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# 2026-27 Tasmanian Gender Budget Statement

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May 2026

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# Introduction

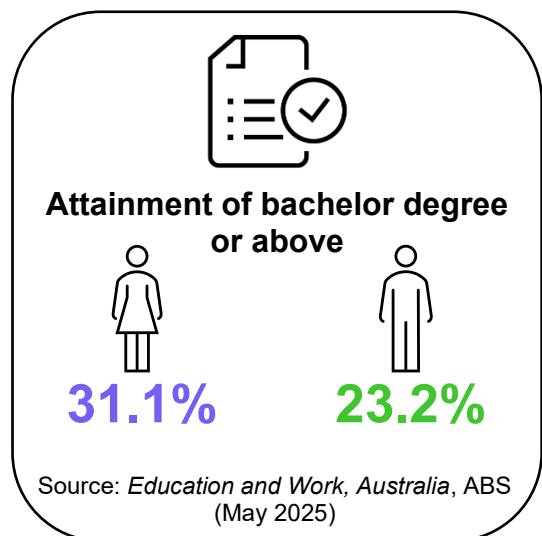
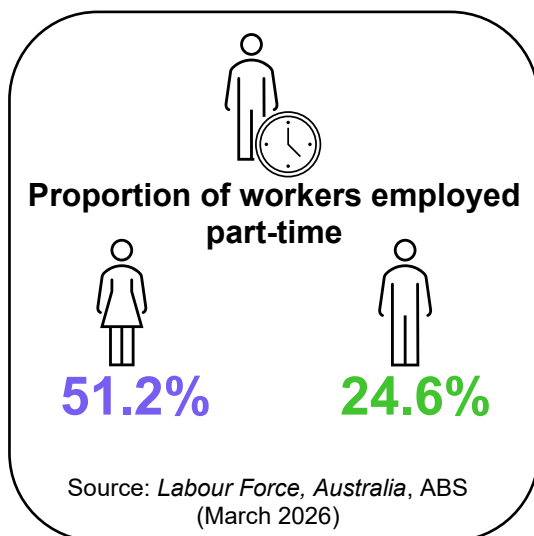
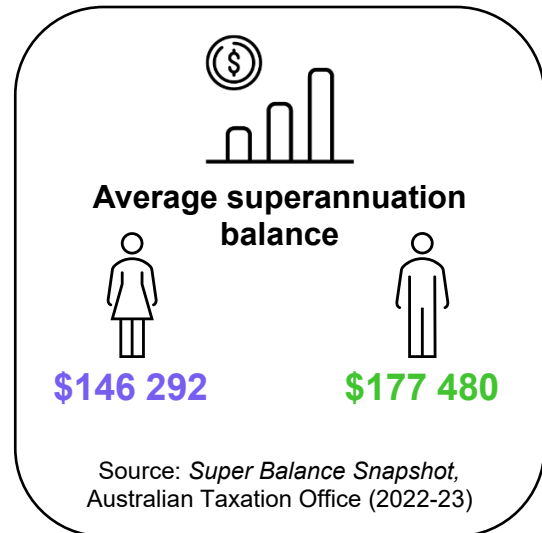
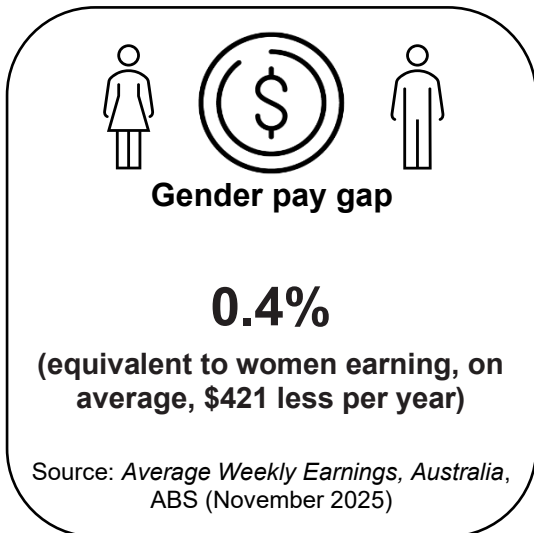
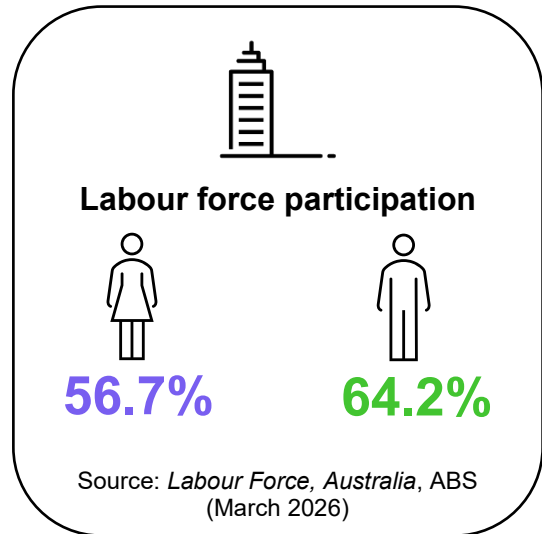
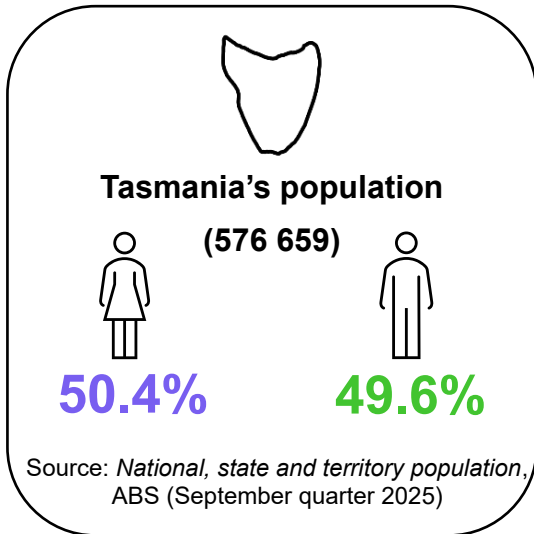
The 2026-27 Gender Budget Statement outlines the current landscape for Tasmanian women and presents a suite of key Budget initiatives that have an impact on women or gender equality.

The Tasmanian Government is committed to achieving a gender-equal Tasmania. As outlined in *Equal means Equal: Tasmanian Women's Strategy 2022-2027*, the Tasmanian Government's vision is for a Tasmania:

- where women and girls have access to equal choice, opportunity and resources to participate in our economic, social, political and community life; and
- where gender equality is embedded in our culture, attitudes and practices, recognising the diversity of Tasmanian women and girls.

The Gender Budget Statement analyses key gender equality data insights to identify trends occurring across Tasmania. It also analyses a selection of 2026-27 Budget initiatives to understand their impact through a gender lens.

# Women in Tasmania Data Snapshot



# Gender Budget Statement Overview

The following sections include:

- gender equality data indicators; and
- 2026-27 Budget initiative analysis across the four outcome areas of *Equal means Equal*.

## Gender equality data indicators







Fifteen gender equality data indicators are included across the four outcome areas of *Equal means Equal*, being:

- Economic Security;
- Leadership and Participation;
- Safety; and
- Health and Wellbeing.

Where applicable, an indicator includes a Tasmanian three-year trend, which indicates if the State is 'Improving', 'Steady' or 'Worsening' based on data across the past three years, along with an indication of Tasmania's performance compared with national results that indicates if Tasmania is 'Better', 'Comparable' or 'Worse' than national statistics.

Most data sources report data by sex, and specifically provide data by 'male' or 'female'. Given this, the indicators are generally presented through a binary male/female lens.

### **Indicator assessment key**

<b>Tasmanian Three-Year Trend</b>	<b>Tasmania's performance compared with national results</b>
Improving 	Better 
Steady 	Comparable 
Worsening 	Worse 

## Analysis of initiatives included in the 2026-27 Budget

The initiatives included in the 2026-27 Budget that have been analysed cover a broad range of topics, not just those targeted towards women.




The analysis of initiatives has been conducted utilising a gender impact assessment framework. Information on the Budget initiatives has been collected across government agencies to inform the assessments and determine the likely impacts on women and gender equality across the four outcome areas of *Equal means Equal*.

As these Budget initiatives are delivered, it is possible that the identified impacts will evolve and change.

For the 12 Budget initiatives analysed, the impact ratings across the four outcome areas of *Equal means Equal* are summarised below. The impact on an outcome area is rated as:

- 'strong', where direct positive impacts can be determined;
- 'neutral', where there are no impacts or the impacts are spread across all genders; or
- 'growth', where the impacts are indirect, which means there is potential for greater impact to be explored.

### ***Budget initiative rating key***

Strong 	Neutral 	Growth 
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# Economic Security

The vision for this outcome area is:

*Women and girls have equal access to resources to meet their needs. They have equal opportunity for education, training and employment, and can live their lives with economic independence and financial security.*



## Economic Security Data Indicators

### Summary

Indicator	Tasmanian Three-Year Trend	Tasmania's performance compared with national results
Gender Pay Gap	Improving 	Better 
Labour Force Participation	Worsening 	Worse 
Gender Balance Across Industries	Worsening 	Worse 
Young People in Employment, Education or Training	Improving 	Worse 

## Economic Security

### Gender Pay Gap

Tasmanian Three-Year Trend	Tasmania's performance compared with national results
Improving 	Better 

The gender pay gap measures the difference between the average pay of men and women across the workforce. On average, across full-time earnings, women earn less than men. This is due to a number of factors such as higher wages in male-dominated industries and lower wages in female-dominated industries and more men occupying senior roles.

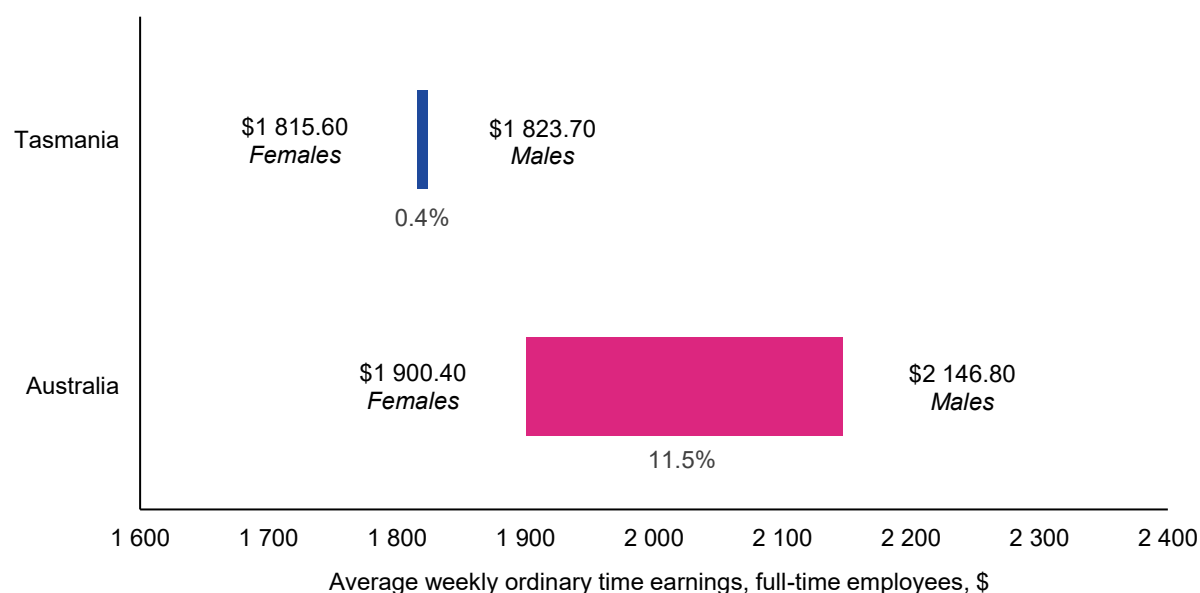
The gender pay gap is calculated using ABS data on the average weekly ordinary time earnings for full-time employees. In the six months to November 2025, it is estimated that Tasmanian women earned, on average, \$1 815.60 per week, while Tasmanian men earned \$1 823.70 per week, on average.

