

**Wednesday 5 June 2019 - Estimates Committee B (Petrusma)**

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY**

**ESTIMATES COMMITTEE B**

**Wednesday 5 June 2019**

**MEMBERS**

Mr O'Byrne  
Mrs Rylah (Chair)  
Mr Tucker (Deputy Chair)  
Dr Woodruff

**SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

Ms Houston  
Ms O'Connor  
Ms White

**IN ATTENDANCE**

**Hon Jacquie Petrusma MP**, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for Women, Minister for Sport and Recreation, Minister for Disability Services and Community Development

**Ministerial Office**

**Will Joscelyne**, Chief of Staff

**Aboriginal Affairs**

**Kate Kent**, Deputy Secretary, Communities Sport and Recreation

**Anthony King**, A/G Manager Office of Aboriginal Affairs

**Bronwen Pinkard**, Principal Business Analyst

**David Phelan**, Senior Coordinator, Executive Coordination and Communication Department

**Ms Louise Wilson**, General Manager Natural & Cultural Heritage

**Mr Steve Gall**, Director Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania

**Michael Giudici**, Surveyor General, Location Services Land Tasmania

**Women**

**Ginna Webster**, Secretary  
**Kate Kent**, Deputy Secretary, Communities, Sport and Recreation  
**Nick Atkins**, A/G Manager Policy and Programs  
**Bronwen Pinkard**, Principal Business Analyst  
**Mandy Clarke**, Executive Director, Standards and Performance

**Sport and Recreation**

**Ginna Webster**, Secretary  
**Kate Kent**, Deputy Secretary, Communities, Sport and Recreation  
**Helen Langenberg**, Manager Sport and Recreation  
**Paul Austen**, Director, Tasmanian Institute of Sport  
**Mark Green**, Manager, Grants, Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Branch  
**Bronwen Pinkard**, Principal Business Analyst

**Disability Services**

**Ginna Webster**, Secretary  
**Peter White**, Deputy Secretary, Housing, Disability and Community Services  
**Rod Fazackerley**, Principal Financial Officer  
**Ingrid Ganley**, Director, Disability and Community Services

**Community Development**

**Kate Kent**, Deputy Secretary, Communities Sport and Recreation  
**Nick Atkins**, A/g Manager, Policy and Programs  
**Mark Green**, Manager, Grants, Sport & Recreation Infrastructure  
**Rod Fazackerley**, Principal Financial Officer

**The Committee resumed at 1.59 p.m.**

**DIVISION 2**

(Department of Communities Tasmania)

**Output Group 6**

**Disability Services and Community Development**

**CHAIR** (Mrs Rylah) - Welcome, minister and welcome to your staff. Please kindly introduce your staff at the table, by name and title, please?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - I'd like to introduce Ms Kate Kent, Deputy Secretary of Community, Sport and Recreation, as well as Ms Deidre Wilson, Deputy Secretary from the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water, and the Environment.

**CHAIR** - The most important, we'll go to an afternoon tea break at 3.30, if that's okay with everyone. Minister, would you like to give an opening statement?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Thank you, Chair. I'd like to acknowledge and pay my respects to the Tasmanian Aboriginal People as the traditional and original owners and continuing custodians of the land in which we gather today. I acknowledge elders past, present and emerging. I'm very grateful to the Premier to have been given the responsibility for Aboriginal Affairs. A portfolio focused on improving the social, cultural and economic outcomes in promoting greater understanding and acceptance of Aboriginal culture. I, along with the entire Hodgman Liberal Government, have a genuine desire to make a positive difference. A true difference which recognises Tasmania's remarkable over 40 000 years of continuous Aboriginal heritage and culture.

Since coming into government, we have focused heavily on resetting our relationship with the Tasmanian Aboriginal people. The Premier set a strong agenda, one which was designed to make a real difference to the lives of Tasmania's Aboriginal people. Over the last year, I've had the immense privilege to continue that work on behalf of the Government and today we remain steadfast in our commitment. The 2019-20 state Budget invested new funding of \$542 000 across the forward Estimates to support related activities and initiatives.

We're providing funding of \$90 000 a year through the forward Estimates to involve greater involvement of Aboriginal communities in Government decisions and policy making as well as \$5000 per annum over the forward Estimates to support emerging Tasmanian Aboriginal female leaders. We are continuing to invest in activities and events which help us to continue to reset these initiatives like our heads of agencies' forums as well as three reconciliation festivals and events, and ongoing consultation with Aboriginal communities on important government policy. Across Government, we're also working to close the gaps and inequalities experienced by Aboriginal people. This includes initiatives such as support for Aboriginal Tasmanians impacted by family violence, more teaching resources added to the Tasmanian Aboriginal History and Culture in the Department of Education.

Permanent funding is provided for a coordinated approach to increase the number of Aboriginal people employed in the Tasmanian State Service - and I can indicate that our new Tasmanian State Service Aboriginal Employment Strategy to 2022 is now finished. We are committed to supporting the growth and sustainability of Aboriginal enterprises and we look forward to releasing our Aboriginal Procurement Policy next quarter.

I can also announce that our review of the Aboriginal and Dual Naming Policy has been finalised and I will speak to that today. Our consultation feedback report and the review of the model for returning land to the Aboriginal Community is also on track to be released as outlined in our Agenda 2019, by 30 June.

In regards to our extensive Aboriginal heritage and culture, we have just commenced a review of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975 and we're also providing ongoing funding of \$200 000 per annum to support the cultural management group to continue its work. I'd like to finish by reaffirming my own personal continued commitment to this portfolio and I thank the staff from both departments who assist me greatly in this role.

**CHAIR** - Thank you, minister. Ms White, you have the call.

**Ms WHITE** - Minister, I ask you about the Aboriginal and Dual Naming Policy, which you've just announced is finalised. Can you share that document with the committee and detail what your decision is as a result of that?

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**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Chair, I invite to the table, Mr Michael Giudici, the Surveyor-General from the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment who has been very much involved in helping to develop the dual naming policy, especially as it falls under another minister's portfolio as well.

**CHAIR** - Welcome, Michael. Thank you.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - I table the document. So welcome, Mr Giudici to the table. I thank the member for her question. One of the fundamental commitments of the Hodgman Government has been to review the Aboriginal and Dual Naming Policy because we believe that Aboriginal and dual naming is very important for connection to country, land and to sea. It plays a very effective contributory role in the broader community and their understanding of Aboriginal history and culture in Tasmania.

I first acknowledge that the policy was introduced under the previous government and under Ms O'Connor when she was minister for Aboriginal affairs. The great intention was that the policy would allow for our geographical features and places to be given dual names, and would give preference to an Aboriginal name where an official name has not been assigned. As part of our reset, the Premier consulted with Tasmanians to identify opportunities to hear issues of concern, to build genuine engagement and trust, and to develop a shared vision for the future of dual naming in Tasmania.

During these consultations, the Premier heard from a number of Tasmanian and Aboriginal people who felt that they were unfairly excluded from contributing to and proposing Aboriginal names under that policy. This is why a review commenced in the first place, which included the release of an issues paper as well as a further consultation process with stakeholders and feedback for compilation of the report and thus the release of draft amendments to the policy. There was a general and consistent view expressed during the consultations that a revised Aboriginal and Dual Naming Policy should be expanded to allow for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal parties to nominate an Aboriginal dual name directly to the nomenclature board. A clear view that was also expressed across submissions was that local and regional Aboriginal groups and organisations should be directly consulted about Aboriginal dual name proposals, particularly those names proposed in their local area, and that many Aboriginal communities and local groups were seeking opportunities to contribute to Aboriginal and dual naming in Tasmania. There was also very strong support for the expansion of languages used to form part of dual naming, to include other Tasmanian Aboriginal languages and local knowledge, and for proposals to be based on sound history and research.

As a result of the review and consultation feedback, a number of improvements that enhance procedural efficiency and broader promotion have now been made to our policy. They include expanding the number of parties who can nominate Aboriginal and dual named proposals. I want to say that this does not diminish the TAC's ability to continue to provide Aboriginal and dual naming proposals to the board as it has done in the past.

To clarify, the requirements for authenticating Aboriginal and dual names includes the creation of an independent expert reference group to support the nomenclature board, thus ensuring that local Aboriginal groups will have a say about place name nominations in their area, to include the consideration and use of other Tasmanian Aboriginal languages for place naming, to improve and clarify consultation requirements under the policy, and to ensure that there is a provision on replacing existing place names that are racially or historically offensive to Aboriginal communities.

The next step in the process will be the establishment of a reference group to support the nomenclature board. The Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment will call for expressions of interest later this month. They will also consider the 11 existing proposals that were set aside when the policy was reviewed.

**Ms WHITE** - Thank you, minister. Are you able to elaborate on the reference group and detail how many members will be on the reference group? What is the criteria for eligibility to be a member of the reference group, if there is any?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Membership of the reference group will be called for later on this month. I will ask Mr Giudici to further elaborate on the process because it does come under the nomenclature board directly under another portfolio.

**Mr GIUDICI** - Thank you for the question and to the Chair. We've drafted terms of reference for the reference group. The nomenclature board actually meets tomorrow afternoon and that will be the first time it's been able to consider this properly. The policy has just been released today but obviously I'm quite aware of what the content is. We expect a reference group of approximately five or so people with expertise in Aboriginal languages, with Aboriginal heritage or expertise in academia would be suitable for the constituency of the board or reference group. I'll need to consult with the Minister for Primary Industries and Water about the expression of interest process which we're in the process of doing at the moment. I'm not pre-empting what the nomenclature board will decide tomorrow. Tomorrow is the first opportunity to formally consider the implications or implementation of the revised policy.

**Ms WHITE** - Thank you very much. Minister, are you able to indicate whether there'll be criteria for expertise around language, heritage or academia whether it will be for Aboriginal participants only or will non-Aboriginal participants also be able to be appointed to the reference group?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - I know that we wanted to have people with experience of Aboriginal history and language but again, I will ask Mr Giudici.

**Mr GIUDICI** - Once again we are pre-empting what the board's discussion will be tomorrow, a combination of Aboriginal people and non-Aboriginal people, would probably be available to the reference group. It's important to note that the reference group will be charged with applying its expertise in providing advice to the board. However, the board will still be responsible for making decisions in accordance with the standard Nomenclature processes that are established under the Survey Co-ordination Act at the moment.

**Ms WHITE** - Thank you. Minister before announcing your policy today, have you consulted with the TAC and other groups about what the draft looks like? I understand you were consulting with them in the development of the policy. Did you inform them before you announced the policy today what you decided to do in this space?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - The draft amendments were made public to the organisations and people who made submissions to the process. They are also publicly available on the Office of Aboriginal Affairs website for anyone to have seen what the draft amendments were proposed to be. The department also met with TAC.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - But you didn't?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - I've had many conversations with TAC and email exchanges, they've been available for people to have seen - since about January.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - We're not just not talking about people. We're talking about the people who actually pulled together palawa kani, all the work on the language.

**CHAIR** - Ms O'Connor, I remind you that Ms White has the call at the moment.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - I'm just helping the minister.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - I can indicate that the TAC has many opportunities to take part in the process, including written correspondence. They were provided feedback reports, and letters to take part in the consultation. It wasn't until earlier this year that the TAC did make contact in regard to the review but they were aware of the proposed amendments to the policy.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Minister, since your government came to office, it's very clearly not been able to work across all of the Aboriginal community groups and it is very clearly, for whatever reason, not been able to engage with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre. Do you understand concerns that you've embarked on a dual naming policy review which has, for whatever reason, not properly engaged the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre and the expertise within the TAC that did all that work on palawa kani?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - I can indicate that I have met with the TAC. In Launceston I went to where they have been spending a lot of time on developing palawa kani. I want to acknowledge the great work that the TAC has done into the work of palawa kani and as the policy states, the policy now provides for names to be informed by palawa kani and other recorded Tasmanian Aboriginal languages. Scholars believe that between eight and 16 distinct Tasmanian Aboriginal languages may have been spoken prior to European settlement. It's to acknowledge the fact there are different languages in Tasmania, in different areas, and if the historical evidence is there, then it allows other Aboriginal languages to also be recorded.

The policy also allows for multiple Aboriginal language names to be recorded as well in the proposals. We acknowledge that different Tasmanian communities have different histories, different culture, and different languages. This is about bringing about all Tasmanian communities together on the one policy so that they all have the opportunity to provide names as part of this process.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - As you are aware, the TAC has spent, in fact, decades -

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - I acknowledge that.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - On the palawa kani project and it sounds very much like they were not participants in the review of the dual naming policy which disempowers a very broad section of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community which is represented by the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre. Can you guarantee that there will be place on the reference group for a TAC member, given that they are the keepers of palawa kani?

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**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Mr Giudici has already stated that that will be discussed tomorrow, but I will ask, Mr Giudici for -

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Well, before you throw to -

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - The Nomenclature Board does not come under me, it comes under a different minister.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - I know, minister, but respectfully you want this policy to work. I know you do. Can you commit to intervening and doing everything within your capacity to make sure that the group that developed and invested so much energy and heart into the language reconstruction is on that reference group so that the process doesn't completely dispossess and disempower the TAC?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - The policy isn't there to disempower the TAC, as the policy quite clearly states now provides for names to be informed by palawa kani and other recorded Tasmanian Aboriginal languages. This is actually to empower other Tasmanian communities who felt disempowered by the previous policy.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - I understand that but the problem that you have in the Aboriginal Affairs portfolio is that you're playing favourites. While it was important that there be a broader recognition of community groups, it looks like what's happened in the past five years is that the TAC has been pushed further and further away from decision making because you've found other groups to engage with that are easier to engage with.

**CHAIR** - Can we have a question, please?

**Ms O'CONNOR** - My question is, can the minister commit to ensuring that there is representation on the reference group from the TAC?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - I will ask Mr Giudici -

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Just say you'll intervene to make sure or you'll strongly suggest.

**CHAIR** - Ms O'Connor.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Or you'll make a representation.

**CHAIR** - You've asked the question. The minister -

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Your concerns have been noted but I will ask Mr Giudici.

**Mr GIUDICI** - Once again, without pre-empting the board's discussion tomorrow, it would be appropriate for expertise in palawa kani to be represented, but that will be subject to this expression of interest process, and so we are yet to see how that will play out.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Appropriate or necessary?

**Mr GIUDICI** - Once again, I'm reluctant to speak on behalf of the board before it has had the chance to consider this which will be tomorrow.

**Mr TUCKER** - Thank you, Chair. Can the minister outline what activities under our Government have reset the relationship with the Tasmanian Aboriginal people, have been undertaken and what are planned for the future?

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Oh, for goodness sake. The Premier buckpassed the portfolio to Mrs Petrusma, who failed to reset the relationship.

**CHAIR** - Order

**Ms O'CONNOR** - No lands have been returned. On it goes.

**CHAIR** - Order, Ms O'Connor.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - I thank the member for his question and for his ongoing interest in this area. Ms O'Connor, the Government is strongly committed to improving the social culture and economic outcomes and to promote greater understanding and acceptance of Aboriginal culture and our commitment is as strong today as when it was when the Premier first highlighted the importance of resetting the relationship with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community.

A lot has been achieved over the last few years, under key priority 1, and a new approach to the eligibility for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pacific Programs and Services commenced on 1 July 2016. All Tasmanian government agencies are working to ensure a streamlined approach for Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander people in Tasmania when accessing programs and services. And a key priority too is the focus on Tasmanian Aboriginal history and culture. In the delivery of the Australian curriculum I can indicate the Department of Education is leading the development of the Tasmanian Aboriginal History and Cultures Framework.

