

2015-16 State Government Budget Initial Overview for the Youth Sector

This document is intended as a summary and does not provide analysis.

YNOT attended the community lock-up before the release of the 2015-2016 State Government Budget, on Thursday 28 May.

Much of the focus was on delivering commitments and continuing funding that had previously been committed to.

YNOT welcomes the additional \$6 million that has been provided to build a youth supported accommodation facility in Devonport and increase staffing levels at Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), but recognises that there are significant gaps, particularly for some of our most vulnerable young people.

YNOT notes that the Tasmanian Budget does not provide details of any specific measures to address the high youth unemployment rate in Tasmania or support measures to re-engage young people who may have disengaged from education.

Below is a brief summary of the relevant Budget items for the youth sector:

Community Sector

- **Additional funding for community organisations**

The Government has continued its commitment to provide \$9 million in additional funding to the community sector over four years to support organisations with increasing costs and sector capacity building.

- **Neighbourhood Houses**

The Government has continued its commitment to provide \$1.7 million over two years for Neighbourhood and Community Houses.

- **Tasmanian Youth Conference**

Funding of \$40,000 has been allocated in 2015-16 to assist the Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT) with organisation of the Tasmanian Youth Conference in 2015-16 and 2016-17.

- **TasCOSS**

The Government has continued its commitment to provide \$250,000 over four years to TasCOSS to assist in building a joined up human services support system in partnership with the Government.



- **Equal Remuneration Order (ERO) Costs**

Additional funding of \$7.6 million has been allocated for 2018-19, bringing the total ERO supplementation in 2018-19 to \$31.8 million.

- **Joined Up Services System Project**

Additional funding of \$1.2 has been allocated over the next two years for the development and implementation of initiatives that support and test a joined up human service support system.

Education

- **Reinvigorating our High Schools**

An additional \$56.3 million over four years has been committed for new infrastructure projects in schools.

- **Extending high schools to Year 12**

The Government has continued its commitment to extend Tasmanian high schools to Year 12. Six schools will be extended next year – Campbell Town District High, Queenstown's Mountain Height's District School, New Norfolk and Glenora District High schools (in partnership), Rosebery District High and Tasman District High School.

- **School Health Nurses**

A Director of Nursing has been appointed in 2014-15 and 10 child and youth health nurses will be in place by July 2015 with 20 positions established by 2017.

- **Students First**

The Government has continued its commitment on the Students First education reforms funding commitment, providing the full \$134 million of additional funding over the scheduled six years.

- **Literacy and Numeracy Specialists**

The Government has continued its commitment to employ 25 specialist literacy and numeracy teachers who will focus on working with Year 7 to 9 students with \$2 million allocated for this in 2015-16.

Youth Justice

- **Save the Children Bail Program and Post-Detention Transition Program**

The Government has continued its commitment to provide one on one support through both the Supporting Young People on Bail Program and the Post-Detention Transition Program.

Health

- **Suicide Prevention Strategy**

The Government has continued its commitment to provide \$3 million over three years for targeted and proactive suicide prevention strategies which includes a targeted Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy.

- **Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service**

Additional funding of \$600,000 per year has been allocated to increase staffing levels at Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) starting in 2015-16.

- **Extra graduate positions for nurses**

The Government has continued its commitment to \$5.4 million over the next four years to increase the number of *Transition to Practice Placements* available for nursing graduates.

Disability

- **NDIS**

The Government is continuing its commitment to the full implementation of the NDIS with \$92.8 million allocated over the next four years.

- **Support for people not covered by NDIS**

The Government has continued its commitment to provide \$2 million in additional funding for disability services over four years to assist those on waiting lists who are outside of the NDIS trial cohort.

Housing and Homelessness

- **Youth supported accommodation on the North West Coast**

An additional \$6 million has been allocated for the Devonport Youth Accommodation Project. This project will see the construction of 25 independent units for young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The building is due to be completed in 2017.

For full details of the State Government Budget, click [here](#).

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