This difference equates to a gender pay gap of 0.4 per cent. This is 5.6 percentage points lower than the gap three years earlier, in the six months to November 2022, with the gap showing a clear downward trend. The gender pay gap in Tasmania has declined through every six-month period since November 2021.

While the Tasmanian pay gap appears to have closed significantly, data can be volatile from one period to the next and caution should be exercised when relying on a single data point.

Average Tasmanian wages, for both males and females, are the lowest of all Australian jurisdictions. Wages for females were closer to the national level, with a ratio of 95.5 per cent. In comparison, the ratio to the Australian average for males was 84.9 per cent. Overall, the Tasmanian gender wage gap has been consistently lower than the national gap. In the six months to November 2025, the national gender pay gap was 11.5 per cent.



#### Gender pay gap



Source: *Average Weekly Earnings, Australia*, ABS.

## Economic Security

### Labour Force Participation

Tasmanian Three-Year Period	Tasmania's performance compared with national results
Worsening 	Worse 

The labour force participation rate is the percentage of people in the working-age population (ie those aged 15 years and over) that are in the labour force. The labour force consists of those who worked or looked for work.

Lifting female participation in the paid workforce is critical for women's economic independence. Adding more women to the workforce is also an additional source of labour supply for the Tasmanian economy, which will boost economic growth and living standards more broadly.

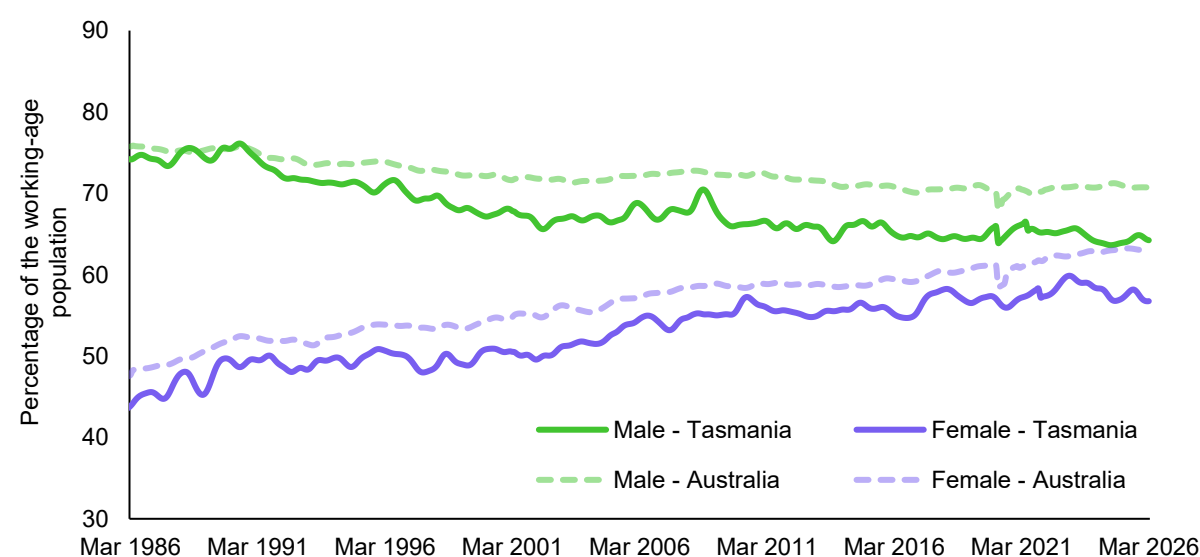
Female labour force participation has risen substantially over the past 40 years, with the gap between female and male participation rates in Tasmania narrowing.

However, female participation is still substantially lower, at 56.7 per cent in March 2026, which compares with a male participation rate of 64.2 per cent. This rate has fallen compared with three years ago, when it was 59.7 per cent in March 2023. While the male participation rate has also fallen in this time, the female participation rate has fallen by a greater amount, widening the gap between male and female participation over this period

The participation rate for both males and females in Tasmania is significantly lower than the national rate. However, this mostly reflects the structure of Tasmania's population, as Tasmania has an older population. It also reflects other challenges that face Tasmania, such as lower education levels and poorer health outcomes.

There is also a discrepancy between the gender split of full-time and part-time employment, with 65.7 per cent of part-time workers being female. The lower participation rate for women and the higher rate of part-time employment largely reflects that women are more likely to undertake child-caring responsibilities.



#### Participation rate by sex, Tasmania and Australia, March 2026



Source: *Labour Force, Australia*, ABS.

## Economic Security

### Gender Balance Across Industries

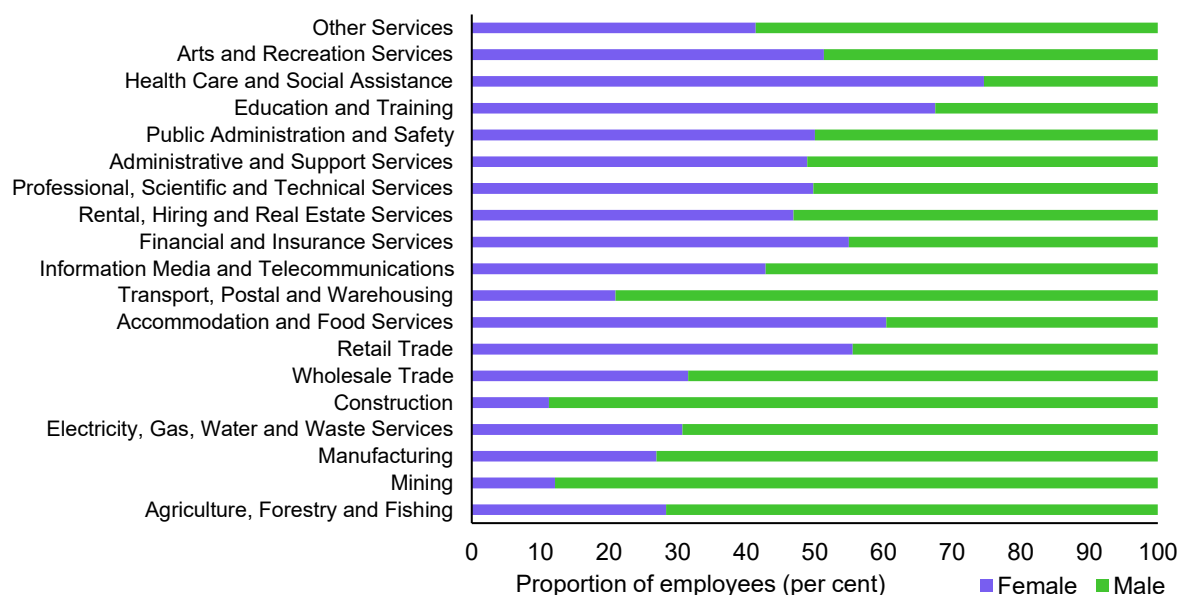
Tasmanian Three-Year Trend	Tasmania's performance compared with national results
Worsening 	Worse 

Gender-dominant industries can be defined as industries in which there is a concentration of employees of one gender (more than 60 per cent).<sup>1</sup> Barriers to workforce gender balance include the influence of gender norms on career decisions and workplace culture. Promoting a more gender-balanced workforce has the potential to improve equity and reduce the gender wage gap. This has broader consequences for economic performance, with the potential to improve productivity and support women's longer-term financial security.

Ten industries (out of 19) in Tasmania were considered gender dominated in the year to the February quarter 2026. Over the past three years, this has increased by one additional industry, with the accommodation and food services industry becoming less gender balanced. In comparison, only nine industries are considered gender dominated nationally, with the accommodation and food services industry being more gender balanced at a national level than it is in Tasmania.

Traditionally male-dominated industries, such as mining and construction, continue to have significantly lower female workforce representation. In Tasmania, in the year to the February quarter 2026, only 12.1 per cent and 11.2 per cent of employees in those industries, respectively, were female. Conversely, sectors like healthcare and social assistance, and education and training continue to be female dominated, with women representing over 65 per cent of employees.

#### Industry composition by sex, Tasmania, year to the February quarter 2026





Source: *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed*, ABS.

Note: Caution should be taken when relying on data broken down to this level of detail. These data can be particularly volatile and subject to significant revision due to the small sample size.

<sup>1</sup> *Gender Segregation in Australia's Workforce, April 2019*, Workplace Gender Equality Agency.

## Economic Security

### Young People in Employment, Education or Training

Tasmanian Three-Year Trend	Tasmania's performance compared with national results
Improving 	Worse 

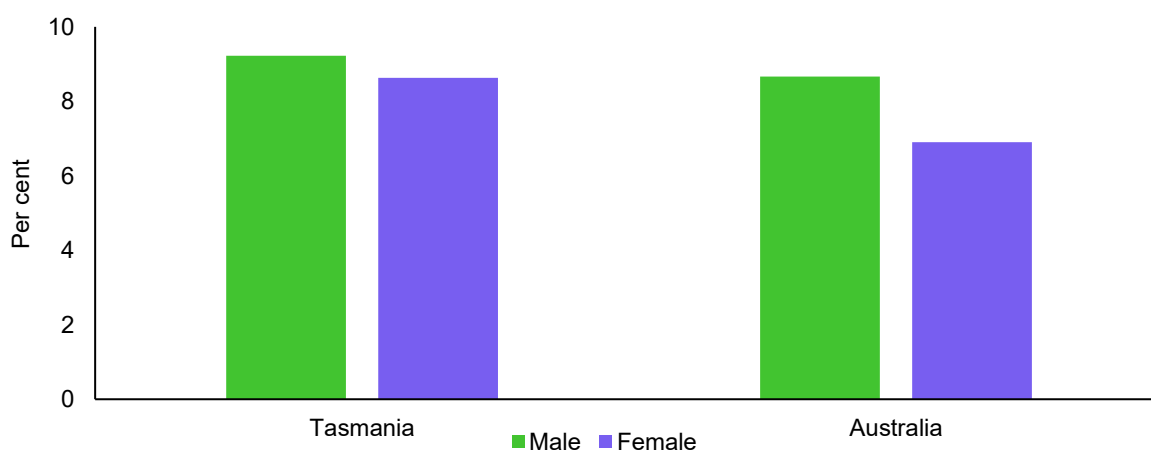
For young people, experiencing periods of time outside of education, employment or training can reduce their life-long economic opportunities and life outcomes. Young women experiencing time outside education, employment or training face higher risks of gender-based violence, teenage pregnancy, and other forms of social exclusion.<sup>2</sup>

Tasmania has traditionally struggled to retain its young people in grades 11 and 12, which has also impacted their ability to find employment. However, over the past three years, there has been a slight decrease in the rate of young people (aged 15 to 24 years old) that are unemployed and are not attending full-time education.

