

Helping with the cost of living

Funding of \$2 million over two years is provided to support Tasmanians on low incomes through challenging times. To be delivered by Tasmanian service organisations, the initiatives to help people manage increases in the cost of living include:

- emergency relief to assist with living costs including energy and water bills, rent, health and education costs;
- additional funding to support food relief; and
- assistance in purchasing more energy-efficient appliances.

Energy efficiency

The increasing cost of energy is hurting many low-income Tasmanians. The Government will invest \$1 million over the next 12 months to help some of Tasmania's most vulnerable households reduce their energy costs.

Eligible households in the private rental market will be given energy-efficiency audits to identify ways in which they can achieve real savings on their power bills as well as reduce carbon emissions. These families may also be eligible for the No Interest Loan Scheme (NILS), which will enable them to buy more energy-efficient appliances.

The Government will also provide \$2.5 million in 2012-13 and 2013-14 to fund energy audits and energy-efficiency improvements in public housing.

Neighbourhood Houses

Neighbourhood Houses provide programs and support for people in disadvantaged communities and help to build stronger communities.

Additional funding of \$825 000 per annum from 2011-12 will support Neighbourhood Houses throughout Tasmania.

Continuing the expanded breakfast program

Breakfast programs will continue to be extended through the additional \$100 000 per annum provided in 2010-11, enabling schools to continue working with local communities and non-government organisations to provide students in areas of highest need with a healthy breakfast.

Child and family centres

Child and family centres are being established across Tasmania to improve the health and wellbeing, education and care of children from birth to age five by supporting parents and improving access to services in the local community.

- \$25.4 million will be provided in 2011-12 for 10 new child and family centres in addition to Beaconsfield.
- In 2011-12, Queenstown, East Devonport, Ravenswood, Clarence Plains, Risdon Cove, Chigwell, George Town, St Helens, Derwent Valley and Burnie will be completed.
- Additional funding of \$6.8 million over four years has been provided to support the operation and management of the centres bringing the total operating funding for the centres to \$10.8 million over four years.

Housing infrastructure

In 2011-12 the Government will spend \$67.6 million on housing infrastructure including:

- construction of a 22-unit homeless facility at the corner of Liverpool and Barrack Streets to be managed by Common Ground Tasmania (\$4.6 million);
- construction of seven units at Spencer Park in Wynyard (\$700 000);
- the acquisition of land for the development of affordable housing sites (\$2.4 million);
- contributions towards the Campbell Street, Hobart, homeless facility (\$1.5 million);
- construction of 35 units at Brisbane Street, Hobart (\$7.5 million);
- completing the construction of 531 new social housing dwellings as part of the Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan partnership between the Tasmanian and Australian governments (\$15.1 million).

Tasmanian Adult Literacy Action Plan

The Government has allocated \$11.5 million over four years to continue the implementation of the Tasmanian Adult Literacy Action Plan, which will provide support and programs for people to acquire the literacy skills they need to gain and retain employment and participate more fully in their community.

Further information

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