

## 2021-22 State Government Budget Initial Overview for the Youth Sector

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

The Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT) attended the Budget Community Group Lock-up before the release of the 2021-2022 Liberal State Government Budget on Thursday, 26 August 2021.

This Budget contains record investment by the Tasmanian Government to improve the health and wellbeing of Tasmania's children and young people and will support the successful implementation of the Tasmanian Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy Action Plan 2021-2025.

YNOT congratulates the Tasmanian Government for its commitment and future focus on our most important asset – our children and young people. We are particularly pleased to see targeted investment in supporting young people aged 16-25 years to navigate work, education and training in a COVID changed landscape through investing in youth navigators, youth connectors and the fit for work project. We are also pleased to see a significant investment in the areas of youth mental health, housing initiatives and youth participation and engagement activity.

Our young people deserve the services, supports, policy settings and opportunities to live a great life on their island home. This Budget is encouraging and will support us in working together for our next generation.

Below is a summary of key budget items relevant to young Tasmanians.

### Community Sector

- Ongoing investment in the Tasmanian Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy
- Continued investment in peak body funding for six community peak organisations: Volunteering Tasmania; Youth Network of Tasmania; Council of the Ageing; Carers Tasmania; Tasmanian Men's Shed Association; and Multicultural Council of Tasmania.
- Additional \$3M over three years for the Ticket to Play program providing \$200 in vouchers per child per year
- \$300,000 over three years to Volunteering Tasmania to build a 'Youth Volunteer Army'
- \$315,000 over three years for community youth events: Youth Week Tasmania, the Young Leaders of Tasmania program and Tasmanian Bike Collective
- \$1M annual funding to disability advocacy organisations including Speakout Advocacy and the Association for Children with Disability

- \$180,000 for the Youth Climate Leadership Program for high school students
- \$875,000 over four years to increase participation opportunities for children and young people who are not usually provided the opportunity to participate or be heard
- \$500,000 funding for 2021-22 to begin development for a therapeutic residential on-country program in Tasmania.
- \$1.1M to support young people exiting out of home care to transition to independence.

## Employment

- \$1.3M for Youth Connectors program at the Sorell, Glenorchy and George Town Jobs Hubs; an initiative of YNOT
- \$170,000 to Youth Family and Community Connections Inc. to deliver the Devonport 'Fit for Work' project for young job seekers
- \$850,000 for Youth Navigators to provide tailored, holistic and targeted support to year 12 school leavers to transition to further education, training or jobs in 2021/22; an initiative of YNOT and the Youth Employment Alliance.

## Education

- \$98.5M over four years for 100 additional TAFE teachers, infrastructure development and accessibility support for rural and regional students
- \$1.4M over two years extend the school lunch pilot program in 30 schools
- \$4.7M over four years to move senior secondary school assessments online.
- \$6.3M over 4 years to upgrade school amenities to combat bullying "Making School Toilet Blocks Safer"
- \$3.2M for free sanitary items in all Government Schools
- \$25,000 for 2021-22 Girls in Property Pilot Program to support years 9 and 10 students to consider working in non-traditional sectors
- \$5.3M over four years to increase school literacy
- \$56M over four years to support students with disability
- \$500,000 in 2021-22 to Beacon Foundation to develop high impact services and supports for schools
- \$15,000 over 2021-22 for Youth Mental Health First Aid Training
- \$250,000 over 2021-22 for Wellbeing Lead Teacher and Principal initiative to support students' mental health and those who have experienced trauma.

## Mental Health

- \$41.2M to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service review
- \$750,000 over 5 years to Speak Up, Stay ChatTY for in School Programs
- Additional \$8M investment over four years for trauma support in schools; including \$2M over two years for trauma informed practice training for teachers
- \$300,000 to recruit a mental health specialist in Circular Head region with focus on young people

## Health

- \$5.4M to employ additional 14.4 school nurses
- \$1M for a Youth Smoking Prevention Package
- \$1.4M over four years to employ three additional assessors for the Tasmanian Autism Diagnostic Service
- \$340,000 to Family Planning Tasmania for new women and girl's health statewide services.
- \$400,000 over two years to the Salvation Army Street Teams

## Youth Justice

- \$80,000 per year over four years for legal representation to children and young people in the North and North-West appearing in court after-hours.

## Housing and Homelessness

- \$15.3M for youth housing and homelessness initiatives,
  - Under 16 Lighthouse project; funding will also include the creation of Youth Wellbeing Officers in the Advice and Referral Line to support young people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness
  - Modular youth housing for young people 16-24 years (20 units) for young people transitioning to independence from Ashley Detention Centre, Out of Home Care or Shelters; funding will also include Youth Coaches
  - Dispersed Youth Foyer for 10 Housing Tasmania properties to be converted into 3-4 bedroom share housing properties for young people
- Youth Wellbeing Officers employed to the Advice and Referral Line to support young people under the age of 16 who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Visit the Tasmanian Government Department of Treasury and Finance webpage for more information. For full details of the State Government Budget, click [here](#).

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