Across Tasmania, and Australia, of the young people who are unemployed and not attending full-time education, a higher portion are male. In Tasmania, in the year to March 2026, the rate was 9.2 per cent for males (higher than the national rate of 8.7 per cent), and 8.6 per cent for females (higher than the national rate of 6.9 per cent).

The lower rate for females in both Tasmania and Australia may reflect, in part, that women have a higher rate than men of attaining a bachelor's degree or higher (for Tasmania, 31.1 per cent of women had a bachelor's degree or higher, compared with 23.2 per cent for men, as at May 2025).<sup>3</sup>

#### Proportion of 15 to 24 year olds that are unemployed and are not attending full-time education, year to March 2026



Source: *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed*, ABS.

Note: Caution should be taken when relying on data broken down to this level of detail. These data can be particularly volatile and subject to significant revision due to the small sample size.

<sup>2</sup> *Unravelling the NEET phenomenon: a systematic literature review and meta-analysis of risk factors for youth not in education, employment, or training*, Rahmani, H., Groot, W., & Rahmani, A. M., International Journal of Adolescence and Youth.

<sup>3</sup> *Education and Work, Australia*, ABS.

# Budget Initiative Analysis

## Area Connect

The 2026-27 Budget includes \$2.2 million for the Area Connect program. Area Connect is a community transport initiative that addresses regional transport disadvantage by supporting individuals to access education, training, and employment in areas where no suitable public transport exists.

Delivered in partnership with Regional Jobs Hubs and Community Transport Services Tasmania, the program has provided over 70 000 trips since 2021. The initiative supports workforce engagement for young people, older workers, migrants and women particularly in rural and remote communities.

### Economic Security – Strong

While women face unique barriers to workforce participation, those in rural and regional areas may also face the barrier of limited access to transport. Area Connect improves economic security by enabling access to jobs, training, and education for people in transport-disconnected regions. It supports greater labour force participation, particularly for women, who are more likely to rely on public or community transport and more likely to work part-time.<sup>4</sup> The initiative aligns with the *Labour Force Participation* indicator by addressing a key structural barrier to economic engagement in regional areas.

### Leadership and Participation – Neutral

While not a leadership-focused initiative, Area Connect fosters broader participation in economic and civic life by removing a key access barrier. By enabling consistent workforce engagement and connection to professional environments, the program may support women in accessing upskilling opportunities, workplace experience, and informal leadership development over time. This may be particularly impactful for women in non-traditional employment sectors and regional areas where transport isolation limits access to career pathways.

### Safety – Neutral

The initiative indirectly contributes to safety outcomes by supporting economic independence and reducing social isolation, both protective factors against family violence. Women who can consistently attend work, training, or services through supported transport are better positioned to maintain income stability and build protective social networks. This helps reduce vulnerability to coercive control and provides safer options for exiting unsafe relationships. Area Connect also helps ensure women are not forced to rely on informal or unsafe transport options, especially in rural areas. This supports improved outcomes under the *Personal Safety* and *Family and Sexual Violence* indicators.

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<sup>4</sup> *Labour Force, Australia*, ABS; *2021 Census of Population and Housing*, ABS.

## Health and Wellbeing – Neutral

Improved access to transport reduces isolation and supports participation in activities that contribute to wellbeing.<sup>5</sup> Area Connect enables participants to meet their goals in employment, training and community engagement, which are key contributors to mental health and purpose. The service is particularly valuable for those without driver licences or vehicles, such as young people and older women, who may otherwise be excluded from services or opportunities. These benefits may contribute to improved outcomes under the *Women in Sport* and *Suicide Rate* indicators, particularly in regions affected by transport disadvantage.

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<sup>5</sup> *Accelerating Innovative Local Transport: Community transport of the future (Final Report, March 2022)*, University of Technology Sydney Institute for Public Policy and Governance.

# Budget Initiative Analysis

## Public Transport Relief

The 2026-27 Budget provides \$24 million over two years for fare relief for passengers using the Derwent Ferry services, general access bus services and government contracted school bus services.

This builds on the current cost-of-living initiative that provides for free travel on buses and ferries from 30 March 2026 to 1 July 2026.

### Economic Security – Strong

This initiative is being implemented at a time where fuel prices have been volatile and have been having substantial impacts on household budgets. Reducing the cost of transportation to get to work, school and other activities will help to ease the pressure currently on households.

Women are more likely than men to have lower average incomes, work part-time and undertake unpaid caring roles that may require frequent and flexible travel. Additionally, women are more likely to rely on public or community transport to travel to work.<sup>6</sup> As such, while this initiative will benefit all public transport users, it may have particular benefits for women by reducing the cost barrier of transport, lowering unavoidable household expenses, and supporting sustained participation in work and community life.

### Leadership and Participation – Neutral

This initiative does not directly target leadership or participation outcomes. However, it may support greater workforce participation and community engagement by providing accessible public transport. This may be particularly beneficial for women, who are more likely to rely on public or community transport and more likely to work part-time.<sup>7</sup>

### Safety – Neutral

There are unlikely to be direct impacts on safety from this initiative. There may be indirect positive impacts on the perception of safety with a rise in patronage and more people at bus stops thereby improving passive surveillance. It may also support greater economic independence, which can assist people in leaving unsafe home environments.

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<sup>6</sup> 2021 Census of Population and Housing, ABS.

<sup>7</sup> Labour Force, Australia, ABS; 2021 Census of Population and Housing, ABS.

## Health and Wellbeing – Neutral



In addition to health and wellbeing benefits, which are derived from being able to more fully participate in the community, making public transport more accessible also supports physical health by encouraging greater use of active transport options. Increased public transport use can be associated with higher levels of incidental physical activity, as trips often include additional minutes of walking. Even small increases in daily physical activity can contribute to improved cardiovascular health, reduced risk of chronic disease, and better overall physical wellbeing.

This initiative can also have mental health benefits, by reducing the financial stress associated with travel costs, particularly for low-income households, students, older people, people with disabilities and those with caring or health responsibilities.









# Leadership and Participation

The vision for this outcome area is:

*Women and girls have equal opportunities to hold positions of leadership and influence, and participate in all aspects of society.*



## Leadership and Participation Data Indicators

### Summary

Indicator	Tasmanian Three-Year Trend	Tasmania's performance compared with national results
Women's Representation in Politics	Worsening 	Worse 
Women in Leadership and Managerial Roles	Worsening 	Worse 
Women in Self-employment	Steady 	Comparable 
Women on Boards	Improving 	Comparable 

## Leadership and Participation

### Women’s Representation in Politics

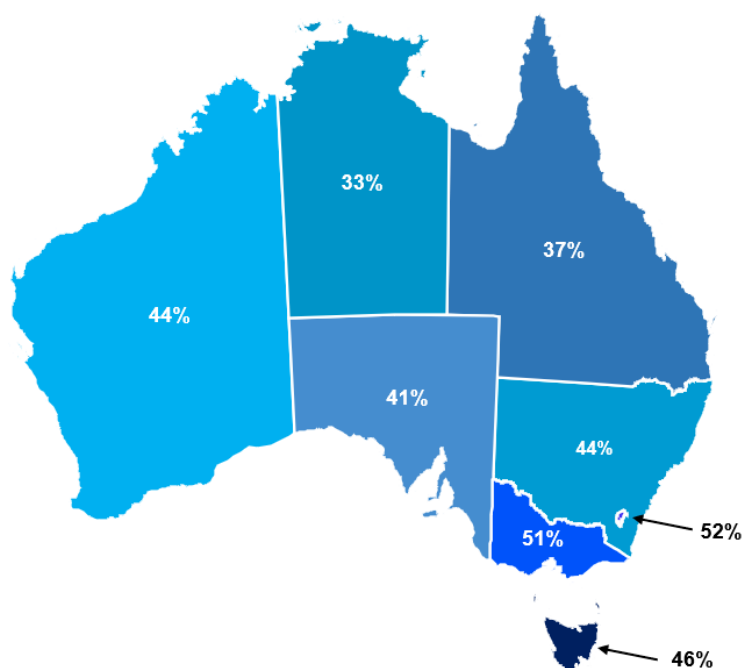
Tasmanian Three-Year Trend	Tasmania’s performance compared with national results
Worsening 	Worse 

Tasmanian female representation in politics at the State level has fallen slightly in recent years, with the Tasmanian Parliament (46 per cent) being below parity. This is the third-highest rate of all state and territory parliaments, after the Australian Capital Territory (52 per cent) and Victoria (51 per cent), and is also slightly below the Australian Parliament (50 per cent).

At the national level, Australia ranks somewhere in the middle among OECD countries for female parliamentary representation – ahead of countries like the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States, but behind Nordic countries and New Zealand.<sup>8</sup> This reflects, in part, that there are still challenges that impact women’s representation across Australia and the treatment of women in politics.

At the local government level in Tasmania, women made up around 39 per cent of all councillors as at May 2026. While women are underrepresented in the number of total councillors, they were overrepresented in the position of Mayor (55 per cent), though slightly below parity for Deputy Mayor (48 per cent). Of the 29 Tasmanian councils, 24 had a woman as Mayor and/or Deputy Mayor.

#### Gender composition of state and territory parliaments





Source: Tasmania: *House Members and Council Members*, Parliament of Tasmania; Rest of Australia: *Gender composition of Australian parliaments by party as at 4 September 2025*, Parliament of Australia.

<sup>8</sup> *Women in Politics*, OECD.

## Leadership and Participation

### Women in Leadership and Managerial Roles

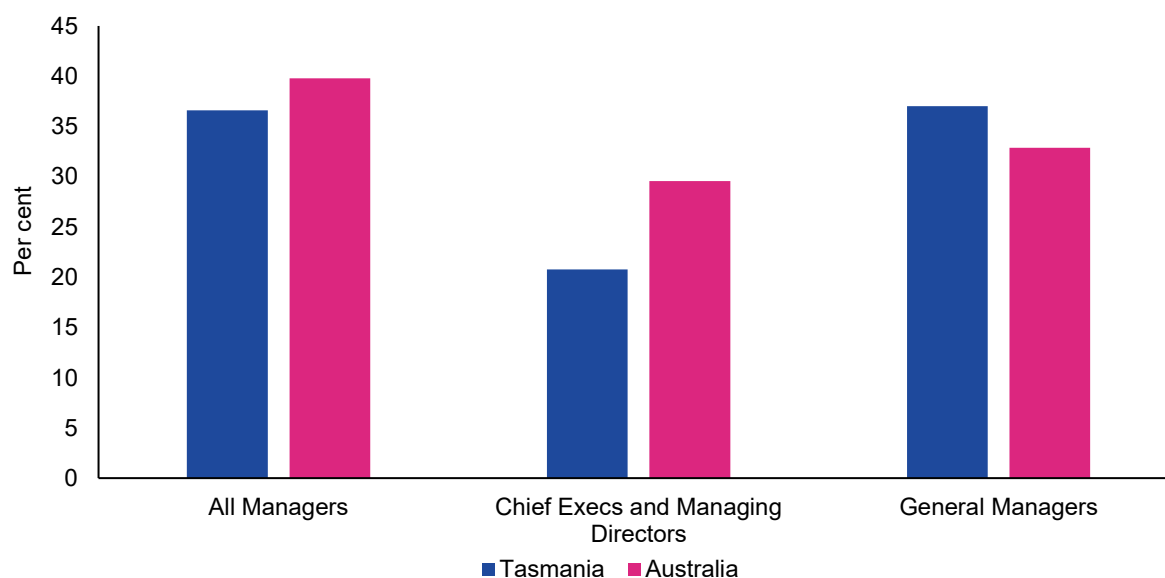
Tasmanian Three-Year Trend	Tasmania's performance compared with national results
Worsening 	Worse 

Gender-diverse leadership teams are consistently associated with better financial performance, as well as a range of other organisational outcomes such as less gender-based discrimination in the workplace. However, women are still underrepresented in key decision-making roles across almost all industries in the Australian workforce.