In regards to key priority 3, constitutional recognition of Tasmanian Aboriginal people, there's been a historical amendment made to Tasmania's constitution to recognise Tasmanian Aboriginal people which received Royal assent on 15 December 2016. Under key priority 4, is to explore joint land management arrangements and to review the current land return model. There has been a release of the discussion paper which we acknowledge was put on hold in early 2018 on the advice of the Tasmanian Electoral Commission until conclusion of the 2017-18 Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania elections. During this time a lot of work has continued to progress the review including a jurisdictional analysis on land return and management models in other jurisdictions including the release of a discussion paper for which we received 151 separate responses and submissions and as per our Agenda 2019 commitment we are on track to release the consultation report on that review prior to 30 June.

We are also continuing to progress Aboriginal joint management of reserve lands in Tasmania and the objective of this work is to work in close collaboration with Tasmanian Aboriginal people to ensure that their ancestral knowledge, and past and present cultural practices are integral to forming the contemporary management of the Tasmanian landscape. I want to acknowledge the great contribution of the Aboriginal Heritage Council who play a key advisory role in this work. We also have our Aboriginal trainee rangers working in the Parks and Wildlife Service and we also have \$200 000 per annum in ongoing funding for joint management of reserve lands.

In regards to Closing the Gap, I can advise that there is whole body of work being undertaken in regard to refreshing the framework for the next 10 years. I also indicate that we had the

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Aboriginal Family Safety initiative program going in this state along with an Aboriginal employment strategy that has just been finalised as well as an Aboriginal procurement policy is currently being developed. This will be released next quarter. There is a lot of work that has been undertaken, Mr Tucker, in regards to our reset.

**Mr TUCKER** - Thank you.

**Ms WHITE** - Minister, that Aboriginal employment strategy that you referenced, is that a public document?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** -Yes, I can table that as well.

**Ms WHITE** - Just newly available publicly?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Justly newly printed, fresh.

**Ms WHITE** - Okay. Can I ask, within that what numbers do you have for employment for Aboriginal people?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - The target is going to be, that 3.5 per cent will be the target under the strategy across the public sector.

**Ms WHITE** - What is it currently?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - The current percentage is 3 per cent.

**Ms WHITE** - It is not a very ambitious target.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - I can assure you, there's been a whole body of work that has been undertaken in regard to the Aboriginal employment strategy. It does mean it is equivalent to about an extra 150 Tasmanian Aboriginal people to join the State Service. The reason why we put in place the Aboriginal employment strategy is that we wanted to recognise the value that Aboriginal employees add to the workplace, but we needed to attract, retain and support Aboriginal people by building a culturally diverse workforce and a culturally safe and respectful workplace which represents the community that we do serve.

A whole body of work has gone into developing these resources, so that we can attract more Tasmanian Aboriginal people to State Service jobs and develop and progress the careers of existing Aboriginal employees and to support culturally respectful and inclusive workplaces. It's also supported by an action plan as well.

**Ms WHITE** - Minister, is that target of 150 people to be reached by 2022?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** -Yes, the aim is to increase it by 150 by 2022.

**Ms WHITE** - Can I ask about the Aboriginal Heritage Act review, and get your opinion about some of the matters raised in here? Primarily do you think that Aboriginal heritage belongs to the Aboriginal people?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - The Aboriginal Heritage Review is a very important process because we have a genuine desire to make a positive difference, but a difference that recognises a remarkable over 40 000-plus years of continuous Aboriginal heritage and culture. Under the previous review, we wanted to make sure that the more racist elements of the act were removed from the act. But the reason we've commenced this review is because it was a requirement of the previous amendments that were made in 2017 and under this review there will be very close consultation with the Aboriginal communities and other key stakeholders. I can indicate that the TAC has been consulted in regard to this review, as has [inaudible] as well as the Aboriginal Heritage Council so they were aware of the review. They can and will take part in the review, but the discussion paper has lots of questions which will allow Tasmanian Aboriginal Communities to put forward what their thoughts are in regard to the Aboriginal Heritage Act.

**Ms WHITE** - Do you have a thought about whether Aboriginal people are the owners of their own heritage?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - We want all Tasmanians to see the importance of 40 000 years of continuous Aboriginal heritage in Tasmania.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - That's not an answer.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - If we are going to have reconciliation in Tasmania, it is for all Tasmanians to see the importance of Aboriginal heritage and culture in Tasmania. We believe passionately that we need to be doing what we can to maintain and protect Aboriginal heritage in Tasmania.

**Ms WHITE** - I guess that is the primary reason for asking, because either you do believe that they are the owners of their own heritage and therefore you need to empower them to be able to protect it, or if you don't believe they're the owners of their own heritage, then you need to put sufficient protections in place so that it is not destroyed. That's the reason I ask whether you believe that Aboriginal heritage belongs to Aboriginal people because the answer to that will focus your attention on what you do then.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** -The discussion paper has lots of areas in here for people to respond – we are keeping an open mind throughout this review. We are not going to pre-empt the review in any way, shape or form and say – because we want Tasmanian Aboriginals to put forward what their views are in regard to this act. We believe that Tasmania's Aboriginal cultural heritage is the legacy of Tasmania's first people, their places, objects and traditions that have been passed down through thousands of generations. It also includes intangible values where there may be no physical evidence of past cultural activities, for example, places of spiritual ceremonial significance or travel routes where trade relations took place. This is what this whole paper is about where it talks about the importance of Tasmanian Aboriginal heritage but we need all Tasmanians to take part in the review, and to see the importance of this legislation that we want to hear from everyone. That's why the legislation is to consider the views and aspirations of Tasmanian Aboriginal people. The views of non-Aboriginal stakeholders. Approaches to Aboriginal heritage legislation in other Australian jurisdictions, as well as the interface between Aboriginal heritage management legislation and other legislation and other legislative processes regarding resource management and planning.

**Ms WHITE** - The community has raised with me a question that I will put to you, minister, and that is in respect of development in the TWWHA. For instance, the south coast's proposal for

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a track that goes very close to significant Aboriginal heritage specifically some caves. Their question to you is what happens if some of that heritage is destroyed, who is responsible for that?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Under the Aboriginal Heritage Act there's now significant penalties in place if anyone destroys Aboriginal heritage.

**Ms WHITE** - But who is responsible? Who will be held accountable because you were talking about tourists going to these areas, granted permission by your government, going past significant sites to the Aboriginal community? Arguably no-one's going to be watching what they're doing at the time. How will that be monitored and tracked and how will those sites be protected?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - In regards to the south-west, I can indicate that there's been many measures to mitigate the impacts. The Government does believe that area does have extraordinary Aboriginal heritage value we make sure that people are aware that there are significant penalties in place and I can indicate that because of these significant penalties, there's been a significant decrease in usage of areas that are now covered under the Aboriginal Heritage Act because of the penalties that are in place.

**Ms WHITE** - Can you update the committee on that change that you've noticed?

**Ms O'CONNOR** - And maybe confirm that there's no consultation of Aboriginal people about development inside the TWWHA which is their land. Unfortunately, we only have an hour for Aboriginal Affairs estimates and there's a lot to get through.

**CHAIR** - Order, order. We're waiting for an answer.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Well, we've waited a long time.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - We will find the answer to that and we'll come back to you.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Minister, in State Growth estimates yesterday, it was confirmed with us that the Aboriginal community will not be consulted about any of the expressions of interest processes that are currently being lodged with government for development inside the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage area and other reserved lands. Do you think it's acceptable that on the one hand your Government is opening up the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage area for exploitation by private interests and not consulting Aboriginal people about any of those developments, and on the other, you're claiming that you're resetting the relationship?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - I can indicate that the TWWHA comes under the Minister for Parks as well, so the question is really to be directed to his portfolio. Matters that come under my area I do definitely consult with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - This is your responsibility. I will just read to you something from the Tasmanian Aboriginal Heritage Council which has expressed strong concerns about the expressions of interest process for development in reserved land. Strong concerns about the Lake Malbena proposal and has stated that there has been very limited consultation with Tasmanian Aboriginal people. You spoke earlier about joint management work which is really commendable. How on the one hand can you invite the first people to be part of joint management work, and then on the other say 'Yes, but we're going to develop in your lands anyway without talking to you about it'?

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**Mrs PETRUSMA** - In regards to the Aboriginal Heritage Council, they come under my portfolio. They are entitled to because they have a statutory role and they can have an opinion, but the matters that you're actually speaking to is actually a matter for the Minister for Parks.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Well, that's a buck pass. I will paraphrase a concern that was expressed by Rodney Dillon who is well-known to many Tasmanians and is a champion of his people about the lack of consultation around development in reserved lands. Effectively, what he said is that 'We', that is the Aboriginal people, 'are an after-thought on these matters', and he said it publicly. He's raised a concern about the fact that there's no consultation with Aboriginal people about development inside reserved lands which they never ceded.

**CHAIR** - Ms O'Connor, do you have a question?

**Ms O'CONNOR** - I just asked it.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - You did mention joint management arrangements and I can indicate in regards to connection to county, in regards to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage area, to this end there is a cultural management group set up in Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania which has developed a number of ground up projects focusing on Aboriginal people to contribute to the joint management outcomes contained in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Management Plan. This includes facilitation of the series of Aboriginal community access visits during 2019.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Aboriginal community access visits to their own lands.

**CHAIR** - Order, Ms O'Connor. Order.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Opportunities for Aboriginal people to access and -

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Their own land.

**CHAIR** - Order, Ms O'Connor.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - And contribute to their conservation and management. There is also provision of cultural heritage awareness training which will provide employment opportunities for Aboriginal individuals and businesses to develop and deliver courses material to TWWHA land managers.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Minister, just respond to Rodney Dillon's concerns.

**CHAIR** - Order, Ms O'Connor. I will ask for you to be removed if you continue to interrupt the committee.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Well, you have to give me a few warnings first, Chair.

**CHAIR** - Consider you have had one.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Good.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - The Tasmanian Government is working with the Aboriginal community in regard to the TWWHA and its management but in regard to developments in the TWWHA, they

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are all assessed according to the act and this relies on advice of the Aboriginal Heritage Council in relation to any impacts.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - You haven't dealt with the substance of the question which is that there is, according to Aboriginal people themselves, little to no consultation with them on development inside reserved lands including the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage area. How do you respond to the concerns raised by Aboriginal community members about the process of exploiting the World Heritage area about, for example, the decision to support a cable car up to kunanyi which you recognise is a spiritually very important place to Aboriginal people? How do you respond to the community's concerns about the total lack of consultation?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - In regards to the TWWHA, my portfolio intersects with it when it actually involves Aboriginal heritage itself.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - The place is an Aboriginal heritage landscape.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Well, no, it's -

**Ms O'CONNOR** - It's a cultural landscape.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - There's processes in place and I respect the council for the views that it has expressed in regards to the TWWHA but due process has to be followed.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - By whom?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - By the planning processes under the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Which don't involve Aboriginal people.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - But it's when it actually comes under the Aboriginal Heritage Act is when the Aboriginal Heritage Council and I can actually be involved in the process because I am limited as to when I can actually step into this process.

**CHAIR** - The call goes to Ms Houston.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Do you accept the TWWHA was set aside for its cultural values as well?

**CHAIR** - The call is to Ms Houston.

**Ms HOUSTON** - Minister, I have some questions about the Office of Aboriginal Affairs. Why has the role of the manager of Office of Aboriginal Affairs remained vacant for so long? Why was the role de-identified at a point through the recruitment process and why is this position advertised as a fixed term 12-month contract when it used to be permanent?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - First of all I place on the record my deep appreciation for the Office of Aboriginal Affairs and the great work they do. The position became vacant on 24 December following the retirement of the previous incumbent. This is an Aboriginal identified position. The recruitment process commenced in October but received no suitable applications. The State Service management office subsequently approved readvertising the position as a TAG position and it was

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readvertised again mid-December 2018. There has been acting managers in this role and the selection process is still ongoing but we very much do want to see a manager recruited for the Office of Aboriginal Affairs.

**Ms HOUSTON** - So at a point it was advertised as an open role, you de-identified the position?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - It was identified originally as an identified position but we received no suitable applicants.

**Ms HOUSTON** - So then it was re-advertised as a de-identified position?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - State Service management office allowed us to do that because we were trying to get a person into that role. The ideal is to have a Tasmanian Aboriginal for that position.

**Ms HOUSTON** - When do we expect the role to be filled and what are the future plans for that role? It used to be permanent and now it's a 12-month contract. What are the plans for the Office of Aboriginal Affairs? Is there a restructure plan?

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Well, there's a funding cut.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** -The Office of Aboriginal Affairs is not a funding cut - but some funding has been transferred to Parks and Wildlife and to Department of Education. This year there is actually a funding increase. Next year it is a slight decrease, but that's because Women's -

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Over the forwards it's a decrease.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - No, but women's safety has now gone under Department of Education to the Child and Family Centres.

**CHAIR** - Minister, Ms Houston had the call. Ms O'Connor interjected, about which I have warned her before. If you could please direct your answer to Ms Houston.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - I can assure the member we definitely do want a manager for the Office of Aboriginal Affairs. It's an integral part of Communities Tasmania and so as soon as we can fill the position, we will.

**Ms HOUSTON** - I am just curious why it was changed to a 12-month contract when it had been an ongoing position. I'm wondering if that's because that position is now a changed management role and there's a planned restructure. That seems to me the reason you would move from a permanent position to a 12-month one.

**Ms KENT** - The Office of Aboriginal Affairs comes within the division of Community, Sport and Recreation, and at the time of Ms Thorpe's retirement the whole new Department of Communities Tasmania, we are just looking to see what's the most effective structure for the entire agency. There's a number of management positions where we want to see how we best address those and ensure we have a really effective organisation to deliver the big program that the minister has outlined. We decided at a management level to, in the interim, look at this as a fixed-term role, along with several other management positions in my division. The intention will always be to fill it ultimately as a permanent position, but also, as the minister has explained, we've gone through now two periods of recruitment as well.

**Ms HOUSTON** - So is this to be a review of all those positions in the Office of Aboriginal Affairs; will there be consultation with community around what that might look like and what's involved?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - What we passionately want is the person in the Office of Aboriginal Affairs to be somebody who can continue to work with all Tasmanian Aboriginal communities. The role is integral to working with Aboriginal communities in Tasmania under our reset vision, and reconciliation is about bringing all Tasmanian Aboriginal communities together. It's an integral part of the role. I acknowledge again the great work that the Office of Aboriginal Affairs has done. It's been a busy year for the office in regard to so many different areas, whether it's been assisting with the dual naming, assisting with the Aboriginal employment strategy; in regards to land return, as I said before, will be out by June 30. They've done phenomenal work and I just want to thank the people who have been in the acting manager positions during what has been quite a busy time period.

**Ms HOUSTON** - So do we have a time line for that position being filled?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - They're trying to recruit again, and as soon as we can fill the position.

**Ms HOUSTON** - It is being advertised again? Is that it?

**Ms KENT** - No, the current recruitment process is still ongoing. We have an interim manager, and you'll have that.

**CHAIR** - Mr Tucker, you have the call.

**Mr TUCKER** - Minister, I understand this Government is the first to provide funding for a State Service employment strategy for Aboriginal Tasmanians. Can you elaborate further on what you have already touched on, please.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Maybe do it quickly because there's 18 more minutes of this scrutiny.

**CHAIR** - Order.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - I thank the member for his interest and for his question. The Hodgman Liberal Government is very committed to increasing the number of Aboriginal people working in the State Service. I acknowledge the fact that the State Service Management Office has developed a great Aboriginal employment strategy, an accompanying Aboriginal employment action plan which I've been delighted to table today because we want to attract, retain and support Aboriginal people in the Tasmanian State Service. In this way we can build a more culturally diverse workforce, a culturally safe and respectful workplace which represents the community we serve, and the three-year plan sets out a number of strategies and actions to increase the proportion of Tasmanian Aboriginal people working in the State Service.

