

2016-17 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 2016-2017 Tasmanian State Budget, on Thursday 27 May.

It is good to see there has been a large amount of funding allocated for children and young people at risk.

Funding was allocated across most key areas although some of these, such as preventative health, have a very small amount of funding. YNOT is concerned about the ability for funding in these areas to achieve the work outlined in various strategies and plans.

YNOT is also disappointed that the Budget did not contain a strategic direction for addressing some critical issues for young Tasmanians, such as disengagement from education and training and youth unemployment.

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

Children and Young People at Risk

- **Strong Families and Safe Kids**

The Government will be releasing the Strong Families and Safe Kids strategy soon and have allocated funding for the strategy. This is a total of \$20.6 million for 2016-2020 and includes \$3.6 million for the development of a 'one door' advice and referral service for child protection and \$7.5 million for a whole of government approach to young people at risk.

Community Sector

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

Additional funding of \$2.6 million has been allocated for 2019-20, bringing the total ERO supplementation in 2019-20 to \$34.4 million. The ERO is paid in incremental installments over eight years.

Education

- **Education Act Review**

\$4.5 million over two years has been allocated to implement to the new Education Act, although this is subject to the legislation passing. Provision of \$6.3 million per annum has



been made from 2019-20 to meet additional cost associated with the proposed changes to the leaving and starting age, which first commences in the 2020 school year.

- **Combat Bullying**

\$3 million over four years has been allocated to develop a program to combat bullying in schools. This includes \$500,000 each year to implement the program.

- **Students First**

The Government has continued its commitment on the Students First (Gonski) education reforms funding commitment, providing the full \$134 million of additional funding over the scheduled six years to 2019.

Health

- **Healthy Tasmania**

Additional funding of \$1.6 million over four years for initiatives under the Healthy Tasmania policy, with \$1 million of existing funding being allocated, bringing the total to \$2.6 million with a focus on targeting smoking and obesity as key priorities.

- **Mental Health Priorities**

Additional funding of \$750,000 per year from 2016-17 allocated to fund actions from the *Rethink Mental Health Plan 2015-2025*, *Tasmanian Suicide Prevention Strategy 2016-2020*, *Youth Suicide Prevention Plan for Tasmania 2016-2020* and *Suicide Prevention Workforce Development and Training Plan for Tasmania 2016-2020*. This is in addition to the \$3 million previously allocated to develop the Suicide Prevention Plans and fund some of the actions of this.

Employment

- **Supporting Small Businesses with Apprenticeships and Traineeships**

\$600,000 has been allocated over two years to support small businesses to employ apprentices and trainees.

- **Work Readiness for Growth Industries**

Funding of \$900,000 over two years has been allocated to support leading employers in growth industries to support young people to develop technical and work-ready employability skills. This will be based on another successful program that has been run previously.

Housing and Homelessness

- **Affordable Housing Strategy**

Funding of \$60 million allocated over three years to support the *Affordable Housing Action Plan*.

- **First Home Builder Grant**

An increase to the first first home builders grant from \$10,000 to \$20,000, which will be available until June 30 2017 and will be back dated to for any successful applicants who received the \$10,000 grant from January 2016.

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