In Tasmania, women make up just under 37 per cent of all managers. This rate has fallen slightly over the past three years. Female representation as Chief Executives and Managing Directors has fallen substantially over this time, from around 43 per cent in the year to February 2023 to around 21 per cent in the year to February 2026, while representation as General Managers has also fallen, though by a smaller amount.

When compared with the rest of Australia, Tasmania has a lower level of representation across all managers, and also among Chief Executives and Managing Directors. However, the level of representation of women as General Managers is slightly higher than the Australian level. Overall though, both Tasmania and Australia are substantially below gender parity.

#### Female share of management positions, year to February quarter 2026





Source: *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed*, ABS.

Note: Caution should be taken when relying on data broken down to this level of detail. These data can be particularly volatile and subject to significant revision due to the small sample size.

The Tasmanian State Service is the largest employer in the State. As at December 2025, women occupied almost 54 per cent of all the senior executive and equivalent positions.

## Leadership and Participation

### Women in Self-employment

Tasmanian Three-Year Trend	Tasmania's performance compared with national results
Steady 	Comparable 

The extent to which women can participate in self-employment reflects the barriers (or the absence of barriers) to independent economic participation in a form that often requires leadership, management of others and financial capital.

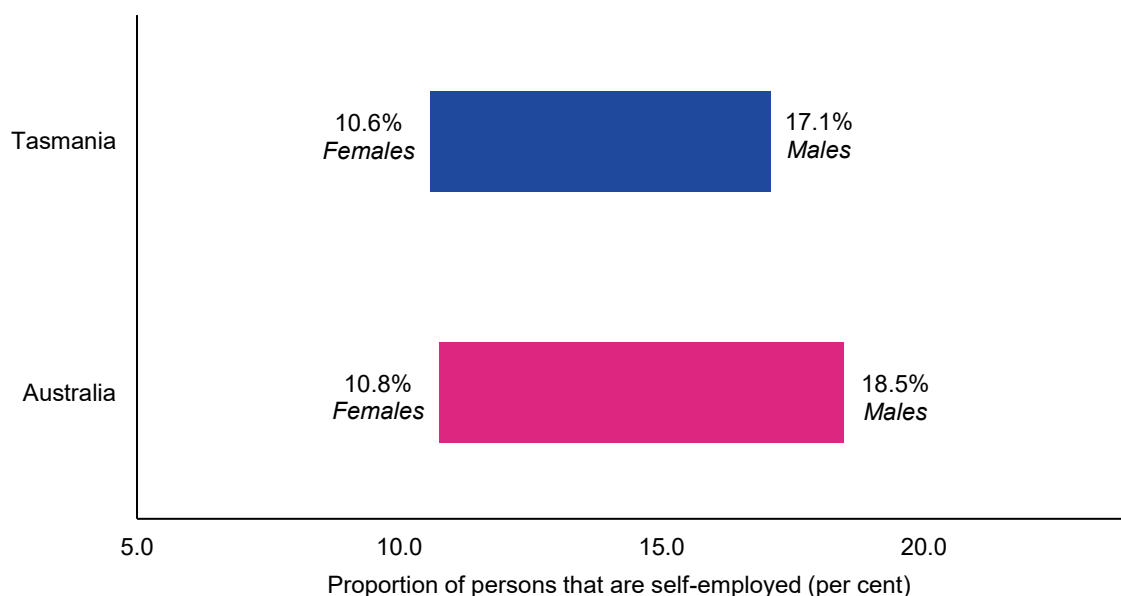
Self-employment can also indicate financial independence. Rates of self-employment across Australia have been declining slightly in recent decades, for both men and women, with the spread of large national and multi-national businesses employing thousands. Self-employment accounts for around 15 per cent of all employment nationally.

In Tasmania and Australia, there is a gap in the proportion of women and men that are self-employed. In Tasmania, the rate of women being self-employed has remained relatively steady over the past three years, with 10.6 per cent of women being self-employed in the year to March 2026.

Over that period, the percentage of men that are self-employed has declined from around 19 per cent to 17 per cent in year-average terms as at March 2026. A clear structural difference is still present between the rates for women and men.

The proportion of females that are self-employed in Tasmania is similar to the national level.



#### Proportion of persons that are self-employed, year to March 2026



Source: *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed*, ABS.

## Leadership and Participation

### Women on Boards

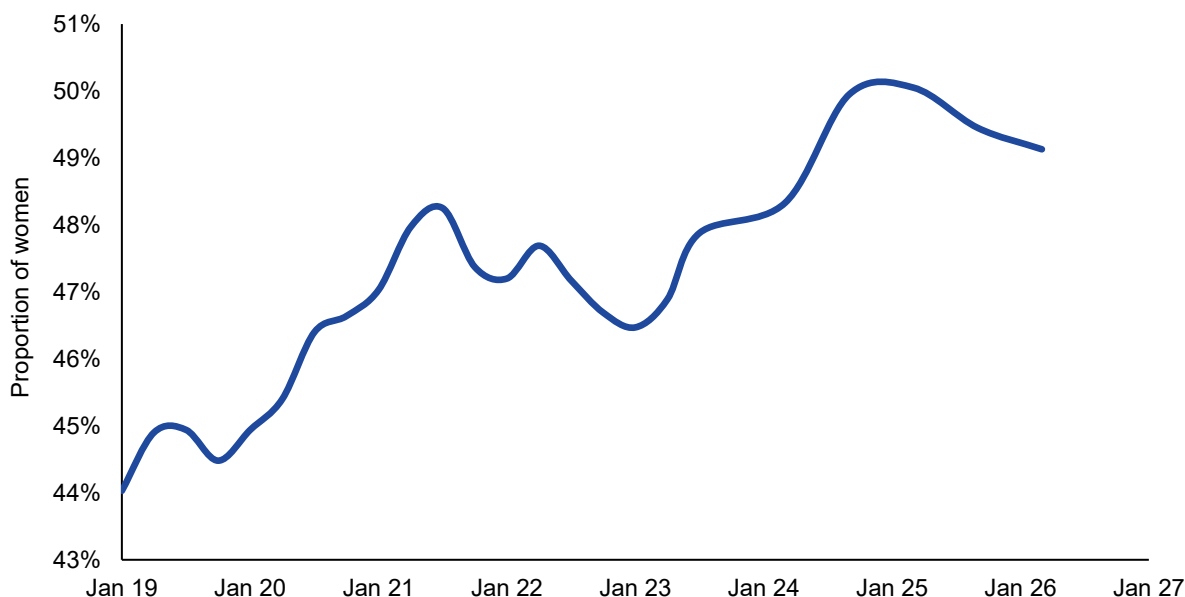
Tasmanian Three-Year Trend	Tasmania's performance compared with national results
Improving 	Comparable 

In 2015, the Tasmanian Government introduced its *Women on Boards Strategy 2015-20*, with an initial five-year plan, which was then followed by the *Women on Boards Strategy 2020-2025: Continuing our progress*. The Strategy aimed to increase gender diversity on government boards and committees, including through a target of 50 per cent representation of women across government boards and committees.

The policy was implemented as part of Tasmania's broader commitment to gender equality in leadership roles and decision-making positions. It recognises that diverse boards tend to make better decisions and that increasing women's representation helps utilise the full talent pool available.

In June 2015, when the first Strategy was introduced, women's representation on government boards and committees was 33.8 per cent. Over the five years of that Strategy, it increased to be 46.4 per cent in July 2020. Since that time, representation has further increased, with it being at, or very close to, 50 per cent since September 2024. In comparison, the national level is 54.3 per cent.<sup>9</sup>

#### Women on Tasmanian Government boards and committees



Source: Department of Premier and Cabinet internal data.

Note: Up until 1 July 2023, data were reported on a quarterly basis. After this point, data are reported on a six-monthly basis, starting from March 2024.

<sup>9</sup> *Gender Balance on Australian Government Boards Report 2024-25*, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

# Budget Initiative Analysis

## International Women's Day Small Grant Program

The 2026-27 Budget includes funding of \$120 000 over the next three years, for the International Women's Day Small Grants Program. This Program aims to support community-led initiatives across Tasmania that celebrate women, promote gender equity, and foster connection, leadership and empowerment. The program enables local organisations, including those in regional and remote areas, to host events aligned with International Women's Day, contributing to positive cultural change and increased visibility of women in public and community life.

### Economic Security – Growth

The Tasmania Government's investment in International Women's Day events has the potential to drive increased economic participation by women. While not a direct employment initiative, the Program supports women's economic empowerment by providing networking opportunities at the local level. These opportunities may help build confidence and visibility, which are key enablers of workforce participation, education and entrepreneurship.

### Leadership and Participation – Strong

Women's visibility in public life is a critical driver of empowerment, aspiration and participation. The Program fosters opportunities for women, particularly in regional and underrepresented communities, to be seen and heard in leadership roles. Events funded through the program elevate the voices of local women, celebrate their achievements and create visible pathways into community leadership. Sharing personal stories and lived experiences during International Women's Day events promotes positive role models for young women and girls, helping to shift social norms and expectations. This aligns with Tasmania's *Women in Leadership and Managerial Roles* and *Women in Self-employment* indicators.

### Safety – Growth

While not a direct safety initiative, the International Women's Day Small Grants Program enhances protective factors by fostering inclusion, service awareness and community connection. Events run with family violence services create safer spaces for dialogue and help-seeking, improving early access to support and reducing isolation, a key risk factor in family violence.

### Health and Wellbeing – Growth

The initiative supports women's wellbeing by fostering social connection and cultural expression. These initiatives are especially valuable for women returning to community life after experiencing trauma, long-term care responsibilities, or disconnection. By enhancing connection and promoting emotional wellbeing, the program contributes to improved outcomes under the *Suicide Rate*<sup>10</sup> indicator.

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<sup>10</sup> *Promote Social Connectedness and Support*, Suicide Prevention Resource Centre.

