



PREMIER OF TASMANIA

22 September 2026

Helen Burnet MP
Independent Member for Clark
Email: helen.burnet@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Burnet

On August 19th you asked the Premier the following question,

My question is from Gary and Peter, who were on the bus this morning on their way to volunteer at the Royal Hobart Hospital. They've both worked there for many, many years. You may not be able to help on the first question: can you increase the pension for them? The second question is: what are you doing to reduce the cost-of-living pressures, especially around energy costs?

Response:

Thank you for your question on behalf of your constituents, Gary and Peter, in relation to cost of living pressures, energy costs and pensions.

First, I want to recognise Gary and Peter for their long-term volunteering at the Royal Hobart Hospital.

We understand many Tasmanians are experiencing real pain from the increased cost of living, and frankly, high inflation has gone on for far too long. Where our government holds the levers on cost of living relief, we are acting and investment, including –

- Free public transport for an additional 12 months, a \$24 million commitment to keep fares free until July 2027.
- An additional \$500,000 in funding to food relief providers.
- Our TassieDoc clinics, to deliver thousands of additional free GP appointments.
- Our scholarships to train and expand the scope of practice for community pharmacists, to ensure Tasmanians can access free healthcare at their local pharmacy.
- More than \$370 million in concessions, helping with relief for energy bills, water and sewerage bills, local government rates and much more.
- We've also expanded our electricity concessions to embedded networks, for those living in aged care facilities, retirement villages and caravan parks and increased the Energy Hardship Fund to \$500,000 per year until June 2029.

- For older Tasmanians, we have expanded our Ticket to Wellbeing program, providing vouchers for active recreation.
- And for the past two years we have waived volunteer fees for the Registration to Work with Vulnerable People check.
- We've invested in the No Interest Loan Network helping more low-income Tasmanians get access to no interest loans for household essentials, avoiding pay day lenders and saving Tasmanians on interest repayments.
- And we've reduced home deposits to 2 per cent under the MyHome program, helping hundreds of Tasmanians into their own home.

In relation to power prices, I can advise:

- In June 2026, the independent Tasmanian Regulator's pricing determination confirmed Tasmania's regulated electricity prices remain among the lowest in the nation.
- Tasmania has some of the most generous concessions in the nation.
- The 2026-27 Budget has estimated for electricity concession payments totalling \$234 million cross the next four years.
- Over the past three years, electricity prices (set by the independent Regulator) have increased by an average of 2.27 per cent, well below inflation.

As you know, the Tasmanian Government has no jurisdiction over pensions; that is a Commonwealth responsibility.

I hope this helps explain to your constituents what the Tasmanian Government is doing to assist with cost of living relief.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Rockliff', written in a cursive style.

Jeremy Rockliff MP
Premier