We want to develop and progress the careers of existing Aboriginal employees and we want to support a culturally respectful and inclusive workplace. During the first 12 months of implementation, actions include developing and rolling out cultural respect training for employees to understand and appreciate Aboriginal people and their culture. Developing and delivering workshops for Aboriginal job seekers on how to apply for jobs in the Tasmanian State Service and

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scoping out and developing a mentoring program for Aboriginal employees which has been done in consultation with Tasmanian Aboriginal communities together with people who are not currently working in the Tasmanian State Service.

This was a very important element of the strategy whilst we have under development a mentoring program. An Aboriginal consultant has been employed to progress this work and there is also support through funding of \$250 000 a year to support both Aboriginal employment and youth employment initiatives in the Tasmanian State Service, so we believe it's a great initiative that's been put.

**Ms WHITE** - I thought we had Aboriginal safety officers.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Sorry.

**Ms WHITE** - I thought the state had promised to employ Aboriginal child safety officers.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - I think they're called Aboriginal liaison officers; I think there's two positions that are involved in -

**Ms WHITE** - They're not listed here.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - We could ask that question when - I believe that there are two positions in Child Safety for two Aboriginal liaison officers.

**Ms HOUSTON** - I think it's three. Just one for each region, I thought.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - That's for the family safety initiative, there are three positions. There are three positions there but under Child Safety I believe there's two Aboriginal liaison officers that the TAC has been very much involved in the training and delivery of that work.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Chair, how much land has been returned to Aboriginal Tasmanians since 2014?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - I can indicate that when the previous government was in place that no land had been returned since 2005, including, Ms O'Connor -

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Minister, do you want to be honest -

**CHAIR** - Order.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - under your own time when you were the minister and under the former premier -

**Ms O'CONNOR** - We introduced legislation.

**CHAIR** - You asked a question. Allow the minister to answer.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Do you understand -

**CHAIR** - Order, Ms O'Connor. Allow the minister to answer.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Thank you, Chair.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Well -

**CHAIR** - No, order. Order.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Point of order, standing order 181, I'm entitled to be heard.

**CHAIR** - Yes, you are entitled to be heard -

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Thank you.

**CHAIR** - at your time when you were when you ask your question.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Yes, but to take a point of order -

**CHAIR** - Not to interrupt the minister.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - I'm entitled to be heard and the minister falsely represented what happened in the Labor-Greens government. We brought legislation to return lands to the Aboriginal people, to the parliament, which, as the minister knows, failed in the upper House.

**CHAIR** - I have heard you. It is not a point of order. Minister, continue.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - However, it was the Premier who did return land back in 2015.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - What area of land?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - The Premier as Minister for Aboriginal Affairs declared nirmena nala, a rock shelter in the Derwent Valley, to be Aboriginal land under the Aboriginal Lands Act 1995 and return it to the Aboriginal community. Hydro Tasmania and a private land owner agreed to the Crown acquiring two adjoining small areas of land to support the return of the rock shelter, and as I said before, prior to this, it was back in 2005, so it's a -

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Minister can you declare the hectarage.

**CHAIR** - Order.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - So because of what did happen in regards to the Legislative Council's select committee on Aboriginal land, whose final report in 2013 stated that a process should be created to allow any future claims or proposals to be removed from the political arena, and to be fairly assessed by an independent body, that is why we are undertaking this land review process because we are committed to further land return opportunities. However, based on what has happened in the past, we believe the land return review needs to be thorough and consultative, and so and has to pass scrutiny which is why it's undergoing a thorough process.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Thank you, minister. As you would be aware the return of nirmena nala started under the previous minister and the previous government. I was actually looking for hectarage that's been returned. Can you confirm that Tom and Jane Tenniswood of the east coast,

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with the return of Windsong to the Aboriginal people have returned more land to the first people than your Government?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - I just want to say that what John and Jane Tenniswood have done is -

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Tom.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - very generous. I have met both John and Jane.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Tom.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Sorry, Tom and Jane, and I want to acknowledge and thank them for their very generous -

**Ms O'CONNOR** - They didn't give it to you.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - That whole process was very generous and I'd encourage other people to consider doing the same thing. But this whole review is in regard to ensuring that more land is returned.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - The Aboriginal Land Council had requested an increase in funding to help it with projects in the 65 000 hectares or so of land that they administer. Are you able to explain why ALCT's budget submission was rejected?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - We have indicated to ALCT that during the whole review of the land return process there's opportunities for them to indicate the reasons why land administration requires more funding.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Are you saying that they didn't make that case for you?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - We have asked them to put in a submission under the current land return process. It would allow us to then assess what needs to be done, needs to be provided going forward.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Minister, at what point does your Government listen to the concerns, for example, of the Aboriginal Heritage Council or Rodney Dillon from TRACA, or Heather Sculthorpe from the TAC in relation to development on reserved lands?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Do you want to clarify your question?

**Ms O'CONNOR** - So the question was, at what point does your government listen to the voice of Aboriginal community stakeholders and leaders who raise concerns as the Aboriginal Heritage Council has in writing to the Commonwealth government about the lake not being a proposal. When do you start listening to Aboriginal people in relation to the exploitation and development of their lands that are in protected areas?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - I can indicate that my door is always open to hear from any Tasmanian Aboriginal people or organisation or community -

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Have you made representations to them?

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**CHAIR** - Order. Ms O'Connor, please, wait for the minister to answer.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - In regard to hearing what are issues of importance, and with the Aboriginal Heritage Council I regularly attend meetings, and regularly hear from members of the Aboriginal Heritage Council on issues that are important to them.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - And you would be aware they do not support the expressions of interest process or the cable car to kunanyi.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Under the Aboriginal act, I am constrained within the act as to what I can do. My role is very specific but my door is always open to hear from Tasmanian Aboriginal people on the issues that are of concern to them, which is why under this Government there has been a whole raft of work undertaken, including the Aboriginal dual naming policy, including the Aboriginal employment action plan, including reviewing the model of returning land because we did want to see more land returned.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - But no land's returned.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - This is the process that has to be undergone.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - And no concern heeded.

**Ms HOUSTON** - How many full-time equivalent positions exist within the Office of Aboriginal Affairs? How many of these positions are identified positions? How many are contract positions of less than three years and how many are ongoing, and how many positions are currently vacant?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - I can indicate that the Office of Aboriginal Affairs has 5.31 FTE.

**Ms HOUSTON** - Can you identify the positions? You could explain a bit about the office and how it's structured? Does that make it a bit easier?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - I'll allow Ms Kent to explain further.

**Ms KENT** - As the minister said, there's 5.3 FTEs in the office. The actual number of people, there's at least nine people who work in the office. Some of those are on part-time arrangements. At a point in time, at least four of those people are Aboriginal people. The positions themselves aren't always identified or non-identified, if you like. The theory is that we would always like to have identified positions in the office and most positions start as the first premise, so then in terms of recruitment, if positions are unable to be filled, they might then be tagged. There are two people in the office who are what I would say would be tagged positions or non-Aboriginal people, so it's predominantly Aboriginal people that work in the office. It varies through the year. This is the staffing status of the office at this time.

**Ms HOUSTON** - Yes, and the other part of that was how many contracts are less than three years and how many are ongoing? How many positions are vacant?

**Ms KENT** - There's one position vacant that we're currently recruiting for, so that's a senior policy analyst, and we're currently in the process of recruiting for that.

**Ms HOUSTON** - Senior policy analyst?

**Ms KENT** - Senior policy analyst. Two of those positions that are actually the people that are non-Aboriginal, they're on fixed-term positions. That's because they're backfilling for someone who's away - actually, sorry, three, because of people who are either on transfers to other roles or on maternity leave.

**Ms WHITE** - If I may follow up on that. You have spoken about a desire to alter the way the Office of Aboriginal Affairs operates in the future. Do you imagine that will require greater staffing numbers?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - The great thing about Communities Tasmania is that the whole department now can work across portfolios. If you are a woman with disabilities who is Tasmanian Aboriginal who wants to play sport, the great work about what Kate and her team do through CSR is look at you as a whole person.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Well, it's separated into outputs already.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - The great thing about Communities Tasmania is that we can work across areas to make sure that we can look at things more -

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Couldn't before.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - It wasn't working -

**Ms WHITE** - I'm talking about the Office of Aboriginal Affairs which has a specific output allocation.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - I know, but it allows us to be flexible as well and to consider other needs at the time. I'll allow Ms Kent to provide further information.

**Ms KENT** - All the work we do in areas of policy work, this policy work actually can be done by a range of parts of agencies. We have an example where we worked very closely with the Department of Primary Industries, Parks and the Environment and in terms of policy work as well, and we work closely with the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, for example, where we were previously located, so if there's a large policy issue that we might be working on together, there might be numerous people working on that, not just the people in the office.

That's my interpretation in explaining the number of resources that we might provide to areas of our work where we can include more than just the people who are in that particular office or branch. In my division, I've clearly got people across the rest of the division that might also work on Aboriginal policy work where the areas are important and require additional resources, and we might include other people in department.

**Ms WHITE** - Minister, can I ask about the wukalina Walk and ask what funding it receives from the Government to operate, and how much revenue it's taken from the bookings that it has had? How many bookings has it had since it's been operating?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - The Wukalina Walk comes under the Minister for Parks - I'll check but I might have a little bit of information. I can indicate in 2018-19, \$55 000 was provided through the Parks and Wildlife service to the wukalina Walk.

**Ms WHITE** - You don't know any details about how many bookings they had or what revenue they took?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - In bookings, there was 17 walks with a total of 114 participants, versus year one where there were five walks with 38 participants.

**Ms WHITE** - You would recognise that economic self-determination is equally important for Aboriginal people as spiritual self-determination and a range of other important factors. Are you aware there's a desire to use the abalone quota that's currently not allocated by the Aboriginal community so they can generate economic return from that? Is that something you have sought to progress with your colleagues?

**CHAIR** - I advise that the time for examination of this part of the portfolio has expired.

**Ms WHITE** - That's disappointing.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Maybe next year we could all agree that there should be two hours on Aboriginal affairs.

**CHAIR** - If we could now bring to the table people in the portfolio of Women, please.

## **Output Group 6 Disability Services and Community Development**

### **6.5 Women's Policy.**

**CHAIR** - Minister, could you kindly introduce the people by name and title, please?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Thank you, Chair. At the table from the Department of Communities Tasmania is Ms Kate Kent, Deputy Secretary, Communities, Sport and Recreation; and Mandy Clarke -

**Ms CLARKE** - Executive Director of Standards and Performance in Communities Tasmania.

**CHAIR** - Thank you very much. Minister, do you wish to make an opening statement?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - The Tasmanian government is committed to creating a more inclusive Tasmania that empowers and enables women and girls to fully participate in our social, political, economic and community life and our Tasmanian women's strategy 2018-21 is a critical enabler in this process and encapsulate the measures we want to pursue to help create a more equitable society.

Our strategic approach deliberately focuses on leadership and participation, wellbeing, financial security and safety, and is supported by a range of key initiatives in the 2019-20 Budget, a budget that maintains the momentum, invests the growth and delivers on our plan to build a better future for women and girls. The budget commitments that support progress towards gender equality includes supporting women in leadership with \$200 000 over four years from 2019-20 to 2022-

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2023 for scholarships to support women in leadership. This is directed at women who are emerging leaders, particularly those who face the most barriers to leadership opportunities including board appointments.

More women in leadership is an important part of our Women on Board strategy which is going very well because as at 31 March 2019, 44.9 per cent of government board positions are now held by women, which is a massive increase of nearly 33 per cent in the ratio of female board members or an increase of 11.1 percentage points since July 2015 when it was only 33.8 per cent.

To support emerging leaders and to promote career pathways for Aboriginal girls, the Government is also providing \$5000 in 2019-20 and over the forward Estimates for an annual Awards program to highlight leadership and excellence. The Government is also continuing to provide significant investment to remove barriers to female participation in female sport recreation activities, especially through our 'Levelling the playing field program' \$2 million over two years, as well as supporting grassroots and development pathway opportunities for Tasmanian women and girls through our partnership with Netball Tasmania as well as Cricket Tasmania, and Hockey Tasmania. We've also partnered with the Tasmanian Institute of Sport with the Women's Sport and Recreation and Women's Sport Recreation Tasmania to offer women in sport coaching scholarships.

Eliminating family violence again remains a top priority for the Government with \$27 million over three years provided in the 2019-20 budget to fund a single combined Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan as recommended and informed by the reviews of the Family Violence Service system review and also the national plan to reduce violence against women and their children.

**CHAIR** - Thank you, Minister. Yes, Ms O'Byrne.

**Ms O'BYRNE** - Thank you very much. Minister, before we get onto new matters, we followed this up with you last year. Have you asked the Minister for Health when the promised termination service will be provided at St Helen's Private Hospital? It is just a question whether you followed it up with the minister. If you haven't, that's fine.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - In regards to the question, as you did indicate, it does fall within the output area of the Minister for Health.

**Ms O'BYRNE** - And I'm asking minister, what action you're taking.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Yes, the conversation in regards terminations has come up but I know that you have already canvassed all this with him in the Estimates this week.

**Ms O'BYRNE** - My question was, what work have you done.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Ms O'Byrne, I indicate that despite your assertions to the contrary, affordable and accessible terminations are available in Tasmania and have been since last year.

**Ms O'BYRNE** - That's not true but let's continue with that lie, shall we. Minister, total female employment has decreased by 3.6 per cent in Tasmania, 4400 persons from April 2018 to April 2019. How are you achieving your goal of economic and employment participation for women?

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**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Sorry, Ms O'Byrne, can I get you to repeat the question? My cochlear implant failed on this side, so I just need you to - so I can write down the exact numbers you were quoting.

**Ms O'BYRNE** - You're responsible for increasing women's economic and employment participation. What is your response to how you're achieving your job when women's employment in Tasmania decreased by 3.6 per cent, some 4400 people from April 2018 to April 2019?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - I can say that almost 13 000 jobs have been created in Tasmania -

**Ms O'BYRNE** - But not for women.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Since the Hodgman Liberal government was first elected.

**Ms O'BYRNE** - And 4400 -

**CHAIR** - Order, allow the minister.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Including 6200 more women as at the April 2019 than in March 2014; 6200 more women are employed than in March 2014 under this Government.

**Ms O'BYRNE** - Through you, Chair, 4400 fewer women have jobs in the last 12 months. What have you done about that?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - In regards to that, this Budget supports 10 000 more jobs and businesses are hiring. I acknowledge that there is more to do, but this Budget has invested a record \$3.6 billion into intergenerational infrastructure that will help create thousands of jobs and build the infrastructure our growing state needs. It's also why this Government is investing into extending all high schools to year 12 so that we can invest in education skills and jobs. We've also invested an additional \$2.9 million in additional funding for TasTAFE to be able to train more apprentices and students. There's a lot of work being done to increase more employment for women and men right across Tasmania.

**Ms O'BYRNE** - Female participation has decreased 1.7 percentage points to 56.3 per cent. You've outlined initiatives in trade apprentices. Can you tell me how many women will be participating in that training and how many of those 4400 people who have lost their jobs will get a job as a result of that investment?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - As you are quite aware, my output does not include Skills Tasmania; you will need to put those questions to the correct minister.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Have you asked the minister those questions?

**CHAIR** - Listen to the minister, please.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - But I can say that across the whole of government, the Hodgman Liberal Government is very passionate about creating more jobs for more Tasmanians for both men and women which is why almost 13 000 jobs have been created in Tasmania since the Hodgman Liberal Government was first elected.