# Budget Initiative Analysis

## Women in Leadership Scholarship Program

The 2026-27 Budget includes funding of \$100 000 in 2026-27, along with a further \$200 000 of funding over the following two years, to continue the Women in Leadership Scholarship Program. The Program aims to address structural barriers to women's participation in leadership and decision-making roles by improving access to leadership education, qualifications and professional development.

Recent changes to the Program in 2026 have transitioned it to a two-year funding model, strengthening stability, continuity, and planning certainty for participants and delivery partners. This change supports sustained engagement in leadership development, recognises the time required to build leadership capability and allows women to undertake more substantial or staged learning pathways.

The Program is designed to build a long-term pipeline of Tasmanian women leaders across industries and communities, particularly in traditionally male-dominated sectors.

### Economic Security – Strong

The Program contributes to women's economic security by improving access to leadership qualifications and professional networks that strengthen long-term career and income prospects. Participants in previous years have reported high satisfaction with the Program, highlighting improved leadership capability, greater confidence, and stronger connections within their sectors.<sup>11</sup> By enabling women to access higher-paying, gender-diverse career pathways, the Program supports efforts to reduce Tasmania's *Gender Pay Gap* and seeks to improve outcomes under the *Labour Force Participation* and *Gender Balance Across Industries* indicators.

### Leadership and Participation – Strong

Leadership roles require specific governance skillsets and people who are equipped to manage high levels of risk, make strategic decisions and meet multiple and costly quality and safety standards and frameworks. The Program will continue to focus on providing tailored leadership support for women from traditionally male-dominated industries. The Program's alignment with broader strategic efforts to increase gender diversity in leadership, including the Tasmanian Women's Strategy and Women on Boards initiatives,<sup>12</sup> reinforces its policy significance and supports the related indicators of *Women in Leadership and Managerial Roles* and *Women on Boards*.

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<sup>11</sup> *Women in Leadership Scholarships Evaluation Summary 2023*, Tasmanian Government.

<sup>12</sup> *Equal means Equal: Tasmanian Women's Strategy 2022-2027*, Tasmanian Government; *Women on Boards Strategy 2020-2025*, Tasmanian Government.

## **Safety – Growth**

While not a direct safety initiative, the Program contributes to safety outcomes by promoting financial independence and empowerment. Economic independence and public visibility are recognised protective factors in preventing family and sexual violence.<sup>13</sup> By building women’s visibility and authority in traditionally male-dominated sectors, the initiative may help reduce occupational gender imbalance, which is associated with a higher risk of workplace harassment.<sup>14</sup> Programs that support women’s leadership in such industries can contribute to safer, more respectful work environments and promote broader cultural safety across sectors.

## **Health and Wellbeing – Growth**

Increased self-confidence, social connection, and empowerment are consistently reported outcomes from scholarship recipients. Programs that support personal and professional development improve mental wellbeing, reduce isolation, and offer meaningful opportunities for civic participation.

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<sup>13</sup> *Family, domestic and sexual violence*, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare; *National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032*, Australian, state and territory governments.

<sup>14</sup> *Sexual harassment is prevalent across all industries and sectors. We can and must stop it*, Australian Human Rights Commission.




# Safety

The vision for this outcome area is:

*Women and girls are safe at work, home and in the community.*



## Safety Data Indicators

### Summary

Indicator	Tasmanian Three-Year Trend	Tasmania's performance compared with national results
Specialist Homelessness Service Clients	Improving 	Better 
Personal Safety	Data not available	Worse 
Family and Sexual Violence (Perpetrators)	Not applicable	Not applicable

## Safety

### Specialist Homelessness Service Clients

Tasmanian Three-Year Trend	Tasmania's performance compared with national results
Improving 	Better 

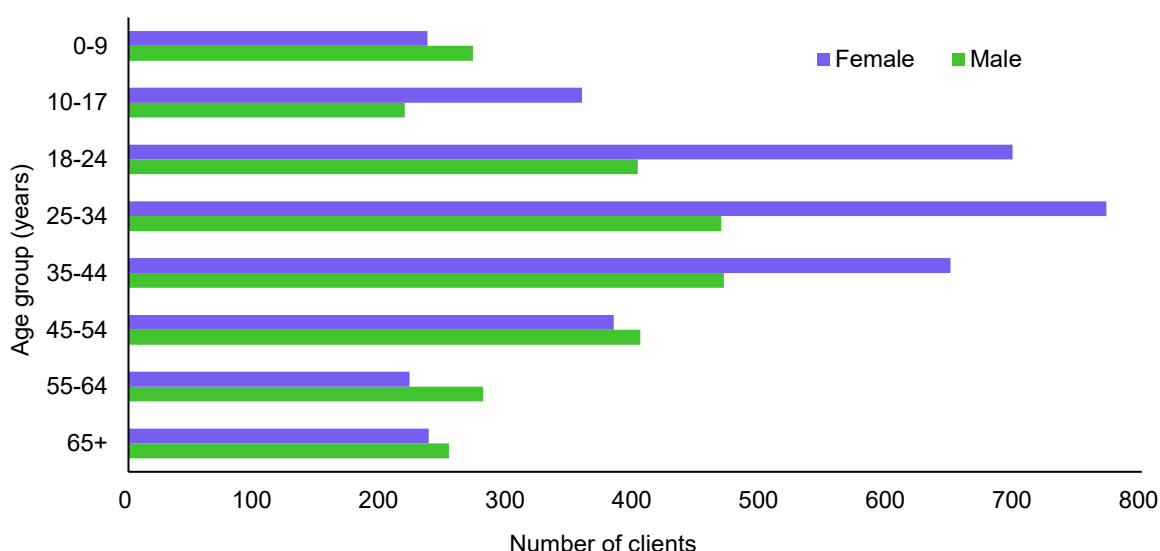
Access to safe, stable and secure housing is essential to a person's health and wellbeing. Homelessness can affect men, women and children of all ages, and can arise from a range of different circumstances.

In Tasmania, and across Australia, family and domestic violence is one of the main drivers of homelessness. Nationally, family and domestic violence was the most common principal reason that people sought assistance from specialist homelessness services in 2024-25. In Tasmania, the most common reason for seeking assistance from homelessness services was due to housing crisis (21.1 per cent of clients), followed by inadequate or inappropriate dwelling conditions (15.4 per cent of clients) and family and domestic violence (12.5 per cent of clients).<sup>15</sup>

Specialist homelessness services clients are more likely to be female, with women making up around 56 per cent of clients in Tasmania in 2024-25, the lowest proportion of any state or territory. In comparison, women made up 60 per cent of clients nationally. While the total number of clients has been increasing at a national level, in Tasmania, the number of both men and women seeking specialist homelessness services over the past three years has declined.

Among adult clients, the largest group was those aged 25-34, accounting for just under 20 per cent of total clients in Tasmania. Around 62 per cent of this age group were female.

#### Specialist homelessness service clients by age and sex, Tasmania, 2024-25



Source: *Specialist Homelessness Service Annual Report 2024-25*, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

<sup>15</sup> *Specialist Homelessness Service Annual Report 2024-25*, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

## Safety

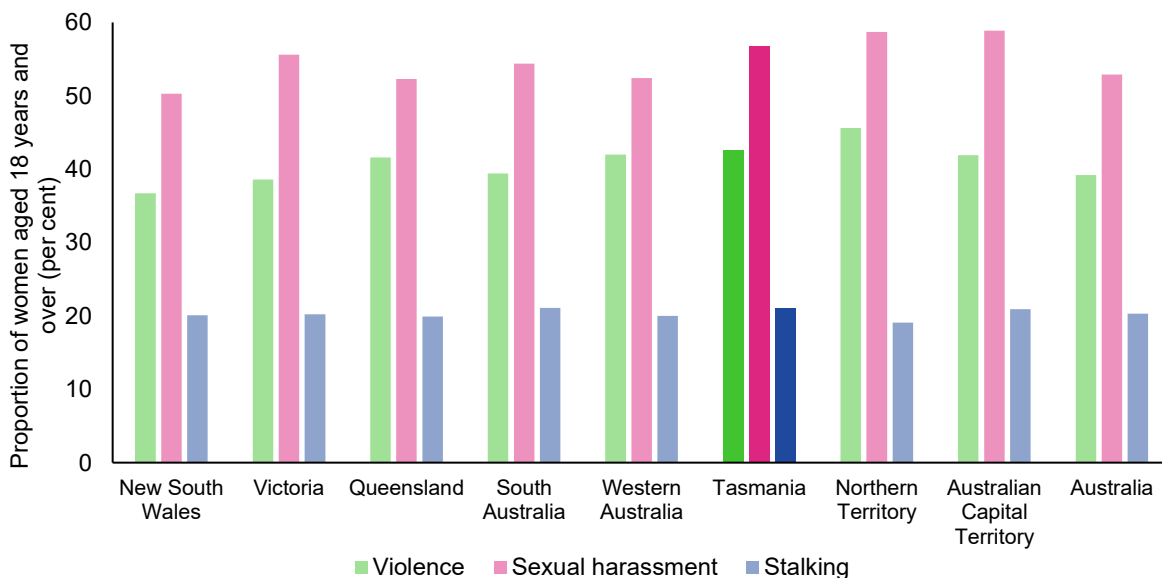
### Personal Safety

Tasmanian Three-Year Trend	Tasmania's performance compared with national results
Data not available	Worse <span style="color: orange;">●</span>

Violence against women and girls continues to be a widespread problem across Australia and Tasmania.

In 2023, the ABS released data on personal safety in Australia, for 2021-22. Tasmanian women reported higher incidences of violence, sexual harassment and stalking than at a national level. Of women in Tasmania aged 18 years and over, 42.6 per cent had experienced violence since the age of 15 years, 56.8 per cent had experienced sexual harassment, and 21.1 per cent had experienced stalking.

#### Experiences of violence, sexual harassment and stalking since the age of 15 years, women aged over 18 years, 2021-22



Source: *Personal Safety, Australia*, ABS.

The ABS also reports data about victims in recorded crimes. The latest data, for 2024, show that there was an increase of almost 150 per cent in reported sexual assaults from 2014 to 2024 in Tasmania.<sup>16</sup> Of the assaults over this period, 85 per cent of the victims were female. While the increase in this measure may be partly attributable to increased assaults, it is likely that at least part of the increase reflects increased focus on reporting of, and responding to, sexual violence.

<sup>16</sup> *Recorded Crime - Victims*, ABS.

