continued improvement in the future.

Further information

For further information please contact:
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2006-07 Budget Paper set includes:
 Tasmanian Budget Speech
 Budget Paper No. 1 – Budget Overview
 Budget Paper No. 2 – Operations of Government Departments (Volumes 1 and 2)
 The Tasmanian Government Financial System
 Various brochures

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