



11 June 2009

Government Media Statement

DAVID BARTLETT
Premier

Emergency Relief for Tasmanians in Need

Premier David Bartlett today said State Government funding for emergency relief would help connect Tasmanians to vital services and support in difficult economic times.

“This is a common sense budget that delivers action on the basics - ensuring families can access food and other essentials in times of crisis.”

The 2009-10 State Budget includes a \$1 million dollar top up to the Federal Government’s Emergency Relief Fund, which will help community and charitable organisations support Tasmanians experiencing financial difficulties.

Mr Bartlett said it was important to take action to help the most vulnerable Tasmanians while the development of the Government’s social inclusion strategy was underway.

“While the Government is facing significant financial challenges we will not let down the most disadvantaged in our communities.

“Ensuring all Tasmanians have equal access to services and a decent standard of living is a priority I am deeply committed to.”

Mr Bartlett said the State Government’s \$1 million contribution to the Emergency Relief Fund would resource Tasmanian service organisations that are experiencing increased calls for help during these tough economic times.

“This emergency relief funding supplements the existing activities of community and charity organisations to enable them to do more to help Tasmanians,” Mr Bartlett said.

“This might be through material assistance such as food parcels or clothing, vouchers for food, transport or the chemist, or help with rent, accommodation or payment of utility accounts.

“It’s important that people in financial crisis can get the help they need to deal with their immediate situation in a way that maintains their dignity and encourages self-reliance.”

Contact: Vanessa Fabris on 0419 006 572

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