## Safety

### Family and Sexual Violence (Perpetrators)

Tasmanian Three-Year Trend	Tasmania's performance compared with national results
Not applicable	Not applicable

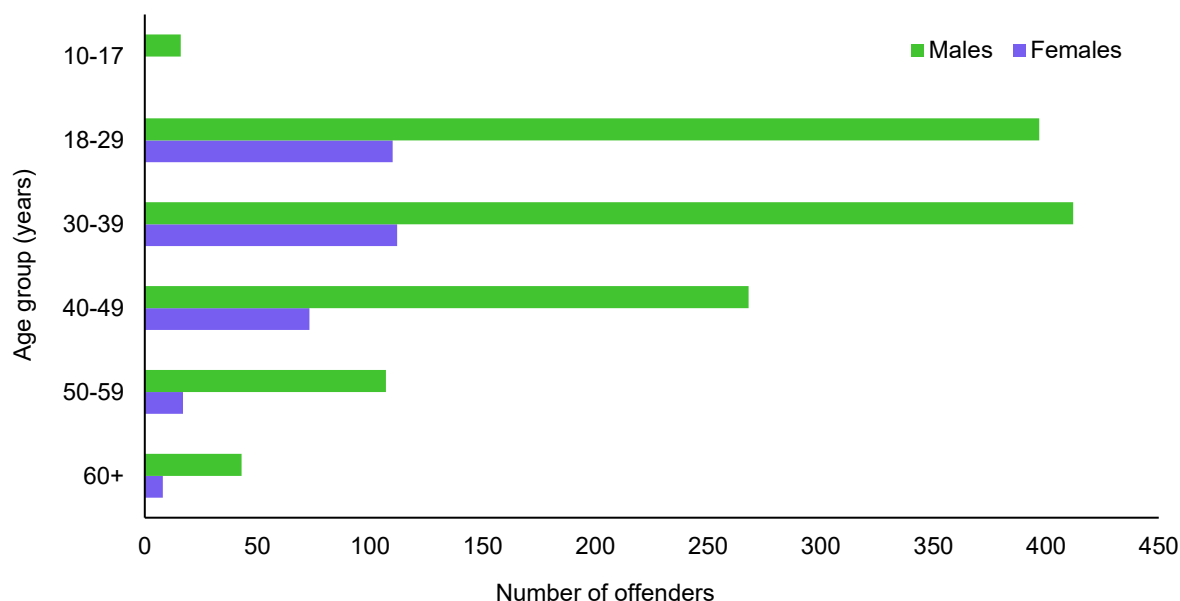
Family and sexual violence can affect people of all ages, genders and backgrounds, and can occur in a range of settings, including in homes, schools, workplaces and broader community settings.

Some groups are more vulnerable to experiencing family and sexual violence, including children, young women aged 18 to 24 years, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and people with disability.

While both men and women are affected by family and sexual violence, victim-survivors are more likely to be female, while perpetrators are more likely to be male.

Of the 1 585 offenders of family and domestic violence identified in Tasmania in 2024-25, around 79 per cent were males. The majority of offenders were in younger age groups, with around 65 per cent of family and domestic violence offenders falling within the 18-to-39 year age range.

#### Offenders of family and domestic violence, Tasmania, 2024-25



Source: *Recorded Crime - Offenders*, ABS.

There is a significant body of evidence of the profound social and economic impacts of family and sexual violence, including: physical and mental health consequences; intergenerational trauma; social isolation; housing instability; lost productivity; and educational disruption.

The Tasmanian Government is committed to preventing and responding to family and sexual violence. The latest coordinated, whole-of-government action plan to respond to family and sexual violence is set out in *Tasmania's Third Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan 2022-2027: Survivors at the Centre*.

# Budget Initiative Analysis

## Jireh House and McCombe House

The 2026-27 Budget includes \$800 000 over four years for additional support workers and crisis accommodation services at McCombe House, which is operated by The Salvation Army (Tas), as well as \$400 000 over four years for Jireh House, both of which have recently been expanded under the Safe Places program.

These houses provide support for women and children experiencing homelessness or a housing crisis. This includes offering childcare support within the service to enable women to focus on their recovery from trauma and to access services and supports while their children are safely cared for.

Combined, these initiatives aim to address gendered housing insecurity, support women's recovery from family and sexual violence and reduce housing instability for vulnerable women.

### Economic Security – Strong

Women are more likely than men to experience poverty and housing insecurity due to disrupted work histories, caregiving responsibilities and the financial impacts of family violence.<sup>17</sup> The *Behind the Line: Poverty and Disadvantage in Australia 2022* report by the Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre also found that there is a gender gap in poverty that is more pronounced for young women and women aged 55 years and over.<sup>18</sup> This initiative directly targets these risks by increasing access to crisis and transitional accommodation, reducing the likelihood of longer-term homelessness. By supporting women to maintain housing stability, the program enables continuity in employment, education and service engagement.

### Leadership and Participation – Growth

Housing instability can significantly disrupt the ability of affected women to engage in leadership roles, education or community participation. This initiative supports recovery from crisis by providing safe, supported accommodation that enables women to stabilise their circumstances and re-engage with work, study, and local networks. Services funded under this model take a trauma-informed, person-centred approach that recognises women's strengths and lived expertise in planning their own recovery and housing pathway. Where tailored supports foster safety and stability, there is greater opportunity for women to build the confidence and stability needed to participate in civic, community or leadership roles.

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<sup>17</sup> *Homelessness and homelessness services*, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

<sup>18</sup> *Behind the Line: Poverty and Disadvantage in Australia 2022*, Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre.

## **Safety – Strong**

Women are at greater risk of homelessness following experiences of family and sexual violence, often fleeing unsafe homes without secure alternatives.<sup>19</sup> This initiative responds to this intersection of violence and homelessness by embedding housing supports into Tasmania’s broader safety system. Funded services will prioritise women at risk of harm and provide pathways out of violence through supported accommodation and wraparound services. This initiative supports Tasmania’s commitments under the *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032*.<sup>20</sup>

## **Health and Wellbeing – Strong**

Homelessness is associated with significant physical and mental health risks.<sup>21</sup> Access to stable housing and support services reduces exposure to stress, trauma and instability that are linked to poorer long-term health outcomes. This initiative supports women’s mental health recovery through secure housing, service integration and pathways to wellbeing services. In particular, trauma-informed case management, housing advocacy and culturally safe approaches reduce barriers for women from diverse backgrounds.

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<sup>19</sup> *Family, domestic and sexual violence*, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

<sup>20</sup> *National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032*, Australian, state and territory governments.

<sup>21</sup> *Health of people experiencing homelessness*, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

# Budget Initiative Analysis

## Keeping Women Safe

The 2026-27 Budget provides \$450 000 to support the Commonwealth-funded Keeping Women Safe in their Homes program. This funding by the Tasmanian Government will ensure that the Program continues over 2026-27.

The Program supports women and their children who experience family violence to have security upgrades made to their homes, or a home of their choice, so they may safely stay there. Risk assessment and safety planning are key components to support a holistic, individualised response to safety in the home.

As at 31 March 2026, more than 850 requests for funding have been received since 2022-23.

### Economic Security – Strong

This initiative helps women and children stay in their home, enabling them to maintain and access their usual support networks, including work, school and community services. By avoiding displacement, women are better able to retain jobs and minimise disruptions that can lead to financial instability.

Family violence is a key driver of homelessness for women, and preventing the need to leave the home reduces exposure to housing insecurity. Supporting women to create a safe and stable living environment also reduces costs associated with relocation, emergency accommodation and re-establishing households.

### Leadership and Participation – Growth

Family violence and housing instability can significantly disrupt the ability of affected women to engage in leadership roles, education or community participation. This initiative supports women to minimise disruption to their lives in a time of crisis, by remaining in their home and creating a safe and stable environment.

### Safety – Strong

This initiative directly improves safety outcomes, by providing funding for women to have security upgrades made to their home, where they have experienced family violence. This includes installation of solid core doors, security screen doors, door viewers, door chains, door locks and sensor lights. These upgrades enhance the physical security of the home and reduce the risk of perpetrator access.

By strengthening the home environment, the Program enables women and children to remain safely in place, rather than being forced to relocate to avoid harm, supporting a sense of safety and control.

## **Health and Wellbeing – Strong**



This initiative supports improved health and wellbeing outcomes by enabling women and children to remain safely in their homes following experiences of family violence. Access to a secure and stable living environment reduces exposure to ongoing trauma and stress, which are key drivers of poor physical and mental health outcomes.

By avoiding displacement and homelessness, the program helps maintain continuity of healthcare, schooling and community supports, all of which are critical to wellbeing. Remaining in a familiar environment can also reduce anxiety and disruption for children, supporting their emotional and developmental health.




# Health and Wellbeing

The vision for this outcome area is:

*Women and girls have equal opportunities for good health and wellbeing.*

## Health and Wellbeing Data Indicators

### Summary

Indicator	Tasmanian Three-Year Trend	Tasmania's performance compared with national results
Women in Sport	Data not available	Better 
Breast Cancer Screening	Data not available	Data not available
Suicide Rate	Not applicable	Worse 
Social Housing Services	Worsening 	Data not available

## Health and Wellbeing

### Women in Sport

Tasmanian Three-Year Trend	Tasmania's performance compared with national results
Data not available <sup>22</sup>	Better <span style="color: green;">●</span>

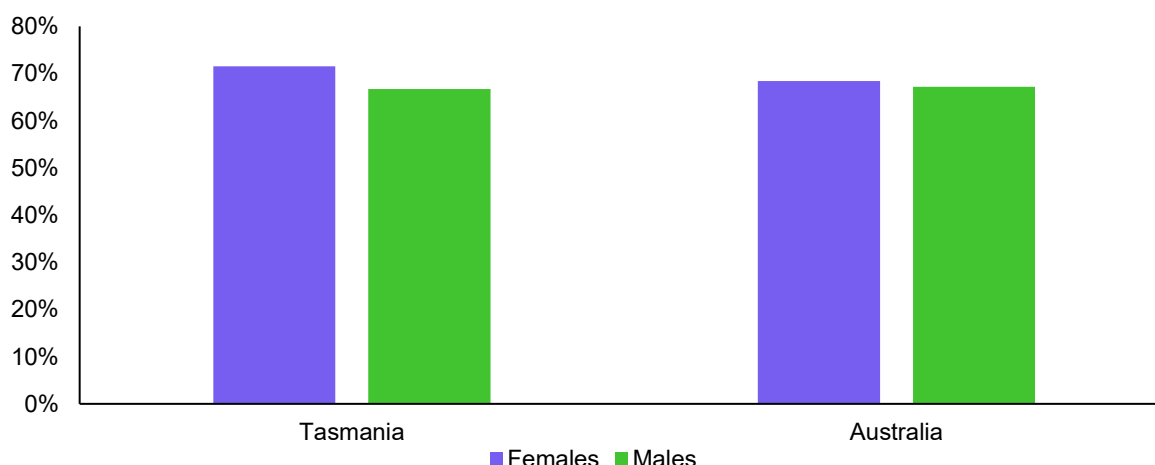
The benefits of sport and active recreation on health and wellbeing are well known. While participating in sports provides physical health benefits, it can also have positive impacts on psychological health and wellbeing, including through reducing stress and anxiety, improving self-esteem and reducing isolation.

Despite perceptions in the community, participation in sport is generally higher for females than males. At a national level, the participation rate for females aged 15 years old and over who participated in sport once or more per week, was 68.4 per cent in 2024-25. This was slightly above the male participation rate of 67.2 per cent. However, in Tasmania the difference was more pronounced, with a female participation rate of 71.5 per cent, above the male rate of 66.7 per cent.

While many sports benefits are universal, there are some advantages that are particularly significant for women, including:

- enhanced bone density, which helps combat the higher risk of osteoporosis women face, especially post-menopause;
- possible reduction in breast cancer risk through hormonal regulation and weight management;
- positive impact on anxiety and depression, which statistically affect women at higher rates;
- building confidence in physical abilities and body image; and
- providing role models and leadership opportunities.<sup>23</sup>

#### Sport participation rate (once or more per week), 15 years and over, 2024-25



Source: *AusPlay survey results*, Australian Sports Commission.

