

Minister for Children and Youth
Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing
Minister for Community Services
Minister for Finance

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21 February 2025

Ms Miriam Beswick
Member for Braddon
C/o laura.ross@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Beswick,

Thank you for your constituent question asked on 28 November 2024 in Parliament to the Minister for Community Services, the Hon Roger Jaensch MP, regarding homelessness.

The 2024-25 Budget commits around \$7 million to boost support for emergency food relief programs across the State while also looking to food resilience in the future. The Budget provides \$1 million to retain all increase emergency food relief funding for a further year while a whole of government Strategy is developed to support the significant shift from food relief to food resilience in our State.

The Government is delivering \$2.5 million in funding to enable Loaves and Fishes, who supplies more than 250 community partners, to upgrade its Devonport and Brighton warehousing facilities and expand its capacity to support Tasmanians.

The \$500,000 Community Food Relief Grants Program 2025 provides funding to non-for-profit Tasmanian community organisations that provide food relief directly to members of their local community, including ready-to-eat meals and food hampers. Organisations can apply for up to \$10,000, with applications open until Friday 28 February 2025. This year at least 50 groups will be able to share the funding, which is an increase on the 2023-24 program which was able to assist 35 organisations.

Gran's Van, Launceston City Mission and St Vincent de Paul Society will each receive an additional \$60,000 to take their funding to \$120,000 each year over 2024-25 and 2025-26.

Under the Tasmanian Housing Strategy 2023-2043 (the Strategy), the Tasmanian Government is working closely with government agencies, community partners and the private sector to achieve the Strategy's vision to end homelessness in Tasmania. It is achieving this aim by:

- Increasing the supply of social and affordable housing with a commitment to deliver an additional 10 000 homes by 2032, to deliver housing to those that need it most.

- Expanding our Family Violence Rapid Rehousing program by an additional 100 properties so that more women and children can be supported into safe housing.
- Safe Spaces is crisis accommodation for homeless Tasmanians delivering a warm bed, a hot meal and personal safety. Funding for Safe Spaces has now been expanded and is an ongoing program delivering hundreds of beds every week.

Thank you for raising this matter in Parliament, I trust this information has been helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R Jaensch', enclosed within a large, loopy circular flourish.

Hon Roger Jaensch MP
Minister for Community Services