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**Ms O'BYRNE** - Through you Chair, the minister just explained the response to the 4400 fewer women employed in the last 12 months. With the investment in skills and training, she should now be able to tell me what percentage of that investment will deliver outcomes for women if that is her position as the solution.

**CHAIR** - That's not something I can rule on. The word 'should' is a word of judgment.

**Ms O'BYRNE** - I'll ask a question.

**CHAIR** - You can ask the minister again.

**Ms O'BYRNE** - Can you tell me what percentage of women will be picked up under the skills and training that you have just identified as a solution to the 4400 women who have lost jobs in the last 12 months under your watch?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - As I said before, there are actually 6200 more women employed as at April 2019 than there were when we came to Government in March 2014. So that's 6200 more women than when you were in government.

**Ms O'BYRNE** - Minister, do you know that 4400 women lost their jobs in the last 12 months?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - There's 6200 more women employed than in March 2014 than -

**Ms O'BYRNE** - It is sad really.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** -when you were in government, Ms O'Byrne.

**Ms O'BYRNE** - Minister, how many people do you employ in Women's Policy in your department? How many people are engaged in the women's area?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - So I can indicate that Women's Policy receives operational funding to deliver policy commitments. But I will defer to Ms Kent because she'll explain how within and across Communities, Sport and Recreation, resources are allocated based on the current priorities and need.

**Ms KENT** - Through the minister, it's a similar response to the question that we were talking about before of how the division allocates resources. In the policy and programs branch of the Communities, Sport and Recreation division, we're responsible for a large range of policy areas including Women's Policy and while I may have one person that might specialise in women's policy, there would be several others, three, four, five, depending on what the issues were and what the work program was to work in that area. It's a different structure than when I was previously in the Office of the Women in Tasmania.

**Ms O'BYRNE** - Staff actually engaged in women's policy.

**Ms KENT** - There's many staff involved in women's policy, just as they are with many other policy areas around particular population cohort groups.

**Ms O'BYRNE** - Can you explain how the scholarships program will work, minister? It's the only initiative under the women's policy so perhaps you could turn your head to that?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - No, can I just say that the scholarship program has been a wonderful initiative. That's why we're providing another \$200 000 across the forward Estimates because it's a fact our whole women on boards strategy has been very positive because we're now at 44.9 per cent. We've grown from 33.8 per cent so -

**Ms O'BYRNE** - If I can, minister, I'm interested in how many people will apply and what courses that will fund. It's the AICD course or -

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - So the AICD course.

**Ms O'BYRNE** - So how many people would you get through for \$50 000?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - I can indicate that already, to date, 75 women have received scholarships to undertake training through the AICD.

**Ms O'BYRNE** - So for \$50 000, what would you get? How many women through?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - I think last year it was about 17 scholarships.

**Ms O'BYRNE** - And that was for \$50 000?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Sorry?

**Ms O'BYRNE** - So that was \$50 000 last year?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - That's right, so 17 scholarships.

**Ms O'BYRNE** - Okay. Is it open to the public or just government and GBE employees?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Last year we opened it up to Aboriginal women, women with disability, women from refugee backgrounds and migrant backgrounds and women working with STEMM industries because we want to encourage women who are emerging leaders, particularly those who face the most barriers to leadership opportunities, to apply for the scholarships because we want to have diversity across all areas.

**Ms O'BYRNE** - Thank you, minister. You talk a bit about the numbers of women on boards. We tried to get this last year. Can I have the head count of women on boards this year and last year and the year before, because we couldn't get it from you last year? And also, the division of whether they are paid and non-paid boards. But a head count rather than a percentage, please.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - At 31 March 2019, there's 112 active boards. There's 321 members. There's 136 women and - no, sorry, there's - so there's 900 board positions. We might have to get a question on notice on one so but anyway, there's 900 board positions, there's 881 current board members, 44.9 per cent of the members -

**Ms O'BYRNE** - No, I'm asking for a head count again. Can I just say, in 2019 - can you just go through those figures again? I'm happy to put it on - I actually, no I genuinely am, I can put it on notice, that might be simpler, for the three years then, minister. Thank you.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Yes. But I can indicate that women -

**Ms WHITE** - When you say 900 board positions, does that include GBEs?

**Ms O'BYRNE** - Minister, I can just put it on notice, we just want the head counts of each of the boards, the type of board they are, and for the last three years. Perhaps I'll just write that up, if you're comfortable, minister, because you only have half an hour and wouldn't want to make it look like you didn't want to answer other questions.

**CHAIR** - I'm just conscious that the minister can't hear out her left ear and she may not hear all of what Ms O'Byrne was saying.

**Ms O'BYRNE** - I'm just going to put it on notice because it's over the last three years. Thank you. Then we can move to the next question. Yes.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Minister, I wanted to talk to you about the Tasmanian Honour Roll for Women. Now, you would be aware of the salary and remuneration package that the Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet receives. Is that true?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - I actually do not know the dollar amount.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Okay. The Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet receives in the order of half a million dollars in salary and benefits and yet this year you as minister signed off on the Secretary of Premier and Cabinet's induction on to the Honour Roll of Tasmanian Women. As we both know, nominations were made for Christine Milne, Order of Australia, the first female leader of a political party in Tasmania, former vice president of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, and the late Vanessa Goodwin for her contribution to justice, corrections, human rights. Your Honour Roll process saw a bureaucrat paid half a million dollars or more inducted onto the Honour Roll while two champion women, one of them deceased, was overlooked. How do you explain that?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - In regards to the process, I can indicate that there is an independent judging panel in place which assesses each nominee and selects inductees on the basis of the information provided about individual nominees, so it does come down to the information provided. I am at arm's length from the process, so I do not receive copies of the nominations, nor have any involvement in the selection of the inductees.

**Mrs O'CONNOR** - Aren't you the minister for women?

**Ms PETRUSMA** - This is an independent process of government, so the government -

**Ms O'CONNOR** - It's not independent.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - It is independent because by the example that you've just used, that Dr Vanessa Goodwin wasn't selected, shows that it was independent of government.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - It's an internal process.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - It's at arm's length from me, it's an independent panel that selects the inductees and it's at the conclusion of the process -

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**Ms O'CONNOR** - Do you agree that inducting the secretary of a bureaucrat, paid half a million dollars or more in salary and benefits, undermines the integrity of the Honour Roll.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - As an independent panel assesses each nominee, and selects the inductees on the basis of the information provided and at the conclusion of the process I am provided with advice and the decisions made by the independent judging panel. I then write to the successful inductees to congratulate them and invite them to the induction event.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Can I just ask you -

**CHAIR** - No, order, Ms O'Connor, please wait.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Can I just say that in regard to your query, I did raise your concerns to - and I can indicate that sitting at the table now is Ms Ginna Webster who is the secretary of the Department of Communities Tasmania, but when you raised your concerns with me, as I undertook in parliament, I said that I would raise them with the secretary which I had done. I asked Ms Webster to give you a call to hear your concerns and to take on board your concerns.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Thank you.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - That is what has been undertaken, that we gave you an undertaking that we'd take on board your concerns in regards to the next Honour Roll process.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Thank you, minister. As you are aware, I was the minister for women and I had the great privilege of being there for induction ceremonies and I know that the process is finalised by the minister. I know that the process should have former inductees as part of the panel and be completely separate from government. Can you understand the concern of people that there is a person put on the Honour Roll who's already paid more than half a million dollars and a person who has been recognised and received an Order of Australia for her contribution to the conservation movement and a late Attorney-General who was beloved because she was an actual real small 'l' liberal, can you understand why the process is now in question and the integrity of the Honour Roll is in question when the Secretary of the government's own Premier and Cabinet is inducted onto the Honour Roll just for doing her job for which she receives half a million dollars or more.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - As I said, the members of the panel are totally independent judges who made the final decisions.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - You made the final decision.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - I do not -

**CHAIR** - No, Ms O'Connor. Order.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - I do not interfere in their decisions, otherwise that means that I could determine exactly who would be put on the board. It is an independent -

**Ms O'CONNOR** - It's a matter of accountability.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - No, it's an independent panel.

**CHAIR** - Ms O'Connor.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - That gives it greater accountability than a minister picking and choosing who should go on the Honour Roll. Ms O'Connor, I don't know what happened under you.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - How would it be different next time?

**CHAIR** - Ms O'Connor, you are interrupting again.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - I don't know what process you used to undertake when you were the minister and it sounds like there might've been some interference.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Look at the inductees.

**CHAIR** - Ms O'Connor, I warn you for the second time.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - We're definitely not going to be interfering in an independent panel's decision-making process simply to put who I think should be going on on the Honour Roll above what an independent panel chooses. Your concerns have been noted.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - How will the process be different?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - The secretary to the department has taken your concerns on board.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - It's not only my concern.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - That will be looked at. When we have an independent panel set up to make sure decisions are made independent of the minister so that there can't be any ministerial interference -

**Ms O'CONNOR** - You signed off on it, didn't you?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - It's to make sure that the inductees are chosen based on the work of an independent panel and review.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Can I ask why your inductees chose to reward a highly paid bureaucrat simply for doing her job?

**CHAIR** - Ms O'Byrne, you have the call.

**Ms O'BYRNE** - The system service review, minister, called for an increased investment in primary prevention. What funding are you directly allocating to primary prevention and who will provide that work?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - The \$27 million allocated over the next three years for the family violence and sexual violence action plan that will be released by the end of 30 June. The different initiatives will be indicated in that family violence and action plan.

**Ms O'BYRNE** - Can you tell me which particular primary prevention mechanisms?

## UNCORRECTED PROOF ISSUE

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - That is detailed in the new family violence and action plan.

**Ms O'BYRNE** - Minister, how much was the government spend, via agency or as a whole government, on White Ribbon training and White Ribbon initiatives?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - White Ribbon training comes under SSMO, does it? I'll ask Ms Clarke.

**Ms CLARKE** - Yes, through the minister, the White Ribbon accreditation is a cost incurred through departmental operational budgets.

**Ms O'BYRNE** - As minister for women, you'd have a collated picture of that?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Well, family violence is overseen by the Premier.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - You are a very hands-off Minister for Women.

**CHAIR** - Ms O'Connor, order.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - As Ms Clarke indicated, each department funds White Ribbon out of their own operational budget.

**Ms O'BYRNE** - You don't know. Minister, my difficulty is that when we've written to the Premier on issues to do with Safe Homes, Safe Families and prevention of family violence, he says he is the minister but he'll refer everything to you. Did you do anything in this area?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Which matters did he indicate he was referring to me?

**Ms O'BYRNE** - What matters do you deal with? Chair, if the minister could explain what she does in the women's area, I can limit my questions to understanding what the Minister for Women in Tasmania does.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - In regard to family violence, it's a whole-of-government strategy, which means that -

**Ms O'BYRNE** - You should be able to answer it.

**CHAIR** - Order.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - different ministers in the Cabinet are responsible for different initiatives in their area. For example, Mr Jaensch is responsible for Housing.

**Ms O'BYRNE** - You're at the cabinet table, minister, if you don't know what you do, do you know what other people do?

**CHAIR** - Ms O'Byrne, order. Allow the minister to answer as she sees fit.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Different ministers are responsible for different initiatives.

## UNCORRECTED PROOF ISSUE

**Ms O'BYRNE** - You don't know how much is spent on White Ribbon training, apparently one of the government's significant primary prevention mechanisms. You said in your opening statement that the women's policy area was responsible for the security and safety of women but you don't have any knowledge of that. You don't have any knowledge of how many women have lost their jobs under your Government. Minister, as you know, only around 20 per cent of people seek support in family violence circumstances, and women are at the greatest risk when they flee. Can you tell me what the current demand is for emergency accommodation for women, how many people would be on a waiting list and how long they've waited?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - In regard to what the Department of Communities Tasmania has spent on the White Ribbon initiative, I can indicate that it was \$60 000 with a further \$70 000 for accreditation for the Department of Communities Tasmania.

**Ms O'BYRNE** - You paid \$70 000 to put a sticker on your wall.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Sorry, \$20 000 for accreditation for the Department of Communities Tasmania.

**Ms O'BYRNE** - You spent \$60 000 on White Ribbon training and \$20 000 for a sticker. Excellent.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - That's only for Department of Communities Tasmania.

**Ms O'BYRNE** - Yes, I did hear that. Can you answer the question of the current demand for emergency accommodation, as Minister for Women?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - As the honourable member well knows, Housing sits with Mr Jaensch. You need to direct them to the correct minister with the portfolio responsibility for the action -

**Ms O'BYRNE** - I go back then, Chair. Could the minister tell me what she actually does?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - In regards to the minister for Women and policy, if you read the budget paper, it outlines what the minister for Women is responsible for, and those policies. We do policies, for example; the Tasmania Women's Strategy, the Financial Security for Women Action Plan and we're currently developing more action plans and we're currently doing fact sheets. There are a range of initiatives that the portfolio of Women undertakes in this Government.

**Ms O'BYRNE** - Minister, there is more to writing a policy document to improve the lives of women and if you don't know how many women have lost their jobs and you don't know how many women are in need, what is the point of the work that you do?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Can I indicate that your government didn't even have a minister for women, since 2006.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - I was the minister for women.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - No, you had responsibility but there was no minister for women under the -

**Ms O'BYRNE** - For heaven's sake. I've also been the minister for women.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Tell us about your minister for climate change then, will you?

**CHAIR** - Order.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Hands up, who has been minister for women?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - The previous Labor-Green government did not have a minister for women from 2006.

**CHAIR** - Okay, settle down, please. Ms O'Connor, you have the call.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Minister, are you on the expenditure review committee of Cabinet?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - No.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Do you know if there are any women on the expenditure review committee of Cabinet?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Cabinet matters are a matter for Cabinet.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Minister, last year, when I asked you about the membership of a particular sub-committee you detailed the membership of that sub-committee on the *Hansard*. When we asked the Treasurer, who was on the razor gang, he refused to tell us and said that's a matter for Cabinet. That's a lie. That takes lack of transparency to a new level. What we're trying to understand here is whether the budget sub-committee that makes decisions about what services and funding to cut has a woman on it. It would be a matter of public interest to know whether that female perspective is on the razor gang of Cabinet.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - You'll have to ask the question of the Premier because it's a matter for Cabinet and Cabinet comes under the Premier.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Would you be concerned, minister, if there was no woman on the expenditure review committee of Cabinet?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - I'm not going to get into details of what happens in Cabinet because just like it was under your government, what happens in Cabinet is a matter for Cabinet.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - But minister, you may recall that we wouldn't have treated the membership of a Cabinet sub-committee as a secret. Is there something that the Treasurer and the Premier are ashamed of in not being able to tell the committee who is on the expenditure review committee of Cabinet?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - It is a well-established convention that what happens in Cabinet is a matter for Cabinet and I'm not going to go into who is on what particular Cabinet sub-committees here today.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Now, it's interesting because I've spoken to previous members of parliament about this new tack this week, where even the membership of a Cabinet subcommittee suddenly becomes secret and they find it breathtaking. The only conclusion to draw, don't you agree, is that

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either your Government is secretive by default or there's something to be ashamed of in the membership of the expenditure review committee of Cabinet.

**CHAIR** - Thank you, I'll pass the call to Ms O'Byrne.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Well, point of order, Chair.

**CHAIR** - The minister chose not to answer. I've passed the call.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - The minister was thinking, and on the rotation -

**CHAIR** - No, I'm sorry, I've made the call, it is Ms O'Byrne.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Point of order, Chair, and I ask you to hear me out. On the number of questions, Ms O'Byrne has had almost 20 minutes of dialogue with the minister, I have had under five.