<sup>22</sup> While data are available from 2015 to 2023, the results from the 2024 survey onwards cannot be compared with previous years due to changes in how the data have been collected.

<sup>23</sup> *Physical, mental, and social wellbeing*, Australian Sports Commission; *Osteoporosis and exercise*, Department of Health (Victoria).

## Health and Wellbeing

### Breast Cancer Screening

Tasmanian Three-Year Trend	Tasmania's performance compared with national results
Data not available	Data not available

Breast cancer remains the most common cancer diagnosed in Australian women.

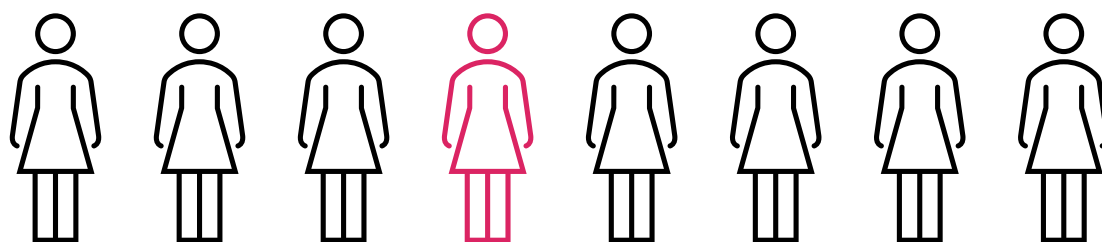
BreastScreen Tasmania is part of BreastScreen Australia – a national breast screening program that aims to continue to reduce deaths from breast cancer through early detection of the disease. Early detection provides an opportunity for early treatment, which can reduce illness and death.

BreastScreen Tasmania provides a free screening mammogram every two years to women between the age of 50 and 74 years, throughout Tasmania.

Data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare showed that Tasmanian women had higher rates of participation in Breast Cancer Screening than nationally, in 2022-23. While more recent data are not currently available, the Department of Health publishes monthly data on breast cancer screening in Tasmania.

In the year to February 2026, 32 791 eligible women were screened for breast cancer. The Department of Health also reports on the number of women who were assessed within 28 days of a screen-detected abnormality. In the year to February 2026, on average, 94 per cent of women were assessed within 28 days of an abnormality being detected.

**In Australia, the risk of a woman developing breast cancer by the age of 85 years is 1 in 8.<sup>24</sup>**



<sup>24</sup> *Breast cancer risk factors*, Cancer Australia.

## Health and Wellbeing

### Suicide Rate

Tasmanian Three-Year Trend	Tasmania's performance compared with national results
Not applicable <sup>25</sup>	Worse <span style="color: orange;">●</span>

Tasmania had the equal second highest rate of suicide in Australia in 2024, along with Queensland, and after the Northern Territory, reflecting higher rates of suicide for both males and females. The higher rate in Tasmania may reflect particular challenges with mental health outcomes that the State faces compared with mainland Australia, including:

- rural and remote populations with less access to mental health services;
- greater levels of socioeconomic challenges in some regions; and
- higher rates of certain risk factors, including substance use issues.

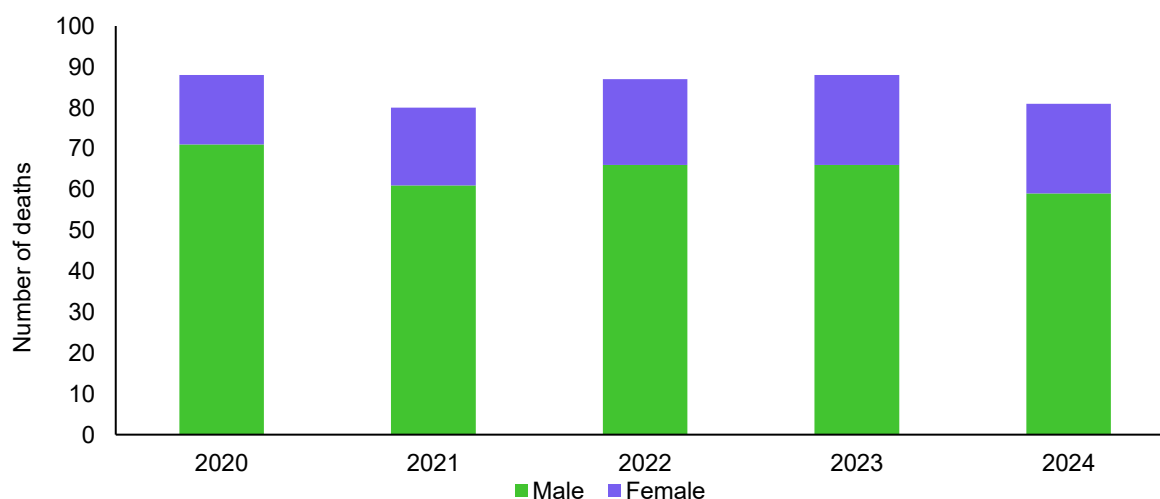
Consistent with national and global trends, men have much higher rates of suicide than women, making up approximately 76 per cent of suicides in Tasmania over the five-year period from 2020 to 2024.

Conversely, across Australia (and in many other countries) women are hospitalised for intentional self-harm at a higher rate and have a higher reported rate of suicidal thoughts and behaviours.<sup>26</sup>

Suicide is a complex issue that requires action across the community, community service providers and all levels of government to address risk factors associated with suicidal distress to support those who need it and prevent suicide.

The *Tasmanian Suicide Prevention Strategy 2023-2027* sets out the vision and priorities for preventing suicide in Tasmania over the five years to 2027.

#### Underlying cause of death - intentional self-harm (suicide), Tasmania




Source: *Causes of Death, Australia*, ABS.

<sup>25</sup> For males, both the number of suicides and the age-standardised suicide rate decreased between 2021 and 2024. Conversely, the number of female suicides increased. In 2021, the age-standardised suicide rate for females was not published, so a comparison of this measure cannot be undertaken.

<sup>26</sup> *Suicide and self-harm monitoring*, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

## Health and Wellbeing

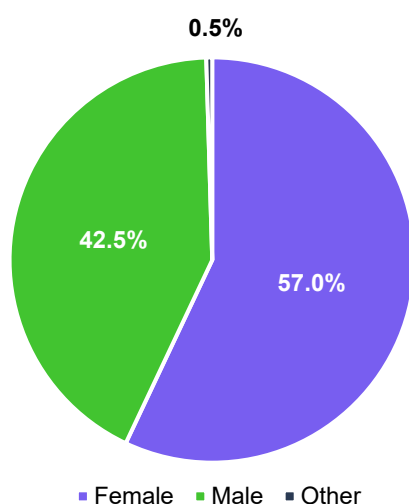
### Social Housing Services

Tasmanian Three-Year Trend	Tasmania's performance compared with national results
Worsening 	Data not available

There are a variety of reasons that individuals and family units apply for social housing across Tasmania.

As at March 2026, there were 5 533 applications on the Housing Register. This includes applications for public housing, Aboriginal housing and/or community housing. Of these applications, 57.0 per cent of the primary applicants were female, 42.5 per cent were male and 0.5 per cent listed their gender as 'Other'. The number of applicants on the Housing Register has increased over the past three years, with the number of female primary applicants increasing by around 14 per cent, while the number of male primary applicants increased by around 28 per cent.

#### Gender split of primary applicants on Tasmanian Housing Register, as at March 2026



Source: Homes Tasmania internal data.

As at March 2026, there were a total of 2 927 children and young people in Housing Register applications.

According to the Australian Council of Social Services, single-parent families (which are predominately headed by females) have poverty rates of around 35 per cent, with children in sole-parent families more than three times more likely to live in poverty as children in couple families.<sup>27</sup>

Further, females over 55 years are the fastest-growing group experiencing homelessness in Australia, partly due to accumulated economic disadvantages from caregiving roles.<sup>28</sup>

<sup>27</sup> *Poverty in Australia*, Australian Council of Social Services.

<sup>28</sup> *Older Women's Risk of Homelessness: Background Paper (2019)*, Australian Human Rights Commission.

# Budget Initiative Analysis

## IVF Treatment Initiative

The 2026-27 Budget commits \$5 million over two years to support access to IVF (in vitro fertilisation) and assisted reproductive treatments by providing a rebate of \$2 000 to reduce out-of-pocket costs for Tasmanian women. The program improves affordability and equity of access to fertility services as part of a broader Women's Health agenda.

This initiative is expected to assist 2 500 Tasmanian women with fertility-related out-of-pocket costs.

### Economic Security – Strong

The high cost of fertility treatment can pose a substantial financial barrier for individuals and families seeking to start a family while experiencing infertility. Out-of-pocket costs for IVF and related reproductive treatments are significant and often incurred over multiple cycles, placing pressure on household budgets at a time of emotional vulnerability.

In some cases, women have reported accessing superannuation savings early in order to fund fertility treatment, creating long-term consequences for retirement adequacy and future financial security. The impact of accessing superannuation early can be particularly acute for women given that, on average, women have substantially lower superannuation balances and are, therefore, at a greater risk of experiencing poverty later in life. This disparity may be further exacerbated where a woman takes time out of the labour force to either undertake fertility treatment, or care for a child.

This initiative directly reduces out-of-pocket expenses, easing immediate financial pressure on women and their families and lessening reliance on financial decisions with long-term economic consequences, such as drawing down savings, accruing debt, or accessing superannuation early.

### Leadership and Participation – Neutral

This initiative does not directly target leadership or participation outcomes. However, it may provide indirect benefits through supporting improved life-course planning.

### Safety – Neutral

The initiative is not a direct safety intervention, though will reduce treatment costs thereby easing financial pressure and associated stress for some households. This could marginally improve safety outcomes, given that increased financial stress increases the risk of family and domestic violence.

## Health and Wellbeing – Strong

Fertility issues represent not only a physical health challenge but also a significant mental health burden for many women and couples. Research into the association between infertility and psychological distress found that infertility is commonly associated with heightened levels of anxiety, chronic stress and depression, with potentially long-lasting health consequences.<sup>29</sup> The financial barriers associated with fertility treatments can exacerbate this distress, contributing to feelings of helplessness, loss of control and delayed care.

By lowering out-of-pocket costs, this initiative improves affordability and supports earlier, more equitable, access to treatment, reducing prolonged uncertainty and emotional distress associated with delayed or foregone care. It also supports increased health choice and autonomy for women experiencing infertility, enabling them to pursue treatment options that may have otherwise been financially prohibitive.

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<sup>29</sup> *Investigating the association between infertility and psychological distress using Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health (ALSWH)*, Bagade, T., Thapaliya, K., Breuer, E. et al.

# Budget Initiative Analysis

## Gidget House

The 2026-27 Budget includes \$120 000 over three years to support a program for eight graduate positions per year in Perinatal Mental Health based at Gidget House services in Tasmania. This will support the delivery and expansion of specialist perinatal mental health services that includes counselling and supervised graduate training positions, improving access to early intervention and support for expectant and new parents experiencing perinatal mental health challenges (with perinatal referring to the period during pregnancy up until the infant is 12 months of age).

