

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

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Ms Rebecca White MP
Labor Member for Lyons
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Dear Ms White

Thank you for your Constituency Question on 20 November on behalf of the acting manager of Okines Community House in Dodges Ferry. The question is focussed on funding for the Neighbourhood Houses Community Connector Program.

At the 2024 election, the Tasmanian Government committed to continuing the Community Connector program and begin the staged expansion of it. In the Budget we provided funding of \$1.298 million over four years for this program, including additional funding from 2025 for its expansion. Recognising a time gap between the conclusion of the pilot funding and new funding becoming available through the 2024-25 State Budget, interim funding has been provided to extend the pilot to 30 November 2024.

I have heard the concerns raised by Neighbourhood Houses, that the 2024-25 Community Connector State Budget allocation was less than the \$1.4 million provided in 2023-24 and I can confirm that the Tasmanian Government has since increased funding for the Community Connector Program to \$1.4 million for 2024-25.

Prior to the 2024 election, the Community Connector program had been available in some Neighbourhood Houses through a Host House and Cluster model. Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania and Neighbourhood Houses have shared with me their preference to move to a new model that will allow each participating House to be funded directly, for the same amount for each House and for more Houses to participate in the program.

The Tasmanian Government has committed to providing the additional \$221,527 above the \$1.4 million already allocated in 2024-25 to move to the preferred model as soon as possible.

Thank you for your question on behalf of your local constituent and for your interest in the Neighbourhood Houses Community Connector Program.

Yours sincerely

Hon Roger Jaensch MP
Minister for Community Services