**CHAIR** - It's not measured on the amount of time and I have given the call -

**Ms O'CONNOR** - No. Well, even on the questions.

**CHAIR** - I have given the call to Ms O'Byrne and we are about to run out of time.

**Ms O'BYRNE** - Minister on page 5 of your Tasmanian Women's Strategy it identifies that you believe that the strategy has a responsibility for safety. What's the current demand of the social assault services in Tasmania that women are trying to access. How many are on the waiting list and how long have they waited.

**CHAIR** - Minister, I can advise that the period of time for the examination of this area of the budget has concluded. Thank you. We will now take a five-minute break.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - The rotation of questions was unbalanced again.

**CHAIR** - We will be back in 5. If you could bring your cuppa with you so that we can get under way as soon as possible please.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - You are not an impartial chair. You are biased, Chair. It is undermining the integrity of this process.

**The committee suspended from 3.30 p.m. to 3.36 p.m.**

**CHAIR** - Thank you. Committee B committee will resume. Minister, could you introduce the people at the table by name and title, please.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Thank you, Chair. I can indicate that from the Department of Communities, Tasmania we have Ms Ginna Webster, Secretary; Ms Kate Kent, Deputy Secretary, Communities, Sport and Recreation; and Ms Helen Langenberg, Manager, Sport and Recreation.

**CHAIR** - Would you like to make an opening statement?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Thank you, Chair. It is a pleasure to speak on the sport and recreation portfolio today and to be able to provide an overview of the great work being undertaken by the Department of Communities Tasmania staff and the Department of Community, Sport and Recreation to support the Tasmanian community through sport and recreation. Sport and recreation are a vitally important component of our community and makes a valuable contribution to the Tasmanian government's goal of Tasmania being the healthiest state in Australia by 2025.

In 2019-20 alone over \$28 million will be invested in initiatives that will boost participation and improve sport and recreation facilities and programs so as to grow the number of Tasmanians involved in sport. Our investments in sport this year have a particular focus on boosting participation by women and girls, people with disability, children and young people, and those who face the biggest barriers to participation, in other words, the wider community the Department of Communities Tasmania serves every day.

Importantly, our commitments include an additional \$1 million in 2019-20 for our Ticket to Play program, the first sports voucher system in Tasmania for children and young people who are listed on a valid Centrelink health care card or pensioner concession card. This takes our commitment to Ticket to Pay to a total of \$4 million or around 40 000 sports vouchers to assist with the cost of sporting memberships. To further assist people who experience significant disadvantage we're also supporting the work of Reclink Australia in implementing the Reclink program in George Town, Risdon Vale, Glenorchy and Brighton with funding of \$286 000 allocated over two years.

This program delivers sport and recreation opportunities to help transform the lives of vulnerable people from 16 years of age and upwards, and in regard to women in sport one initiative is where we are providing \$240 000 or \$960 000 over the next four years to support high performance and additional pathways for women into cricket. Also, there is \$400 000 over four years provided to Hockey Tasmania to assist in the Tassie Tigers women's and men's teams and there is also new funding of \$250 000 to the Sporting Competition's Access Fund for dedicated funding support for athletes with disability to assist with the increased costs they face in regard to access to sporting events, especially nationally and internationally.

**CHAIR** - Thank you, minister. Mr O'Byrne, you have the call.

**Mr O'BYRNE** - Minister, could you outline the bid that was put forward for the ICC T20 World Cup, please.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - I can indicate that the bid for the ICC World Cup comes under the premier, it's Events Tasmania did the bid for the ICC.

**Mr O'BYRNE** - But you're the Sports minister and you did the media release at the announcement of the games in Tasmania. Could you outline what the bid, what the Tasmanian Government asked for?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - I have been advised the Tasmanian Government did apply for both men's and women's matches to be played in Tasmania.

**Mr O'BYRNE** - Just to be clear, did you say that the Tasmanian Government made a bid for women's games?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - That's right. I have been advised because I did ask at the time and I've been advised that we absolutely did seek women's content in our bid to be a T20 host city. But because it was a highly competitive process and despite us putting in that bid, unfortunately the ICC awarded us only men's content.

**Mr O'BYRNE** - Well, why are people in cricket circles saying that the Tasmanian Government did not bid for women's games and you only put in a bid for men's games?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - I can indicate that has been definitely clarified, that we did definitely put in for women's content as well.

**Mr O'BYRNE** - Okay. Minister, you would've seen the Liberal Party federal campaign around AFL football and characterising the investment from the federal Labor Party into AFL football in Tasmania characterised as a team only for the south. You've got a Football Tasmania board and there's been some announcements in recent days around an AFL bid. Do you believe it will just be in Hobart?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - That it should just be in Hobart?

**Mr O'BYRNE** - No. Do you believe that an AFL team for Tasmania would only be in Hobart?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - No. We believe that an AFL team should be for all Tasmanians because we're definitely committed to strengthening football in every region of our state. The AFL and AFLW team, there's been a lot of work put in by this Government to make sure that we do get it, an AFL and an AFLW team, including the announcement that the Premier made yesterday in regards to the AFL project team.

**Mr O'BYRNE** - So did you support the federal Liberal -

**Ms O'CONNOR** - With your favoured developer running it.

**CHAIR** - Order, please.

**Mr O'BYRNE** - Did you support the federal Liberal campaign to characterise any investment in AFL football as just an AFL team in the south?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - This Government has been very passionate about making sure that we strengthen football in every region of the state and we've been working very hard to make sure that we do secure licences for an AFL and AFLW team of our own.

**Mr O'BYRNE** - Did you see the advertising from your party -

**CHAIR** - Do you want to wait for the minister, please, Mr O'Byrne, to finish?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - So in this state the Hodgman Liberal Government has been a strong supporter of AFL in Tasmania which is why we've established the Football Tasmania board.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Except for during the federal election campaign.

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**Mrs PETRUSMA** - To be the voice of football and it's why we've now put in place the AFL project team which I must say includes highly skilled individuals possessing the required business, community and football knowledge and experience to build the case for Tasmania AFL and AFLW sides.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Yes, the man who's after Tasmania's last free real estate.

**CHAIR** - Seek to call through the Chair, please.

**Mr O'BYRNE** - Chair, so clearly you don't support the federal Liberal Party's campaign to characterise investment in AFL football as purely for the south. What did you say during the election campaign to call that campaign out?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - We have been strong supporters of making sure in Tasmania that we have in place the elements to go forward to get a Tasmanian AFL, an AFL side of our own which is why we've put in place the Football Tasmania board and why we've put in place the AFL project team. I welcome the fact, Mr O'Byrne, that you have indicated that you welcome the team's creation, of the project team.

**Mr O'BYRNE** - We've offered bipartisan support to get an AFL team. What do you say when former Tasmanian AFL greats like Rodney Eade and others characterise the Liberal Party's campaign during the federal election as putting the case for an AFL team back 10 years?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - What has been announced yesterday has clearly indicated that this Government under the Premier is very passionate that we do move forward in getting our own AFL team and AFLW team -

**Mr O'BYRNE** - Until there's a campaign where you think you can wedge -

**CHAIR** - Order. Mr O'Byrne.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Which is why we put in place the project team. I'm looking very much forward to meeting with the project team and also with the Football Tasmania board as we move forward for Tasmania getting its own AFL And AFLW team.

**Mr O'BYRNE** - So if there's an opportunity at the next state election to wedge a parochial issue like AFL in Tasmania, will you throw that project team under the bus?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - The project team has been put in place with a very clear mandate to consult with the Tasmanian football community, the Football Tasmania board, the AFL, to develop a business case by the end of 2019 which will put together the elements for us to get an AFL and AFLW team. They're looking at governance and organisational structure of teams, club support and membership, financial requirements, including estimates of revenue and expenses, corporate and government support, infrastructure, facility and capital investment requirements and football community pathways. They are there to put in place advice to enable us to get our own AFL and AFLW team.

**Mr TUCKER** - Thank you, Chair. Can the minister -

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Dorothy Dixier questions in a half-hour Estimates hearing.

**CHAIR** - Order.

**Mr TUCKER** - outline what the Government is doing to increase opportunities and to boost participation in sport and recreation for those who face the biggest barriers to participation?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - I thank the member for his question. As I outlined in overview, this year we're investing \$28 million in regards to Sport and Recreation to fund initiatives that will boost participation, improve sport and recreation facilities and programs. But this year we've had a particular focus on women and girls, people with disability, children and young people and those who face the biggest barriers to participation, including providing further funding of an extra \$1 million towards our Ticket to Play program to ensure that there are 40 000 vouchers available for 40 000 children who are on a Centrelink card to assist them - or a pensioner concession card to assist them with the cost of sporting memberships.

It's also Reclink Australia, I want to acknowledge the great work that Reclink do and this exciting program will deliver sport and recreation opportunities to transform the lives of vulnerable people from 16 years of age upwards in communities such as George Town, Risdon Vale, Glenorchy and Brighton. I acknowledge that under the minister for Education, the Department of Education, there's a new initiative of regional sports coordinators who will be working closely with these programs to make sure that young people do get into sport and assist them to increase their participation as well.

This year we're also continuing our Levelling the Playing Field program because that was a \$10 million commitment that had the aim, through that \$10 million commitment, to drive around \$20 million of investment into more female friendly facilities around Tasmania. And that \$10 million is the largest per capita investment of any state or territory government into improving women's facilities for sport. As well, we are providing more funding for women's cricket. There's also funding for netball. There's funding to assist female hockey teams but we're also providing more funding for people with disability through the \$250 000 to the sporting competitions access fund to assist them with the increased costs that they face, especially in regards to access to sporting events, especially nationally and internationally.

Another key deliverable is a state-wide strategy for sport and recreation facilities so as to transform future sport and recreation facility investment decisions with the aim of increasing the opportunity for all Tasmanians to engage in physical activity.

**Mr TUCKER** - Thanks. Chair, could I get a supplementary question?

**CHAIR** - Yes, you can.

**Mr TUCKER** - Minister, what is the Government doing to increase the participation of children and young people in sport and recreation?

**Ms O'CONNOR** - I'm not a member of this committee, there is a half-hour Estimates and you're giving the Liberal member two questions which will waste 10 minutes of this Estimates Committee's time. It's scandalous.

**CHAIR** - Thank you for your comment, Ms O'Connor.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - It's scandalous.

**CHAIR** - That is dissent in the Chair. I warn you that as a substitute member, I will ask you to withdraw if you interrupt or cast aspersions on my rulings again.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Thank you, Chair. I just want you to know the great work that the department is doing, especially in regard to Ticket to Play. In regards to Ticket to Play we've had young people participating, getting the vouchers to increase their opportunities in sport and I just want to acknowledge the great work the department is doing in gathering data in regard to the young people who are uptaking the vouchers. We're looking at the vouchers that have been redeemed and we're looking at the different categories of redemption, whether it's in tennis, whether it's gymnastics, basketball, netball, football, AFL. But also by region, so we're analysing exactly what regions the vouchers are being applied for as well, and also the applications by gender and also the applications by age group. Because the intent of the program is, because we are providing 40 000 vouchers is to get a good analysis of which ages, which regions, and what sports, so that we can use that analysis to drive a further review of the program for the future as well. So 'ticket to play' there's been very good case studies that have come out of the ticket to play program, for example AFL Tasmania has reported that there's been a 14.3 per cent increase in registration from the same time last year based on ticket to play and about 2110 participants have registered with AFL Tasmania who have indicated that they do have a ticket to play voucher. Participants registering with a ticket to play voucher equates to around 31.45 per cent of registered youth club participants. It is very exciting this ticket to play program and how it is increasing young people's participation in sport. Thank you for our interest.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Minister, are you embarrassed

**CHAIR** - Through the Chair, please. Taking the call.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Minister, are you embarrassed that in a half-hour Estimates session on sport and recreation you delivered nearly a five-minute opening address and have spent a total of almost eight minutes answering questions from one of your own, which is almost half the time allocated to sport and rec estimates, on self-promotion?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Ms O'Connor, I can indicate that when you were minister I sat in Estimates where you had Mr O'Halloran ask you questions. Mr Tucker has the right to ask questions in this output as do other members.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - You should be embarrassed, minister, because Mr O'Halloran in my Estimates -

**CHAIR** - Do we have a question, please?

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Yes, we do. Mr O'Halloran in my Estimates asked me a couple of questions in a three-hour session.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - No, that was -

**CHAIR** - Ms O'Connor, if you don't have a question I'll pass to Ms O'Byrne.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Minister - well of course you will. Minister, can you tell the committee what particular skill set, apart from the capacity to make a lot of money out of the last free real estate, Brett Godfrey has, and as members may or may not be aware, Brett Godfrey is one of the three owners of the Tasmanian Walking Company which has a development at Three Capes and has four expressions of interest into the Tasmanian government's EOI process for exploitation of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage area. Why was he given the job?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - The members of the project team were selected because they have decades of experience at the highest level of Australian business, together with extensive experience in football and it is a team well equipped to demonstrate to the AFL Commission that the inclusion of a Tasmanian team would not only stack up financially, but would strengthen the AFL by making it a truly national competition. We are delighted that we have the people of Mr Godfrey's calibre to actually be part of this process and I want to acknowledge that we have also got other wonderful people who have joined the project team because we are truly passionate that we do want to see a Tasmanian AFL team to make it a truly national competition.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Minister, the record will show, whatever you say, that almost half of this Estimates was dedicated to self-promotion. Minister, as you know, soccer is one of Tasmania's most popular sports. There is a consistent lack of ground availability and this is the case for a club that is very dear to my heart, Hobart United Football Club, who have no permanent local ground or training ground. This is the world game and this wonderful team represents that more than any other. Now, what will you do to ensure a club that has very little money and resourcing can have a home ground?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - So what's the name of the club?

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Hobart United Football Club.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Thank you, Ms O'Connor. I don't know if Hobart United ever came to us directly. Ms Langenberg has indicated that they have, but I can indicate that under levelling the playing field there's our \$10 million funding commitment to increase the amenity of women and girls' facilities across the state. I am not sure if Hobart United did apply under that funding to improve their facilities that way. The Federal government as well -

**Ms O'CONNOR** - They haven't got a ground. They haven't got a home ground.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - I will actually allow Ms Langenberg to address the question.

**Ms LANGENBERG** - Thank you, minister. We are aware of the struggle that Hobart United have had accessing a ground, and although they don't have a ground to apply for facilities for, many councils, local government have applied for facilities at grounds to cater for clubs that can't access grounds at the moment. For example, the City of Hobart have applied for some funding to put amenities at Cornelian Bay in the interests of making that much more useable for clubs like Hobart United who don't have a home ground, so the restriction at the moment is not so much the playing space, although that can be a restriction, it's actually about the amenities to then service that playing space.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - So you're prepared though to work with Hobart United Football Club to make sure they have a home ground?

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**Ms LANGENBERG** - With both the Hobart United Football Club and with Football Tasmania who have done a lot of work in the last 12 months about gathering information on both their current facility and ground usage, but also their projected needs in terms of growing the game and catering to clubs but also growth of the sport.

**CHAIR** - Mr O'Byrne. You have the call.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - I have one final question.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Can I add to that? We're also looking at school ground facilities as well, just to see what space may also be available on school grounds, similar to what Clarence Council did with Clarence High School so we are doing an audit of grounds that could be available at schools.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Very quickly, minister. Can you provide a breakdown of government funding, excluding infrastructure funding, by Sport in the last financial year, including funding provided through the ICON program? I am happy to put this on notice.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Did you say without facilities?

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Can you provide a breakdown of government funding excluding infrastructure funding by Sport in the last financial year, including funding provided through the IKON program? I would like to put that on notice so that Mr O'Byrne in the last few minutes of this truncated farce of an estimate session, can ask a question.

