

# Additional funding for the Community Sector

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The Plan to rebuild our essential  
services

# The Plan to rebuild our essential services

*“As the impact of sharp increases in the cost of living creates hardship in the community, organisations have had a jump in demand for their services. At the same time, overhead costs for these organisations have increased at a much greater rate than 2.25 per cent” – Tony Reidy, TasCOSS CEO, 23 May 2013.*

## Additional funding for the Community Sector

A majority Liberal Government will provide additional operational funding of \$9 million to the community sector over four years, to supplement the current levels of indexation.

Every day, all around the State, hundreds of community sector organisations are providing vital services and doing extraordinary work to support Tasmanians in need.

The Liberals recognise that appropriate indexation of funding to the sector is vital to enable the community sector to continue to deliver those services.

Each year, since 2011-12, the Labor-Green Government has slashed indexation to the community sector by around 30 per cent\*.

This has meant organisations have had to meet an increase in demand for their services\*\* at the same time as meeting significant increases in their operational expenses like electricity, rent and rates.

The impact of reduced indexation is hurting the sector, with a TasCOSS Impact Survey Report revealing a decline in direct service delivery, difficulty meeting operational costs and cuts in order to maintain services. In some cases, opening hours have had to be reduced, home visits decreased or eligibility to access services tightened.

That’s why the Liberals are committing to supplementing indexation over a four year period.

In addition, the Liberals will match the State Government contribution to wage increases for Tasmanian community sector employees, flowing from the 2012 equal pay case decision. This will make a big difference to over 9000 community workers all around Tasmania.

\* In the 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 State Budgets, indexation to the community sector was reduced from 3.3% to 2.25%.

\*\* The Salvation Army has reported a 9% increase in demand for their services over the past year.