

Department of Health and Human Services

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

34 Davey Street, Hobart, Tasmania
GPO Box 125, HOBART TAS 7001, Australia
Ph: (03) 6233 3530 Fax: (03) 6233 4580
Web: www.dhhs.tas.gov.au



Contact: Robert Gavin
Phone: (03) 6233 8512
Facsimile: (03) 6233 3545
E-mail: robert.gavin@dhhs.tas.gov.au
File:

Subject: Tasmanian Government 2008-2009 Preliminary Mid-Year Financial Report

On 15 December 2008 the Premier and Treasurer released the preliminary Mid-Year Financial Report, with significant budgetary implications for all Agencies.

The Report shows Government revenues have fallen sharply and that, in light of the global financial crisis, a number of decisions need to be made to ensure the State's finances are returned to a sustainable basis.

All government agencies have been asked to identify savings, in both the current budget and in future budgets through 2011-2012.

Many of you have been directly involved in a number of the reform programs underway across the Agency. These programs are advancing well and offer us the opportunity to improve efficiency and effectiveness across all of our services. We must not let ourselves become distracted. This is a time to focus even more strongly on reform so we can deliver improved services to clients. This is the shared message to both Departmental operational units and our community sector partners.

During this time the Department, particularly through the Reform Implementation Unit and the Office for the Community Sector, will continue its work to strengthen relationships between the community sector and the Department. It is important that strategies to strengthen and build relationships, support capacity building, improve quality and safety and the skills of the workforce continue.

With demand and costs rising, meeting our new financial targets will require some difficult decisions. The Department is committed to maintaining the vital reform agenda that has been embarked upon. We will need to meet the challenges going forward by continuing to focus on our clients and working together.

We will keep you informed as we work through the challenges ahead and as decisions are taken.

Should you have any queries please contact Robert Gavin, Manager Strategic Development in the Office for the Community Sector on 6233 8512 or email robert.gavin@dhhs.tas.gov.au

David Roberts
Secretary

22 December 2008