



Shaping a
healthy future.

Tasmanian Budget
07-08

Health and Wellbeing

Future direction

The health and wellbeing of all Tasmanians is central to the enjoyment of Tasmania's unique and envied lifestyle and is one of the highest priorities of the State Government.

A strong economy and responsible financial management are crucial to supporting the health and wellbeing of all Tasmanians. It means the Government has the resources to implement vital health and community services. It means that investment in equipment and infrastructure can take place and most importantly it means we can plan for the future health needs of Tasmanians.

The 2007-08 Budget reaffirms the Tasmanian Government's commitment to health and human services by providing a framework for service improvement that is central to the Government's health reform agenda.

Tasmania's Health Plan will transform the delivery of health care across Tasmania and will guide much-needed reform to Tasmania's primary and acute health services for the next 10-15 years.

Tasmania's Health Plan will assist in creating a safe, sustainable and efficient health care system that provides all Tasmanians with the care they need, when they need it. It will build closer relationships between our hospitals and our community health services.

The health and wellbeing of Tasmanians extends well beyond the provision of medical services, it is about ensuring Tasmanians have access to social supports when they need a helping hand.

Work in child protection, housing, mental health, disability services, oral health and alcohol and drug services all form part of the State Government's long-term strategy to deliver better health care, housing and human services for all Tasmanians.

The 2007-08 Budget focuses on continued support for our State's most at risk people through initiatives such as the redevelopment of Tasmania's Child Protection Services, investment in affordable housing and on-going support for community sector organisations.

The 2007-08 Budget recognises that change is necessary to ensure that our health and human services are able to keep pace with the changing world.

Delivering for Tasmanians

- The continued improvement of health care, housing, mental health, child protection, housing, oral health, disability, alcohol and drug and family services for all Tasmanians.
- Increased investment in health and human services of almost 50% over the past four years.
- While our health care system is under increasing pressure, more medical treatments and services are being provided to Tasmanians than ever before. Over the past year:
 - the number of times patients were treated in our public hospitals increased by 3.7% to 69,143;
 - the number of emergency department presentations increased by 2.4% to 90,321;
 - the number of outpatient services provided rose by 5.5% to 615,704; and
 - the number of call-out responses by the Tasmanian Ambulance Service rose by 2.7% to 47,450.
- Significant improvements in oral health, housing and child protection services have been made. Over the past year:
 - the number of general dental care services rose by 20.3% to 4,676;
 - the number of dental appointments accessed by children rose by 4.8% to 56,370; and
 - the number of child protection cases referred for investigation rose by more than 31.2% to 3,600.
- Reforms in oral health, housing and child protection are delivering reductions in waiting lists and the unallocated list. Compared to March 2006:
 - the number of Tasmanian adults waiting for general dental care fell by 22.7% to 8,820;
 - the waiting list for dentures decreased by 24.1% to 372;
 - the waiting list for public housing decreased by 10.8% to 2,659; and
 - unallocated cases of child abuse and neglect decreased by 24.4% to 944.

In 2007-08 work continues in these areas to further drive service improvements for Tasmanians in need, now and in the future.

What this budget delivers for Tasmanians

Initiative	Benefit
Record budget of almost \$1.4 billion for health and human services in Tasmania	Continued strong investment in the health and wellbeing of all Tasmanians.
Staged implementation of Tasmania's Health Plan – a plan for health care reform in Tasmania over the next 10-15 years	Taking action today to deliver a safe, high quality and sustainable health care system for the future. Changing the focus of our health care system to help prevent illness as well as treat it.
Implementation of a new Ambulance Service Fee from 1 July 2008	Sustaining Tasmania's ambulance and medical transport system by creating an additional source of funding tied to increasing levels of demand for ambulance services. This will enable the provision of better emergency medical care and transport. It will also free up existing funding to be invested not only in improved ambulance and medical transport services, but illness prevention and health promotion around the State – in line with Tasmania's Health Plan.
A commitment of \$5 million in 2007-08 for continued service planning and evaluation of Macquarie Point as the location for a new Royal Hobart Hospital	Construction of a new Royal Hobart Hospital to meet the future health care needs of all Tasmanians.
An additional \$9 million in 2007-08 to continue the redevelopment of Tasmania's Child Protection Services	Better protection and support for Tasmania's at-risk children and their families.
\$1.5 million to begin addressing immediate priorities identified through the ongoing review of alcohol and drug services in Tasmania, the report on child protection services and the priorities identified through Tasmania's Health Plan	Improved pharmacotherapy, specialist medical, rural and youth alcohol and drug services. Strengthened capacity in the non-government sector through increased funding for the sector's peak group, the Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Council. This service improvement review will continue in 2007-08, clarifying roles between the government and non-government sectors and establishing long-term priorities for alcohol and drug treatment in Tasmania.
The release of up to \$10 million of Crown Land over 18 months for affordable housing	An increased supply of rental accommodation and affordable housing for Tasmanians in need.
Removing barriers to home ownership for disadvantaged Tasmanians through a new shared equity scheme	Building stronger communities through improved access to home ownership for Housing Tasmania clients.
More appropriate care for Tasmanians with a disability in supported accommodation	Improved delivery of supported accommodation services for Tasmanians with a disability through the transfer of residential sites to the non-government sector and the Intensive Support Service.
Continued delivery of the Government's 2006 Healthy Living election commitments – ongoing implementation of an extensive range of health and human service initiatives for our community	Long-term improvements in the health and wellbeing of Tasmanians.
\$12.2 million in additional funding for community sector organisations	Indexation and funding certainty for community sector organisations to continue to meet rising costs and provide services for Tasmanians in need.

Further information

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Health and Wellbeing Snapshot

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2007-08 Budget Paper set includes:

Tasmanian Budget Speech
Budget Paper No. 1 – The Budget
Budget Paper No. 2 – Government Services
(Volumes 1 and 2)
The Tasmanian Government Financial System
Various brochures

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