**Mr O'BYRNE** - Thank you, Chair. I want to go back to the ICC World Cup. Can I just clarify your first question, in your first answer you indicated that you weren't across the bid, you weren't involved in the bid and you were subsequently advised about the content of that? Is that right as the Sports Minister?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - The bid was done through Events Tasmania.

**Mr O'BYRNE** - So as Sports Minister you had no input into that?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - As Sport Minister, I'm responsible for the funding in my department so the ICON's program which Ms O'Connor just identified.

**Mr O'BYRNE** - I understand that.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - There's \$1 million worth of funding goes to Cricket Tasmania in my portfolio which includes the funding for the BBL, the funding - the \$500 000 for the ICON's program, the \$240 000 per annum increase now which is sitting with the female Tigers team, but also there's \$60 000 I believe that comes under the state's sporting organisation.

**Mr O'BYRNE** - I understand that. ICC World Cup which is obviously a big part of the strategy is, you know, the old saying 'You can't beat what you can't see' and that is hosting a number of major high-profile events, and particularly for women. The Tasmanian committee was quite rightfully outraged about the lack of women's games scheduled for Hobart. Now, in your previous answer you said that the Tasmanian government did bid for that. We understand senior cricket officials have said that the Tasmanian Government did not request women's games, and you only

## UNCORRECTED PROOF ISSUE

requested men's games. Now, you are on *Hansard*, and I remind you of your responsibilities. Can you categorically commit to say that the Tasmanian Government made bids for women's games in the ICC World Cup to be hosted in Hobart?

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Table the bid.

**CHAIR** - Order.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - I'm advised that we sought women's content in our bid to be a T20 host city.

**Mr O'BYRNE** - When people were outraged about the lack of games in Tasmania, why did senior cricket people across the country say, 'Well, if Tasmania had asked for them, they may have got them'. I understand the ACT government made a significant range of bids and did receive good women's content. Why, as Sports Minister and Women's Minister did you not bid?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** -The ACT did not receive any men's games but I can tell you -

**Mr O'BYRNE** - No, because they didn't bid for them; they bid for women's games.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - We were talking to Cricket Australia and they said to us that the ICC were the ones who awarded the games which states -

**Mr O'BYRNE** - That's right. From the bids from states.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - So the ICC was in control of this process.

**Mr O'BYRNE** - Yes, exactly.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - But I can assure you that the Tasmanian government absolutely did seek women's content as well as men's content.

**Mr O'BYRNE** - Will you table the bid?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - It's not my portfolio to be able to table the bid.

**Mr O'BYRNE** - Will you indicate on behalf of the Government, will you table the bid?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - I can indicate that the Tasmanian Government absolutely did seek women's content as well as men's content for the T20 games. Adelaide and Brisbane also didn't receive any female games.

**Mr O'BYRNE** - Because they didn't bid for them. It's a bidding process with the ICC, Minister.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - But I can assure you that the Tasmanian Government did bid for the games for the ICC World Cup.

## UNCORRECTED PROOF ISSUE

**Mr O'BYRNE** - Minister, obviously having top-flight sport played in Tasmania and having Tasmania in national competitions is very important for development and pathway, and junior participation. Have you been involved in any discussions around an NBL bid?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - In regards to an NBL bid, I am aware that there have been discussions in regards to -

**Mr O'BYRNE** - Have you been involved with them?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Yes, I have been involved in the discussions in regards to the NBL bid.

**Mr O'BYRNE** - And what does that look like? What does the bid look like?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - The discussions will continue in regards to the NBL bid. It's very much at early stages but yes, I am aware of the NBL bid and it's -

**Mr O'BYRNE** - Well, everyone's aware of it. It's been in the paper.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - But I can indicate that the discussions are under Events and Hospitality, which are exploring the concept -

**Mr O'BYRNE** - So not in Sport again?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Which are exploring the concept -

**Mr O'BYRNE** - So you're not at the table for World Cup. What do you do as minister for Sport?

**CHAIR** - Order, order.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Minister for Sport and Recreation is there for grassroots -

**Mr O'BYRNE** - I've been minister for sport, you're at every table when there's a discussion.

**CHAIR** - Mr O'Byrne. Order.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - It's for grassroots participation.

**Mr O'BYRNE** - Grassroots.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - So we're doing the programs, for example, like Levelling the Playing Field. We're doing it through Ticket to Play.

**Mr O'BYRNE** - So forging a pathway to Tasmanian AFL and AFLW -

**CHAIR** - Mr O'Byrne, order.

**Mr O'BYRNE** - You can't have it both ways, Minister.

**CHAIR** - Mr O'Byrne, I warn you.

**Mr O'BYRNE** - Well, go for your life.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Grassroots participation. Our goal in Tasmania is to have the healthiest population in Tasmania by 2025 as well as the lowest rate of obesity.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - You've cut the preventative health budget.

**Ms WHITE** - The Minister for Health actually didn't recommit to that so it's interesting you've said it.

**CHAIR** - Order.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - The goal is to actually increase participation at the grassroots. I know that Cricket Tasmania has also stated that if there had been a substantial amount of money that would've gone into the women's ICC, they said that would've been better spent in regard to getting more women's participation going, but we bid for both.

**Mr O'BYRNE** - But you can't have it both ways, you've put a bid in.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - We bid for both.

**Mr O'BYRNE** - Well, how much did the bid cost then?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - We bid for both.

**Mr O'BYRNE** - How much did the bid cost?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - We bid for both.

**Mr O'BYRNE** - How much did the bid cost?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - We bid for both women and men's participation in the ICC.

**Mr O'BYRNE** - Well, you can't then use the words from Cricket Tasmania to say it's better spent over there when your government have signed off.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - That was their opinion in regards to it.

**Mr O'BYRNE** - No. Not in terms of the 20:20.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - But we bid for both.

**Mr O'BYRNE** - They weren't talking about the 20:20.

**CHAIR** - Mr O'Byrne.

**Mr O'BYRNE** - Minister, are you involved in any discussions around a potential A-League team?

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**Mrs PETRUSMA** - I was in the room when they actually mentioned it here, when it was part of the Friends of Football.

**Mr O'BYRNE** - That was the Friends of Football.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Yes.

**Mr O'BYRNE** - But that's not where you have a negotiation. Because you go to an event where everyone's at -

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Yes, so you know that there was a conversation at the time.

**CHAIR** - Mr O'Byrne, order.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - There was a conversation and you were here when it was mentioned.

**Mr O'BYRNE** - Minister, with respect, it was a parliamentary Friends of Football function.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - But yes, I have been part of a conversation.

**Mr O'BYRNE** - What does that look like? How far are we away from getting an A-League team?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Again, it is part of the conversation.

**Mr O'BYRNE** - Who are we talking to then? As Sports minister, who are we talking to about an A-League team?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Again, the A-League team comes under Events.

**Mr O'BYRNE** - So it's not Sport?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Grassroots participation.

**Mr O'BYRNE** - So basketball, football, AFL, cricket, that's not Sports, that's another element of the Tasmanian Budget. You can understand the farcical situation you've got here, Minister. You are the Sports minister. This is sport.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - No. The Sports minister is to get more kids and women and people with disability, more Tasmanians playing sport. This is about getting more grassroots participation, more people taking part in sport in Tasmania. That is what my position is. If it's an event, that comes under Events Tasmania. We are all about building -

**Mr O'BYRNE** - So the elite pathway of sport -

**CHAIR** - Mr O'Byrne, please wait.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - better facilities, getting more kids, young people, women, Tasmanians playing sport and that is what we're doing. Ticket to Play is a great example of an initiative that is getting more young people and children playing sport.

## UNCORRECTED PROOF ISSUE

**Mr O'BYRNE** - So getting games to Tasmania through AFL, for example, and North Melbourne and Hawthorn has nothing to do with participation? Is that what you're saying?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - That is the ultimate goal for people who -

**Mr O'BYRNE** - So now it is connected.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - If we get people into grassroots playing football, which is the role of the Football Tasmania board, to build the base, to increase participation so that we have a pathway forward to an AFL and AFLW team.

**Mr O'BYRNE** - And forge a pathway forward.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - That is to provide the inspiration for people to be able to pursue high performance and to get forward -

**Ms O'CONNOR** - But in the real world, they're the same, aren't they? Grassroots participation feeds professional sport.

**CHAIR** - Order.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Grassroots participation is what I'm passionate about and is what I am tasked to do, to increase participation of people in sport in Tasmania.

**Mr O'BYRNE** - So Minister, are you saying in your budget allocation that there is no money and support for elite sporting activities?

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Chair, so no more questions for the Greens in this session?

**CHAIR** - Mr O'Byrne has the call.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Events Tasmania does the -

**Mr O'BYRNE** - Athletics, hockey, so you've got hockey - hockey is a national team.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - So at the moment we're running five to one.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Events Tasmania does the large events.

**CHAIR** - Mr O'Byrne, don't interrupt, please, or I warn you again.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Five questions, one question.

**CHAIR** - Constant interruptions.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - But in regards to elite performance, the TIS comes under my portfolio.

**Mr O'BYRNE** - So, now it is elite sport.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - No, but in regards to things that are events -

**Mr O'BYRNE** - So does hockey come under your sport? Do you do hockey?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - In regards to events such as the level that you're talking about -

**Mr O'BYRNE** - But I'm talking about elite pathways.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - And it has for years come under Events Tasmania.

**Ms WHITE** - An AFL team is sport, not an event.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Minister, what is Mr Godfrey, who is an extremely wealthy individual, who's bidding for access to the last free real estate in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, being paid by the Government to head up the AFL drive?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - The funding for the project team is the hundred and sixty -

**Ms O'CONNOR** - What is Mr Godfrey being paid?

**CHAIR** - I advise the committee that the time for the examination of this portfolio has expired.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - No, \$150 000 is provided to the Department of State Growth to support the project team, it's under State Growth.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - So was Mr Godfrey paid in that role?

**Mr O'BYRNE** - What a waste of time.

**CHAIR** - Thank you very much.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - \$150 000 is provided to the Department of State Growth to support the project.

**CHAIR** - Thank you very much. We shall now move to disability services.

**Output group 6  
Disability services and community development**

**1.1 Community services -**

**CHAIR** - Minister, can you tell me when you're ready, please?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Thank you, Chair. I can indicate that I have at the table from Communities Tasmania, Ms Ginna Webster, Secretary, and Ms Ingrid Ganley, Director, Disability and Community Services, and Mr Rod Fazackerley, and you might have to state your title.

**Mr FAZACKERLEY** - Principal Finance Officer, Department of Communities.

**CHAIR** - Thank you very much. Minister, an opening statement, please.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Thank you, Chair. In the 2019-20 state Budget, the Hodgman Liberal Government has been spending more money on people with disability than ever before, including nearly \$1.04 billion in cash and in-kind supports over forward Estimates to deliver on our commitment to the NDIS, including \$244.3 million in 2019-20 under the bilateral agreement with the Australian Government. This Government is committed to working with people with disability, their families, carers, disability providers and the wider community to build a more equitable, inclusive and accessible Tasmania. We are doing this through both our commitment to the National Disability Insurance Scheme and also through the provision of services and supports that remain state responsibilities outside of the NDIS going forward.

The Government acknowledges that there has been significant change in the landscape for the delivery of disability services in Tasmania in recent years in the lead-up to the transition to full scheme NDIS as of 1 July this year, which is why the Tasmanian Government has been working extensively with the NDIA, the federal government, other states and territories, as well as the disability sector to help participants and providers to work through the challenges of preparing for, and transitioning to, the NDIS.

Reaching full scheme NDIS represents a transformational change in the way people with disability, their families and carers can exercise choice and control about the supports and services that best suit their needs, and how they are provided. The NDIS will ensure that NDIS participants are finally able to determine their best interests and have choice and control over their lives. Disability support services that remain outside of the scope of the NDIS will also be funded, including mainstream children's therapy services, individual advocacy services and continuity of support for people with disability who are not eligible for the NDIS.

In Community Development, in recognition of the important role the community development peak bodies play, last year the Tasmanian Government elevated three organisations to peak body status for the first time, including Carers Tasmania, the Tasmanian Men's Shed Association, and the Returned Services League Tasmania Branch to join our other peak bodies, Volunteering Tasmania, Council on the Ageing Tasmania, the Youth Network of Tasmania and Multicultural Council of Tasmania. All these organisations also received an increase in their peak body funding to \$110 000 per annum.

This year, to further support our seven community development peak bodies and the great work that they do, we were delighted to announce, from the 2019-20 financial year the Tasmanian Government will also apply annual indexation to these peak bodies at the rate of 2.25 per cent per annum. This is the first time that these peak bodies have received indexation. The Tasmanian Government wants to thank and acknowledge the peak bodies for the work that they do each and every day.

Lastly, I put on the record my deep thanks and appreciation to the department staff I have the pleasure of working with and for their patience, dedication and commitment to making a real difference in the lives of nearly all the Tasmanians that these portfolios intersect with.

**CHAIR** - Thank you, minister. We'll go to Ms Butler. Can we please make sure that the calls are through the Chair? The minister can't always hear and I can't always hear either because you're a long way down the other end of the table.

## UNCORRECTED PROOF ISSUE

**Ms BUTLER** - Thank you, minister. Would you be able to outline for me how the DCAF funding of \$223 million over 10 years will be distributed to our state, to Tasmania?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - The DCAF funding, I believe, goes to consolidated revenue, but I might ask Mr Fazackerley. The DCAF funding, I believe, comes under the Treasurer.

**CHAIR** - Could we have a definition of the acronym, please.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - It's Disability Care Australia Fund.

**CHAIR** - Thank you.

**Mr FAZACKERLEY** - I believe you're right, it does come through the consolidated fund to us.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Yes, it comes through the consolidated fund, so it actually is a matter for the Treasurer, because it's funding that under the bilateral agreement that the DCAF funding actually is reimbursed to Tasmania from the Australian Government. It actually goes into consolidated revenue because you've got to remember that the NDIS is funded not only just Department of Communities Tasmania, it's also funded through State Growth, through the department of Education and the Department of Health. The DCAF funding is distributed to different agencies to be reimbursed in regards to the NDIS.

**Ms BUTLER** - With all due respect, minister, you are the minister responsible for that portfolio and would have the best -

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Disability Services, not for everything disability. Disability Services.

**Ms BUTLER** - That actual portfolio, minister, so I would like -

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Well, Disability Services.

**Ms BUTLER** - I'm aware of the difference between the -

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Not everything is NDIS.

**Ms BUTLER** - Treasury, State Growth and Disability Services. My question is, do you have any understanding of how that money will be distributed over the 10 years throughout the state, not who's responsible for it? Do you have any understanding of how it will be distributed?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - The Tasmanian Government's commitment to the NDIS is nearly \$1.04 billion, so the DCAF funding is quite a small amount of that funding. The funding comes back to the state, but the Tasmanian Government is actually putting substantial funding in regards to the NDIS and Disability Services over the next four years, and the DCAF funding is a very small percentage of that funding.

**Ms BUTLER** - Do you have any understanding, or will you provide any insight now as to how that funding will be distributed in Tasmania over the next 10 years?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - It goes towards -

## UNCORRECTED PROOF ISSUE

**Ms BUTLER** - You're not answering my question.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Actually I am.

**Ms BUTLER** - You're not.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - I think the member doesn't understand that the DCAF funding -

**Ms BUTLER** - I understand. You're not answering the question.

**CHAIR** - Order.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - The DCAF funding comes to Tasmania and then it is part of our contribution as to what we then fund. The Tasmanian Government is funding nearly \$1.04 billion to the NDIS and disability services across the forward Estimates, of which the DCAF funding forms a very small percentage.

