

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management
Minister for Business, Industry and Resources
Minister for Skills and Jobs

Level 5, 4 Salamanca Place, Parliament Square Building HOBART TAS 7000 Australia
GPO Box 123 HOBART TAS 7001 Australia
Ph: +61 3 6165 7770
Email: minister.ellis@dpac.tas.gov.au



Ms Janie Finlay MP
Via email: Janie.Finlay@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Finlay

Thank you for your constituency question asked in the House of Assembly on 10 September 2025 raising concerns on behalf of your constituent regarding the Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) junior fire brigade programs.

The TFS Junior and Cadet Program (JCP) continues to operate within 39 brigades across the state. On 23 July 2025, a temporary suspension was put in place for the establishment of new JCPs statewide. This pause is to remain in place until the TFS can review, and if necessary, implement recommendations following an investigation into a reportable conduct matter.

This pause does not affect existing JCPs, and children and young people between the ages of 10 and 17 can continue to join and participate in existing programs and activities.

The Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management is committed to the ongoing provision and improvement of the JCP. Recently, a TFS Junior and Cadet Program Officer was appointed to support the volunteers and brigades. Several improvements are also currently underway, including a review of the Personal Protection Clothing worn by Junior and Cadet members, the development of formal training to support JCP Coordinators, and a review of the current JCP resources used to support the program.

The investigation and associated improvement work form but of the Department's broader commitment to strengthening child safety and wellbeing practices across all its services. This work aligns with our response to the Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings and supports our efforts to ensure the Department is a Child and Youth Safe Organisation.

Yours sincerely

Hon Felix Ellis MP

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management

3/11/2025

Copy to Ms Laura Ross, Clerk of the House of Assembly