

Tasmanian Community Services Industry Joint Statement of 2021 State Election Priorities

As the peak bodies representing Tasmania's community services industry, our vision is for all Tasmanians to have the opportunity to contribute to rebuilding their communities as resilient, healthy, safe and economically vibrant places to live.



Community services integral role

The community services industry is integral to Tasmania's social and economic recovery from COVID-19. The vital services our industry provides through our paid workforce and volunteers have supported the wellbeing of almost all Tasmanians at some point in their lives.

Community service organisations flexibly adapted to support those impacted by COVID-19 in our local communities. This included large numbers of Tasmanians accessing support and assistance for the first time.

With the full effects of the pandemic yet to be felt it is vital that we strengthen our community services industry now.

The community services industry is one of the largest employers and fastest growing industries in Tasmania and at present, we require an additional 4,000 jobs by 2024 just to meet this escalating community need. This demand is going to be felt across all sectors, with a need for a targeted response for specialist workforces and priority groups.

With a total of 14 Tasmanian job seekers for every advertised job¹ – there is a significant opportunity to ensure we attract, recruit and train local people to fill these projected job openings.

As the Premier's Social and Economic Recovery Advisory Council's Final Report indicates, without investment, our industry cannot expand its workforce to meet community demand.

Election priorities

We urge commitments from all political leaders to the following priorities within the first 100 days of forming government:

- ✔ Partner with the Tasmanian community services industry to deliver the projected 4,000 new jobs needed to address workforce and community needs by 2024². This will be achieved by a coordinated approach:
 - Funding an industry awareness and recruitment campaign to promote diverse employment and career opportunities within the community services industry and its specialist sectors.
 - Establishing a Workforce Development Fund to equip the industry with 120 new trainers.
 - Funding governance scholarships and training to build capacity and to strengthen leadership and sustainability within the industry.
 - Establish a Workforce Ready Team across specialist workforces and priority groups.
- ✔ Support the development of a Community Services Coordination Group which is tasked with identifying and recommending funding for community led, place-based recovery activities in response to areas of community need.³
- ✔ Implementation of a minimum five-year funding models for Tasmanian community service organisations which support transparent, adaptable, community led and place-based solutions and service delivery.⁴

1 Australian Government: National Skills Commission, Internet Vacancy Index, February 2021 and Department of Social Services, JobSeeker Payment and Youth Allowance recipients – monthly profile, February 2021.

2 [Local People into Local Jobs: a partnership approach to securing the community services industry workforce](#). 2021/2022 Budget Priorities Statement.

3 Premier's Social and Economic Recovery Council Final Report, Recommendation 35.

4 Premier's Social and Economic Recovery Council Final Report, Recommendation 43.

As the community services industry peak organisations, we are all working together to support Tasmanians at vital times in their lives. Priorities for each of our specialist cohorts can also be found [here](#).