### Economic Security – Growth

Perinatal depression and anxiety can have a significant impact on a person's ability to function at work, leading to higher rates of absenteeism, reduced productivity and lower return to work rates. A 2019 report by Gidget Foundation Australia and PwC Consulting Australia estimated that the first-year economic costs of perinatal depression and anxiety in Australia were around \$643 million, with further impacts in the second and third year of \$1 billion.<sup>30</sup> These costs were attributable to productivity losses associated with increased workforce exit, absenteeism, presenteeism<sup>31</sup> and carer requirements.

This initiative contributes to better economic security outcomes for women through providing improved perinatal mental health support, which may assist women to maintain workforce attachment before and after childbirth. It also reduces financial pressure on families by providing free access to mental health services at a time of increased financial vulnerability.

In addition to these benefits, the initiative supports graduates through paid placements that support professional development, noting that caring professions are often women dominated.

### Leadership and Participation – Growth

This initiative strengthens professional pipelines for women into specialist and senior mental health roles, including through the provision of formal training and supervision. It may also indirectly support mothers with their career pathways by helping them to participate and thrive in the workforce.

### Safety – Growth

Research suggests that women are at greater risk of experiencing violence from an intimate partner during pregnancy and after childbirth, with violence often beginning or increasing in severity during pregnancy and into the first month of motherhood.<sup>32</sup> This initiative provides a resource to support women and families after childbirth and can provide an opportunity for early identification of family stress and risk factors, as well as the possibility of early intervention where family violence is present.

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<sup>30</sup> *The cost of perinatal depression and anxiety in Australia*, prepared by PwC Consulting Australia for the use of Gidget Foundation Australia.

<sup>31</sup> Presenteeism is reduced work performance due to health-related issues while still attending work.

<sup>32</sup> *Domestic and family violence in pregnancy and early parenthood*, Australian Institute of Family Studies.

## Health and Wellbeing – Strong

According to the Australian Institute of Health and Wellbeing (AIHW), it is estimated that perinatal depression and anxiety affects between 10 and 20 per cent of mothers. While less research has been undertaken in relation to paternal perinatal mental health, it is estimated that around 10 per cent of expecting or new fathers experience perinatal anxiety and/or depression.<sup>33</sup>

The AIHW notes that poor perinatal mental health can have a significant impact on the parent, as well as longer-term impacts on the baby. Mental health conditions during pregnancy have been associated with adverse obstetric and pregnancy outcomes, such as premature birth, independent of mental health-related medication use. Perinatal mental health conditions are also associated with poorer child and adolescent development, including increased risk of poorer cognitive development, emotional problems and externalising behavioural difficulties.

This initiative supports better health and wellbeing outcomes for pregnant women, new parents and babies through the increased availability and earlier provision of evidence-based perinatal mental health care. Early intervention throughout the perinatal period can reduce escalations to acute services and help improve longer-term mental health mortality and morbidity for mothers and families.

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<sup>33</sup> *Perinatal mental health screening in Australia*, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

# Budget Initiative Analysis

## Food Relief Strategy and Services

The 2026-27 Budget commits \$1.55 million in 2026-27, along with a further \$3.1 million over the Forward Estimates, to implement the Tasmanian Government's *Building Food Resilient Communities: Tasmania's Food Resilience Strategy 2025-2031*. This funding will support the implementation of the Strategy and continuation of community food relief services. It will help achieve the vision of a coordinated, inclusive and sustainable food system that ensures all Tasmanians have dignified access to nutritious food and builds community food capability, while also helping to ease immediate cost-of-living pressures.

### Economic Security – Strong

The Strategy strengthens economic security by addressing food insecurity, which disproportionately affects those in single-parent households, the majority of which are headed by women, and low-income groups.<sup>34</sup> According to the *Tasmanian Population Health Survey 2022*, in Tasmania, food insecurity affects more women than men, with 10 per cent reporting that they ran out of food in the previous 12 months and could not afford to buy more, compared with seven per cent of men.<sup>35</sup> Addressing families' basic food needs through food relief and resilience initiatives can reduce stress and ease cost-of-living pressures. This may allow limited household income to be redirected toward other essential needs such as healthcare, transport, clothing, and education. While improving food security alone will not close systemic workforce participation gaps, the initiative may contribute to improved workforce readiness and financial stability, supporting progress under Tasmania's *Labour Force Participation* indicator.

### Leadership and Participation – Neutral

The Strategy's emphasis on community-led food resilience initiatives offers local leadership and participation opportunities. Through grant-funded projects and pilot activities, there are opportunities for women to work in planning, coordination, and governance leadership roles, building visibility and skills for broader civic participation. As such, the Strategy has the potential to contribute to improved outcomes under Tasmania's *Women in Leadership and Managerial Roles* indicator, particularly in rural and regional communities where formal leadership pathways are limited.

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<sup>34</sup> *Hunger Report 2024*, Foodbank.

<sup>35</sup> *Report on the Tasmanian Population Health Survey 2022*, Department of Health (Tasmania).

## Safety – Growth

While not a frontline safety program, the Strategy contributes to women’s safety with respect to domestic and family violence. In particular, evidence suggests that there is a complex relationship between food insecurity and domestic and family violence, with women facing domestic and family violence being more likely to face food insecurity, and women facing food insecurity being more likely to face domestic and family violence.<sup>36</sup> By reducing food-related stress, increasing economic stabilisation and strengthening community connection, the Strategy aims to support early intervention pathways and protective factors for women experiencing, or at risk of, violence. For example, accessing support services through trusted community organisations, such as mobile food vans or local hubs, can provide opportunities for help-seeking among women facing unsafe living conditions.

## Health and Wellbeing – Strong

Improved food access is directly linked to mental and physical wellbeing. Adults impacted by food insecurity are more vulnerable to developing chronic health conditions and poor mental health.<sup>37</sup> The Strategy commits to minimum food quality standards, nutrition-informed food relief and culturally appropriate food access, supporting women’s physical health, including during pregnancy, caregiving years and older age. It aims to meet families’ basic food needs through both immediate relief and longer-term food resilience initiatives. Additionally, the Strategy aims to reduce social isolation through community food events.

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<sup>36</sup> *Experiences of food insecurity for Australian women and children affected by domestic and family violence*, Australian Institute of Family Studies.

<sup>37</sup> *Understanding food insecurity in Australia*, Australian Institute of Family Studies.

# Budget Initiative Analysis

## Historical Forced Adoption Redress Scheme

The 2026-27 Budget provides \$4 million of funding in 2026-27 for the Historical Forced Adoption Redress Scheme. This Scheme will provide a monetary payment of \$75 000 to mothers who were subject to historical forced adoption practices. This funding will help to support those impacted to access counselling, wellbeing and psychological support services.

### Economic Security – Strong

A study undertaken by the Australian Institute of Family Studies on the impacts of past adoption experiences across Australia found that around one-quarter of the mothers involved in the study had not had any support to help them deal with the separation from their child, or with the process of search and contact.<sup>38</sup> For those who had received counselling or psychological support, affordability and accessibility were listed as some of the key enabling characteristics of the service.

Respondents identified a number of sources of financial costs that arose due to these practices, including:

- trauma and ongoing effects that inhibited respondents' capacity to earn an income;
- enduring psychological impacts that required a lifetime of psychiatric/medical intervention; and
- travel costs associated with regular face-to-face contact with their children, which can pose a significant barrier to establishing and maintaining these relationships.

This initiative recognises these enduring harms and provides monetary compensation to directly support mothers affected by forced adoptions in Tasmania. This will enable recipients to seek support that they may have been unable to access in the past.

Indirect benefits on economic security may also arise where access to support services enables those impacted to increase their participation in paid work or further employment.

### Leadership and Participation – Neutral

This initiative does not directly target leadership or participation outcomes. However, it may provide some indirect benefits through enabling women to obtain support that empowers them to more fully participate in society and undertake leadership roles.

### Safety – Neutral

The initiative is not a direct safety intervention, though may ease financial pressure for recipients. This could marginally improve safety outcomes, given that increased financial stress increases the risk of family and domestic violence.

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<sup>38</sup> *Past adoption experiences – National Research Study on the Service Response to Past Adoption Practices: Final Report*, Australian Institute of Family Studies.

## Health and Wellbeing – Strong

The study by the Australian Institute of Family Studies identified a number of universally reported health impacts on all groups affected, including mothers. These impacts include trauma-related symptoms, depression, suicidal ideation and behaviour, anxiety, grief and loss, impacts on self-worth, relationship issues, substance use, and physical illnesses.<sup>39</sup>

It also noted that for groups that have experienced pain and trauma, having society recognise what has occurred (ie naming it, and understanding how it occurred and its impact) is an important element in coping with and adjusting to the deep hurt they have experienced.

Many of the health and wellbeing impacts are likely to be ongoing and continue to require support. This initiative aims to improve these outcomes by enabling mothers impacted by historical forced adoptions to access the support they need now and provide acknowledgement of the harm caused.

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<sup>39</sup> *Past adoption experiences – National Research Study on the Service Response to Past Adoption Practices: Final Report*, Australian Institute of Family Studies.

# Budget Initiative Analysis

## The Men's Table

The 2026-27 Budget provides \$25 000 per annum over four years to support coordination, governance, reporting and delivery of The Men's Table initiatives across Tasmania.

The Men's Table is a national organisation made up of groups ("Tables") of eight to 12 local men who meet for dinner monthly. The purpose of these groups is to provide safe spaces for men to connect, share experiences and support their mental health and wellbeing.

### Economic Security – Growth

This initiative is not targeted towards economic security, as the focus is on mental health and social support. However, there may be some indirect impacts for men through increased wellbeing that leads to greater capacity to engage in further education or sustain paid employment.

### Leadership and Participation – Growth

This initiative does not directly target leadership or participation outcomes. However, it may provide some indirect benefits through improving the confidence of men, which may assist them in undertaking leadership roles, or through peer-based encouragement or greater participation in the community.

### Safety – Strong

This initiative may help to improve safety outcomes by creating supportive peer networks that reduce isolation, improve emotional wellbeing and encourage healthier ways of managing stress, conflict and relationships.

According to the Australian Institute of Family Studies, around one in 14 men in Australia have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner since the age of 15, reflecting that family violence can impact anyone of any gender.<sup>40</sup> This initiative may support men who are the victims of family violence through providing a safe space for them to discuss their experiences and seek help. This could be particularly impactful given men may be less likely to report their experiences due to stigma, fear of not being believed, and societal stereotypes about masculinity.

In addition to this, social support is a protective factor against the use of family violence, noting that men are the main perpetrators of family violence.<sup>41</sup> This provides broader safety benefits to the families of men.

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<sup>40</sup> *Intimate Partner Violence*, Australian Institute of Family Studies.

<sup>41</sup> *The use of intimate partner violence among Australian men*, Australian Institute of Family Studies.

## **Health and Wellbeing – Strong**



This initiative directly supports stronger health and wellbeing outcomes, as it fosters social connection, provides peer support and reduces isolation, which can all assist in improving mental health and wellbeing. It provides an opportunity for men to seek support from peers and share mental health challenges that they are experiencing, which is particularly important, given men have a significantly higher suicide rate.

Positive impacts on men's health and wellbeing are anticipated in relation to mental wellbeing, quality of life, stigma reduction and help-seeking behaviour.





