

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



The initial support and economic stimulus to help Tasmanian's affected by the virus included \$1million to organisations such as the Salvation Army, The Red Cross and Rural Business Tas. These organisations have been doing a fantastic job supporting vulnerable people through the provision of food hampers, medical supplies and/or phone counselling.

Our vital food relief organisations Loaves and Fishes Tasmania, Foodbank Tasmania, Hobart City Mission and Hamlet, have also banded together and pivoted their operations towards the COVID-19 response.

The second Tasmanian Government stimulus package included an additional \$5 million to help the most vulnerable, this included:

- an additional \$1 million for emergency accommodation;
- \$100,000 to Foodbank to increase delivery frequency and supplies;
- \$250,000 to support Meals on Wheels to assist in freezing meals for the elderly and vulnerable;
- \$100,000 to TasCOSS to ensure a joined-up and connected community sector response;
- \$250,000 in an Essential Technology Fund to be managed by TasCOSS to enable community sector organisations to access technology to continue to deliver vital support;
- \$130,000 for Volunteering Tasmania to assist in mobilising volunteers;
- \$144,000 for the Hamlet to provide food (400 meals per week for 24 weeks) for persons in hardship coming through the doors of the City Mission;
- \$65,000 to YNOT (the Youth Network of Tasmania) to develop an effective communication and marketing campaign for young Tasmanians in response to COVID-19;
- \$40,000 to Scrubby Hill Farm to ensure supplies at the Waterbridge Food Co-operative and the surrounding Huon Valley community;

- \$100,000 to Waterbridge Food Co-operative to extend their delivery of food boxes;
- \$65,000 to COTA (Council of the Ageing) to develop an effective communication plan for older Tasmanians;
- \$65,000 for Tasmanian Men's Sheds to help people stay connected;
- \$260,000 for Community Transport Services Tasmania to continue to maintain essential transport for our most vulnerable;
- \$500,000 to commercially trading RSL sub-branches and ex-serving organisations;
- An extra \$1 million to increase provisions of the No Interest Loan Scheme (NILS) to support low income families obtain affordable finance for goods and services;
- \$700,000 for Neighbourhood Houses (\$20,000 for each of the 35 Houses in the State) to support their local communities.

Since the end of March, emergency food relief organisations have received around 50,000 kg of produce weekly, which equates to the delivery of almost 1500 food hampers to eligible Tasmanian households each week through various community organisations.

Each day almost 200 volunteers are working to coordinate delivery of over 5000 ready-to-eat meals for Tasmanians who are helping keep our communities safe through our quarantine measures, which will now increase to support the thousands of hospital staff and patients now in self-isolation in the North West.