**Ms BUTLER** - And how will that be distributed across the state in the next 10 years?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - It goes towards the state's contribution, as I said. The state is funding nearly \$1.04 billion, so it's not a case of distribution. Money goes into -

**Ms BUTLER** - So you don't know how they're going to distribute -

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Money goes into the consolidated fund and then money goes out, so this is how it works.

**Ms BUTLER** - So you're not going to answer the question. You don't know how they're going to distribute it.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - No, I think the member doesn't actually understand how the fund actually works, so.

**Ms BUTLER** - No, I understand. I understand you haven't answered my question, minister.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - No, it's a -

**Ms BUTLER** - Minister, can you then provide some examples of the state government holding the NDIA to account?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Very much so. I had a meeting with the deputy CEO of the NDIA on Friday and outlined our concerns in regard to the NDIS in Tasmania. We raised a number of issues, but the NDIA has advised that it is applying more resources to Tasmania to address the issues of concern that we raised in a number of different areas. They met with the department as well to address areas of concern. The NDIA has agreed that it is prepared to deliver in addition to the many briefings and workshops it is already holding, to hold additional briefings, especially for ILC-type organisations, but also for members of parliament so that members of parliament, as well as their electorate officers, get a good grasp and understanding exactly of what the NDIS is going to be responsible for and is going to deliver for Tasmanians into the future.

## UNCORRECTED PROOF ISSUE

**Ms BUTLER** - Minister, you just stated then that you raised some concerns. Would you mind providing us with some insight into the concerns you raised?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - So in regards to concerns, all the issues that were raised with my office, we raised the concerns with the -

**Ms BUTLER** - What would they be?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - They might be in regards to individuals which I'm not going to put on the public record here, but if we have an issue that is raised with us -

**Ms BUTLER** - So you're not going to answer my question again.

**CHAIR** - Order.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - I'm not going to raise individual issues that are raised with us as an individual because it stays on the *Hansard* record for -

**Ms BUTLER** - No, no, we're asking about -

**CHAIR** - Order. Ms Butler.

**Ms BUTLER** - I'm just clarifying -

**CHAIR** - No, wait for the minister to answer.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - So we talked in regards to ILCs and for them to come and do extra work with ILC type organisations who are concerned about the future so that ILC type organisations in Tasmania can have more assistance for the ILC rounds that are upcoming so that -

**Ms O'CONNOR** - No certainty there which you led us to believe in the debate the other day.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Sorry?

**Ms O'CONNOR** - There's no certainty there around their funding.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - There is for the individual advocacy services.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - No, that's different from the other group that were the subject of the debate.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - But the bridging funding is being provided for the other so -

**Ms BUTLER** - Can I go back to my question, please, Chair?

**CHAIR** - Yes, you can.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - So my certainty was that the Tasmanian Government would work alongside the ILC services until the ILC funding round is committed and that we would provide bridging funding and bridging funding is being provided through to December.

**CHAIR** The call is going to Ms Butler.

**Ms BUTLER** - Can you go back to my question? I'm talking more about systemic concerns more than individual concerns.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Is there a particular systemic concern that you're concerned about?

**Ms BUTLER** - I would like to know that the ones that you have raised. That's the question.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Any concerns that are raised with me we raise with the NDIA so whether it's in regard to individual matters, to anything that is raised of concern, issues of concern that is raised with us by National Disability Services we raise with the NDIA.

**CHAIR** - Ms O'Connor, you have the call.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Thank you, Chair. I'll just go to the budget papers first. So, table 2.1, I'm on page 13 at the moment, it's also on page 17, Tasmanian Autism Diagnostic Services has a million dollars against it in this year and then it flatlines. What does that relate to? Is that the removal of funding for the autism diagnostic service or is that service going into the NDIS?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - The Tasmanian Autism Diagnostic Service? Yes, that's an extra \$1 million we're providing to Tasmanian Autism Diagnostic Service this year because there's been an increase in the number of people who require autism diagnosis. That \$1 million dollars has allowed us to spend nearly \$2 million in 2019-20 on autism diagnosis. This is substantially more funding than has been provided in the past for autism diagnosis.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Minister, during the debate last week on advocacy services, you made a number of assurances. One of them was that, 'We the Government will be funding continuity of supports under the bilateral scheme'. You made a commitment to individual and ILC-type services, that the Government would protect their funding into the future, or work with them to protect their funding into the future. How can you make that commitment? I've been roundly berated by disability stakeholders for taking you at your word. They don't believe it.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - My commitment was that we would fund services outside of the NDIS. That includes individual advocacy services, mainstream children's therapy services and continuing supports. My commitment was also that we provide bridging funding for ILCs through to December. My commitment is that my door is open and that we would walk alongside the organisations through the rounds of funding. That commitment still stands.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - So which ILCs, which individual advocacy services have been funded and for how long? What is the situation confronting organisations like TasDeaf, Guide Dogs, Brain Injury Association of Tasmania, Autism Tasmania?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - They received letters last week for the bridging funding. We will be walking alongside those organisations. The bridging funding will be provided to the organisations before the end of June to take them forward through to December.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - So can we just be really clear. Which organisations have the bridging funding? Which organisations have been required to apply to the Commonwealth?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - The three individual advocacy service providers. The Government's committed funding for individual advocacy services.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - For how long?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - We'll continue to fund individual advocacy services into the future.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - In perpetuity?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Into the future. The department has been working with ILC-type providers for around three years to prepare them for the ILC rounds. They are the ones who have received the bridging funding. There are four ILC major rounds. These are long-term rounds. They go up to three years and they include -

**Ms O'CONNOR** - That' not long-term funding.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Under the Tasmanian Government they only used to receive at the most three-year contracts. It includes funding to allow for the fact that there will be overheads. The ILC-type providers who are going to be applying for ILC-type services under the ILC rounds, are the ones who are being provided bridging funding to December.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Are they getting active support from the agency to make those applications? Can Ms Ganley talk a little bit about that?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - I welcome Ms Ganley. I commend Ms Ganley and her team because they have done a large body of work in regards ILCs. I put on the record, the Tasmanian Government doesn't want to see any of our ILC-type providers go.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - No one does, but there is no certainty.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - That's why Ms Ganley and the team has done a whole body of work for the last three years, including working with them, getting the NDIA to provide workshops and information. The NDIA have assured me again last week that they'll continue to work alongside the providers and do more work. I will hand over to Ms Ganley so that Ms Ganley can outline in detail what they have been doing for the last three years.

**Ms GANLEY** - Thanks, minister. We've had what we call a sector development fund. That was funding we received from the Commonwealth and we specifically targeted elements of that funding at the ILC providers. In particular we bought in some support to assist them with how to write grant submissions with an outcomes-focused element. We know that's what the commissioning round will be looking for. We also worked with them to map what they deliver across into the four streams, so the individual organisations could understand what we were funding them and how we mapped that across into the ILCs. That's involved our staff sitting with the organisations and working through how best to transition across to the ILC. We'll continue to do that.

Some organisations have wanted a lot more support than others. Others, I would say, are very confident in what they want to deliver and are moving along. The other area is that some of our providers are in both camps of the NDIS. They are setting up businesses where they're providing

fee for service for individuals that want to purchase services with their packages, and they're also looking at the ILC-type elements of their programs and applying for funding through that. We've worked quite consistently with them for at least two-and-a-half years, including workshops with the NDIA. What we're working on now is to bring the NDIA to Tasmania to run specific workshops and engage with our providers more directly.

**Mr TUCKER** - Minister, I see there is extra funding for autism diagnostic services for the 2019-20 Budget. Can you elaborate further on what you have already touched on, please?

**Ms O'CONNOR** - That was a variation on the original script, wasn't it?

**Mr TUCKER** - You remember the questions we wrote together last night, Cassy.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Yes, I do.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - I thank the member for his question. Autism is now the second largest primary disability in Tasmania, which is why in 2018 we provided additional support of \$450 000 on top of existing funding for earlier diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder and ongoing funding of the Autism Cooperative Research Centre. However, despite this extra funding, the demand for diagnostic assessments continues to significantly increase. The 2019-20 Budget therefore sees additional funding of \$1 million on top of existing funding to the Tasmanian Autism Diagnostic Service to assist in reducing the wait time for children aged 0 to 18 years. This means that in 2019-20 over \$2 million will be spent on autism diagnosis, which is \$1.583 million more than was allocated in 2013-14. This is because we believe that earlier diagnosis of ASD is important. With a diagnosis of ASD confirmed, a child can then be assessed for eligibility to receive individual support services under the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Earlier transition to the NDIS does enable children and young people and families to access the services and funding they require. This additional funding has been very much welcomed by families and staff because it will increase the services, and the multi-disciplinary approach to diagnostic assessments undertaken by the team and significantly will reduce the wait list. It is a very exciting initiative and one that we're delighted to have provided in this Budget.

**CHAIR** - Ms Butler has the call.

**Ms BUTLER** - Minister, if I can just go back to your previous answer to my colleague, Ms O'Connor. Which are the actual ILC types that you're referring to, because some of these organisations are not eligible for those, and don't fit the criteria of those ILC types? So which actual ILC types are you talking about?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Last week in parliament it was referred to that organisations like, for example, ParaQuad, wouldn't be eligible, but they are eligible. They are an ILC type. And the MS Society as well. Sorry, what was the last one?

**Ms BUTLER** - Guide Dogs.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Yes, Guide Dogs.

**Ms BUTLER** - Are you sure they offered into your ILC?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Yes, they have all been provided bridging funding. TasDeaf.

**Ms BUTLER** - Brain Injury Association?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** -Yes, Brain Injury Association.

**Ms BUTLER** - They all fit into that category.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Yes. And I raised the concerns that were raised in Parliament with the NDIA, so these organisations, if they're going to be applying for ILC-type services, they can be eligible for the bridging funding.

**Ms BUTLER** - So minister, there are just over 10 000 people who qualify for the NDIS, but there are 80 000 to 90 000 people who are not eligible and never will be. That's here in our state. These people rely on state-funded disability support organisations, yet 18 Tasmanian disability support organisations, as my colleague referred to previously, have had their funding dramatically slashed. Why, minister, are you not ensuring the state's responsibility under the bilateral agreement is upheld?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - We are very much fulfilling our responsibilities under the Tasmanian bilateral agreement. As we have stated many times on the record, under the NDIS, 10 600 Tasmanians will be eligible for individual funding support, but the ILC program is there for people who do not receive an individual support package. The ILCs are there for all Tasmanians with disability who require referral to mainstream supports and other support services. But I acknowledge the fact that I've said this quite a number of times, so I will get Ms Ganley to actually reassure you as well what the ILC program is to do under the NDIS.

**Ms GANLEY** - So the way that the NDIS is structured, it's often talked about tiers of support, and when we talk about the 10 000 individuals we're really talking about the highest level - so tier three, where an individual actually receives a package of support, and then they go out and choose to purchase services to meet their needs.

Under that level is what we're calling tier two, and that's for a broad range of all people with disabilities, and people who identify as having a disability, being able to access a range of information and referral-type services. So the ILC component of the scheme is looking to purchase, from the community sector, a broad range of services that can provide that information and advice and referral - quite often group work or peer support work, so that's why there's quite a focus on establishing disability person organisations. And that level - the information linkages and capacity building level - you don't have to go to the NDIA to access.

So it is similar to our system. The providers will be out there. It's about making sure they're known and the community is aware of them, and individuals with a disability or families can just approach these providers and they can help them. Some of that help might be in engaging in other mainstream services, or it might be assisting them to say, 'Actually, yes, it looks like you might qualify for the eligibility test for a package, and we can point you in the right direction'. The whole idea is to build that organisational and community capacity for a whole lot of people to access.

**Ms BUTLER** - Thank you. Through the minister, what if they don't receive the ILC funding by December 2019, will you extend their funding?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** -When we met with the deputy CEO of the NDIA on Friday, the sort of services that we're talking about is what the ILCs are there to provide. For example, these sort of wrap around ILC supports, so that's why we say these ILC-type services, because they are there for the different cohorts and services that they represent. So this is why we are going through this ILC process, and that is why I've stated that my door is open.

And after every ILC round, I give the commitment to hear from the organisations as to whether they've been successful or what needs to happen for the next one. But this is a process that we have to undertake, because even as Ms O'Connor acknowledged last week in the debate on the bill, the way the NDIS was set up was to give people choice and control. And people have choice and control as to what supports they use, and what services they use as well.

**Ms BUTLER** - So will you guarantee that you will extend their funding if they're not eligible to receive the ILC funding?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - The type of services that they offer, this is what the ILC rounds are to fund.

**Ms BUTLER** - So what happens if they're not eligible, minister. Sorry, just trying to get the minister to answer.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - But they are eligible. This is what you've got to understand. They are eligible. So those services will still be provided in Tasmania under the ILC program.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - If they're successful in their applications.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Well, the services that they provide, so this is why we're working with them. There's no point indulging in hypotheticals when there are a lot of ILC funding rounds still to go through yet.

**Ms BUTLER** - Can I just ask that one more time, just to get some clarification? So, if the organisation isn't successful in receiving the ILC funding by December 2019, that you'll step in and you'll extend their funding? If they're unsuccessful, so if the organisation is left floundering without any funding, will you step in to assist that organisation?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** -The Tasmanian Government is providing bridging funding through to December to assist these services to go through the ILC rounds. The NDIA has assured me on Friday that they will also be able to provide extra work and assistance with organisations to prepare them for the ILC funding rounds. But we encourage the ILC organisations to put in their applications for the ILC rounds, and to work within the requirements of the grants and everything else, and we'll be here to listen to how they go, through the process.

**CHAIR** - Ms O'Connor you have the call.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Thank you, Chair. Minister, I'm listening very carefully to your answers. Can we take it from your response and that of Ms Ganley's, that your office and the agency here will actually actively intervene to make sure that none of these organisations, which have been a part of the fabric of Tasmania's community for decades in some instances, to make sure that none of them fall over?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - I can. On the record, I can say that when I met with the NDIA on Friday I raised the concerns of the ILC providers. I can also indicate that I've also spoken to the new minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme, to articulate the concerns of the providers, as I did with the previous minister who was responsible for Disability Services. So I can say that I've actively been engaging with the NDIA, as well as the federal government, to put the best case forward for the Tasmanian ILC organisations to be funded. I think the fact that ILC services in Tasmania have already received \$1 million under an interim round - which is an extra \$1 million Tasmania would not have had - to provide for ILC-type services, is an indication that the NDIA is listening and that they are making sure that Tasmanian-based services do receive funding.

So I give my word and commitment that, as I've said on quite a number of occasions, that after every round I want to hear from ILC organisations in Tasmania as to their success or what has happened during the funding round, so that we can keep on working and engage with them over the next few months.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Thank you. Minister, Budget paper Volume No. 1, pages 13 and 16, how much of the National Disability Insurance Scheme and Disability Services line item is for the NDIS and how much is for projects and funding that falls outside the scope of the NDIS?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - As it indicates, based on the agreed full scheme costs and current estimates, the department will contribute \$891.2 million in cash and in-kind contributions. That is the Department of Communities Tasmania total funding across the Forward Estimates. That is out of the \$1.04 billion. The rest is for funding is for services outside the scope of the NDIS.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Yes, thank you. I am trying to disentangle these numbers. So that line item, which is \$9,984,000, in the first year, in -

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - It is best if you go to page 22 where it shows the total quantum of funding for Disability Services, table 2.2.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Yes.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - 6.2, Disability Services, where it actually shows the quantum of funding across the Forward Estimates.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Yes, thank you. It would appear there is a decline in Disability Services funding. I am not trying to be confrontational here at all, simply trying to disentangle the NDIS money and then the money allocated to other services and supports that fall outside the NDIS.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - It does look like there has been a decline, because there is a reduction in the Australian government funding under transition to the NDIS of over \$50 million which no longer comes to the state government. In the past Australian government funding used to come to the Tasmanian government for delivery services. The decline is because their money is going straight to the National Disability Insurance Agency and not the Tasmanian government. This has then been offset by funding from services cashed out and additional indexation. It also reflects the projected staffing changes in Disability Services because of the transition to the NDIS. Ingrid will be leading a smaller team, because of the transition to the NDIS we are not delivering the same services. The decline reflects a decline in staffing costs.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - What is the projected staff number reduction?

**Ms PETRUSMA** - Twenty-seven staff will be left in the team.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Sorry, what is the current staffing?

**Ms GANLEY** - We started with a hundred FTE roughly across Disability and Community Services, as we had responsibility for those community service organisations and reduced over the three years to an FTE of 27.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Twenty-seven. Okay. Thanks, Ms Ganley.

**CHAIR** - Mr Tucker.

**Mr TUCKER** - Minister, in regard to the Hodgman Liberal government record funding to support people with disability in the 2019-20 budget, can you elaborate further?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Yes. The funding is a substantial amount because we are investing more than \$1 billion in cash and in-kind contributions over the 2019-20 budget and Forward Estimates, because we acknowledge the NDIS is one of the biggest and most important reforms Australia has ever seen. But I can indicate disability support services that remain outside of the scope of the NDIS, including mainstream children's therapy services, individual advocacy services and continuity of supports for people with disability who are not eligible for the NDIS are also funded. In accordance, for example, with the bilateral agreement with the Australian government in regards to continuity of support, we are committed to continue funding individuals with disability who were receiving funding for supports and were either not eligible for individual support packages through the NDIS or who do require supports outside the scope of those funded under the NDIS. And these continuity of support obligations are separate to mainstream services, for example, services provided through health, for example, and community services accessible to all Tasmanians.

We do recognise the vital role of independent individual advocacy services and the critical role they provide in ensuring people with disability can access the same rights as others, which is why we are continuing to fund those services. Also, to provide better outcomes for children through access to early intervention and support and why we are also funding important mainstream children's therapy services for children and young people who are ineligible for the NDIS and early childhood intervention services. We have already touched on the Tasmania Autism Diagnostic Services and they will be funded over \$2 million.

For sport and recreation there is \$250 000 to the sporting competitions access fund for dedicated funding support for athletes with a disability to access sporting events that will also enhance their quality of life.

Outside of Communities Tas, I note the Minister for Education is also providing a funding boost to support students with disability through an additional \$34 million in the 19-20 Budget.

**Mr TUCKER** - Thank you, minister.

**CHAIR** - Ms Butler.

**Ms BUTLER** - Minister, excluding the NDIS, can you tell us the budget allocation for Disability Services you are responsible for?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - You are talking about mainstream children's therapy services or individual advocacy services, for example?

**MS BUTLER** - What you are responsible for separate to NDIS. You talk a lot about the NDIS, people want to know what you are responsible for.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Right. Outside of the NDIS there are individual advocacy services and the Tasmanian Autism Diagnostic Service which will be around \$2 million. Individual advocacy services is funded about \$1.1 million.

**Ms BUTLER** - Tasmania has the highest rate of people living with a disability in Australia and one of the fastest growing sectors to support this. The sector has changed rapidly with preparations for necessary quality and safeguarding measures next to be done and without any support to do this. NDS Tasmania maintains an investment in sector development, including a workforce strategy and action plan are urgently needed, to ensure the needs of people living with a disability are met. What are you doing to address this and why was this not a priority in the Budget?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - Regarding the workforce, it is under the Minister for Education and Training and there been a lot of work done over several years with the sector to train up the workforce needed, including workforce research and planning.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - No money into TAFE though.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - In a submission, the Tasmanian Government informed the Productivity Commission the Tasmanian Government's investing more than \$8 million over six years in skills development to increase the disability workforce in Tasmania to allow up to an additional 2500 workers to be needed at full scheme, keeping in mind that it was projected the total workforce needed at full scheme was around 5500. When we started, it was projected around 5000 workers in about 2013 and there has been a lot of money invested into it.

The healthcare and social assistance sector receives the highest proportion of Tasmanian Government training funding, over 18 per cent in 2018 and of this funding, almost 40 per cent was allocated to TasTAFE and private training providers to provide the training in disability related qualifications and skillsets. Since 2014, the Tasmanian Government has subsidised 6354 enrolments in qualifications related to the disability sector. In 2018 alone, the Tasmanian Government has subsidised 1763 enrolments for qualifications related to the disability sector and this number of enrolments has been consistent per year over the past three years. In 2018, 44 per cent of funding under the Skills Fund was directed to support training in the disability sector.

NDS has received funding under Skills Tasmania for a two-year project to address workforce supply shortages resulting from the implementation of the NDIS in the areas of both allied health and support work. The project with NDS has targeted outcomes that include a greater understanding of the disability sector, career and training opportunities within the sector and training providers to investigating barriers into the sector and development of promotional resources and programs aimed at school leavers, increased engagement in students in pursuing careers in the sector through collaboration with the Department of Education, participation in school career events and an increased understanding of pathways within the allied sector based on recommendations from the allied health disability workforce strategy and action plan.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Have you identified the employee shortfall?

**Ms BUTLER** - That's what I was going to ask next. What are the gaps and are you doing anything to alleviate those gaps in equality in the work force?

**Ms PETRUSMA** - As I have just indicated, the Tasmanian government has done a lot of activity and invested a lot of money to train up the work force that is required, so it's -

**Ms BUTLER** - What are the gaps?

**Ms PETRUSMA** - 6354 enrolments in qualifications related to the disability sector. In regards to the gaps, the total work force needed, I appreciate that there were comments that the sector requires around 5000 workers but we've been providing their training and skills requirement for those services.

**Ms BUTLER** - Where are you at in meeting those targets and when do you think, according to that strategy, you may have fulfilled those targets?

**Ms PETRUSMA** - In regards to the workforce, we have been training up the work force. The minister has been working with NDS to address the current needs and it hasn't been raised that is an issue is specific to the sector, so Ms Ganley might have further information.

**Ms GANLEY** - So the other element is, so that's the work that Skills Tasmania is doing with the NDS. We're also, as part of our role on the Senior Officials' Working Group, part of the market oversight working group looking nationally at the work force that is needed because of the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The Australian government itself is running quite a few surveys where it's tapping into and wanting to identify thin markets, and our role in that is to provide the data and encourage the participation. Those are active online research projects at the moment.

**Ms BUTLER** - Through the minister, this was flagged many years ago. What has been done in the last five years to try to eliminate this gap in workforce and also to try and alleviate the churn? We've been crying out for years to have this looked at. They're wonderful words but are you having any success meeting the need, upping the quality and stopping the churn?

**Ms O'CONNOR** - I didn't see it in your alternative budget, Ms Butler, but it was in our alternative budget.

**Ms PETRUSMA** - We have invested \$8 million over six years in skills development. That's what -

**Ms BUTLER** - No, I'm talking about now. This might be good in 10 years.

**Ms PETRUSMA** - As I said, in 2018, 44 per cent of funding under this skills fund was directed to support training in the disability sector. It is quite a substantial amount of funding, which subsidised 1763 enrolments for qualifications related to the disability sector. The number of enrolments has remained consistent per year over the past three years. I repeat, since 2014 we have subsidised 6354 enrolments, keeping in mind that the total work force stated to be needed is around 5500.

**Ms BUTLER** - You haven't touched the need of the -

**Ms PETRUSMA** - We have been subsidising more enrolments than what has been required.

**Ms BUTLER** - You haven't even touched the side of what's required though.

**Ms PETRUSMA** - I just did; 6354 people have received -

**Ms BUTLER** - More, and are working?

**Ms PETRUSMA** - subsidised enrolments and qualifications related to the disability sector, keeping in mind that the total work force needed is around 5000.

**Ms BUTLER** - What's the gap?

**Ms PETRUSMA** - We have trained more than was required.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Minister, as you would be aware, there is an organisation that's being established to provide something that people living with disability have never had before, and that is their own advocacy voice. Have you met with Fiona Gilding and Michael Small to discuss how the state can support that organisation?

**Ms PETRUSMA** - I can indicate that it was through us applying for sector development funding that that organisation Disability Voices came about in Tasmania. I acknowledge the great work Ingrid and her team did in receiving that funding because it is a new and exciting pilot project designed to find out how people with disability can develop a strong collective voice in interests and issues that affect them. It's funded by the Department of Communities Tasmania through grant funding from the Commonwealth through the NDIS information, linkages and capacity building. I met with Fiona and discussed on the online survey program they're doing to collect the people's views and other things they are working on. There's a reference group in place. This is an organisation that's been encouraged to go through the ILC process but we received that funding through the NDIS, which was a great start for us. The NDIA is aware of the work that's been undertaken in regard to Disability Voices.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Thanks. Minister, the disability standards for accessible public transport require that 80 per cent of services are provided using accessible buses by 2022. In 2017-18, Metro provided 67 per cent of services with accessible buses. I understand you're not a shareholder minister of Metro but have you been following the progress of Metro Tasmania and this measure as an interested minister, and are you aware of what the current figures are?

**Ms PETRUSMA** - As you indicated, that does come under the Minister for Infrastructure's portfolio. A lot of funding did go into building Metro buses to make them more disability-accessible and to build a fleet of accessible buses but as to the numbers you are requesting you will have to direct that to the Minister for Infrastructure.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - You're not aware of what the current proportion of Metro buses with disability access -

**Ms PETRUSMA** - No, I know a lot of money was going into building new buses that did facilitate disability access but -

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Minister, the NDIS roll-out the full scheme on 1 July this year, will every eligible person be on that full scheme on 1 July this year and what does that mean for individuals in terms of having a plan in place from 1 July?

**Ms PETRUSMA** - As you are aware from your time as previous minister, Ms O'Connor, we had people receiving Tasmanian government-funded packages. We allowed for up to 10 600 of those people and us and the NDIA are doing everything we can to try to find that 10 600. When I raised it with the NDIA, did they think we would, we still don't know because more and more people are coming forward all the time. They did say, based on other states, for example, New South Wales, some people, even though were eligible three years ago come forward at a time which suits them.

We're trying to reach out to people in different languages. We discussed that Nepali is the third-fastest growing language in Tasmania. I suggested they could do brochures in Nepali but they're doing everything they can to get more people coming forward. The Tasmanian government is still funding 10 600 people even if we don't get 10 600.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Just a final question. How many people will be on the NDIS, by the agencies and the NDIA's estimation, on 1 July this year?

**Ms PETRUSMA** - We're not exactly sure of what the actual figure is, but we don't -

**Ms O'CONNOR** - How many people have packages now?

**Ms PETRUSMA** - I think it's about 7000. Just under 7000. Yes, the last few months were the months where everything ramps up. Until June 30 comes, we're not going to be sure who's coming through because it involves more and more people, staff and plans. We spent five years of transition with only 4600 and the last year was bringing in everyone else. The Tasmanian government is still funding the 10 600 positions from 1 July even if we don't reach that number.

**Ms O'CONNOR** - Thank you, minister.

**Ms BUTLER** - Minister, going back to my previous line of questioning about training and the deficiency in the work force. When you were quoting your figures previously, you were quoting people that are enrolled in courses but you weren't quoting about people who are completed, qualified and in our workforce. Would you be able to provide those figures because I'm after the gap in the deficiency between what the industry requires and what is being provided?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - The advice, when I did raise this with the NDIA, is that there's been estimates that were made a couple of years ago as to what the estimated workforce is, but the NDIA themselves aren't sure of what the actual gap is. They said they actually haven't got service providers coming forward and saying that there is a huge gap in the workforce in Tasmania. Nonetheless, the Commonwealth is investing \$33 million over three years in boosting the local care workforce to help service providers in the disability and aged care sectors to grow their workforce. This assistance is being provided through the sector development fund and there's also developing a national disability workforce strategy to promote the opportunities created by the NDIS. This work's been undertaken through the Council of Australian Governments Industry and Skills Council, the Commonwealth and the NDIA, to get a national joined-up approach in order for there to be sustainable growth in the workforce. So it's a lot of work being undertaken to see what it is but also to see what the gaps may be.

**Ms BUTLER** - If I can come back to that statement, we're talking about a workforce strategy around eliminating the gap between what the sector requires and what there is at the moment. You're telling me you have no idea about what the gap is. I'm sorry, I don't know how you'd be able to develop a strategy without understanding just how many people you'd require for those roles.

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - The total workforce required is depending on when there actually is 10 600 participants. As more participants come on board, the workforce grows accordingly. Ms Ganley was explaining that's probably why we don't have providers coming to us and saying that there is a huge need for workforce because we're not at full scheme yet, but at the same time the Government is putting a lot of resources into funding the positions required. Also, the Commonwealth, as I said, has taken lead responsibility for workforce activity and funding. I might get Ms Ganley to explain further.

**Ms GANLEY** - In terms of the workforce, it's really looking at how to grow the workforce rather than saying there's gaps. What we're interested in is how we grow the workforce. So the strategies that the minister's outlined but also identifying what we would call thin markets as well. So are there particular areas in Australia and in Tasmania where we want to focus effort on the need to make sure there's more workforce there in those particular areas. So like our rural communities on our west coast, in places like that. What we're seeing is it's growing the market because the participant numbers are growing as well in line.

**Ms BUTLER** - We also know just through working with our communities that one of the largest complaints we receive is that there's just not enough workers. So if I'm hearing that and if most people in the community are having those discussions, I'm sure you'd be aware of that. I'm asking about do we have any idea about the difference between the need and the supply, do we know that? I know we can talk about, 'look, we just don't know here, how long is a piece of string', but there must be something more strategic in the way in which we're training people in this sector. There's no point having all this funding in this sector if we can't provide the people to actually participate and provide that service. Also, how many people from that training are actually staying in our state? Are they leaving the state and going to work interstate? Are they staying here?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - As I said, the Government has provided training for 6354 people already. We have to wait for positions to be available for those people to be employed into. So as more and more participants come on board, providers can actually then start employing more people. But providers aren't going to employ a workforce to be there for participants who aren't there to actually provide services too. As more participants come on board, providers employ more people to then provide the services.

We have put a lot of money and there's a lot of effort gone into training up the workforce needed. Also, now the Commonwealth government has taken lead responsibility, keeping in mind that from 1 July, it comes under the NDIA. From speaking to the NDIA on Friday, they haven't at this stage, apart from the thin markets that Ms Ganley was talking about, providers aren't coming to us and saying that they have this huge workforce shortage because there's a lot of time and effort has been going into training up the workforce that is required for the people who are currently under the scheme.

**Ms DOW** - Minister, can I just ask a quick question? Obviously, there's a similar thing happening in the aged care workforce around the country as it becomes more community based. Are you working with the aged care industry or stakeholders? They would be similar skill sets, I

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would imagine, with disability support in the community as there is in providing aged care services. Are you working with them to understand how there's been growth in that sector and how you might work together to provide training, particularly in rural and regional areas?

**Ms O'CONNOR** - What about a centre of excellence in aged and disability care, given its growth?

**Mrs PETRUSMA** - I can indicate that under the TasCOSS 10-year community sector industry development plan, this is being done to look at how the sector can evolve to deliver services and what the needs might be necessary in regards to the rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, the reform of aged care systems, and how we need to respond to these needs. There's been a lot of work and effort going into doing that. In regards to the training activities -

**CHAIR** - Minister, I advise that the time for the examination of this sector has completed. I thank the officers for your contribution in the committee. We will meet back here tomorrow at 9 o'clock. Thank you very much.

**The committee adjourned at 5.07 p.m.**