

Annual Report

If ever there was a need for advocacy... it is **NOW**.

CEO Reflections

I so wish our work wasn't needed. It seems absurd that an organisation is required to help people deal with discrimination, abuse or neglect, to live as they wish and to access supports and services they desperately need. These things shouldn't be happening in the first place. The disheartening reality is that without our advocacy service so many more Tasmanians would not have their rights respected nor would they receive their entitlements.

I also wish I could report that things are improving in Tasmania, but this is far from what we've seen over this last year.

Tasmanians' rights and entitlements continue to be under attack.

We'd hoped that improved rights and protections would mean real change. Instead, it's felt tokenistic with different ways found to circumvent rights' protections.

It's been a difficult year. At times, it's felt like we've been living in the wild west where laws and regulations mean nothing.

We've continued to uncover the incompetence of providers/services/those who are meant to be 'experts' such as the Public Trustee, to see hospitals and providers using guardianship and administration as a first resort rather than a last resort as it's intended, aged care providers imposing unauthorised restraint and more subtle control measures, and an insidious disregard of obligations and legislative protections across so many areas. Regardless of the actual issue the net effect has been the same – Tasmanians continue to needlessly suffer.

Many of our clients are great self-advocates but even they have really struggled and needed our support.

Then there are clients who would have no hope of resolving rights breaches without our help. But what is of utmost concern are the many thousands of Tasmanians who remain voiceless and without support; they may not even know their rights are being violated, that their lives could be so much better or that they're missing out on what's rightfully theirs.

This means that it's more important than ever to be supported by an independent advocate.

We've fought so hard for our clients over this last year and achieved some excellent results. Demand for advocacy support has also increased significantly and we anticipate this trend will continue.

Our advocacy work gives Tasmanians a fighting chance to change what's wrong, to make organisations, providers and those in power, accountable. We are a force to be reckoned with and if a situation can be fixed, our Advocates will do so.

As one of our Advocates recently said:

'Working for AdvoTas enables me to truly make a difference, even with what some people may

consider minutiae. What is trivial to the privileged, is profoundly impactful to those who are disadvantaged. I am proud to say I provide support to vulnerable Tasmanians, empowering them to have a voice and stand up to the cruel systems that oppress and marginalise. This is my most important work yet.'

In our 35th year supporting Tasmanians, our Board of Governance and I are incredibly proud of the AdvoTas team and our essential work protecting Tasmanians' rights.

Leanne Groombridge
Chief Executive officer

Key statistics:

Elder Abuse Helpline & Advocacy	769
Older Persons Advocacy	1,619
Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Advocacy	594
Disability Advocacy (HACC, NDAP & TDAP)	677
Rights Information Sessions Attended by Tasmanians.	8,950

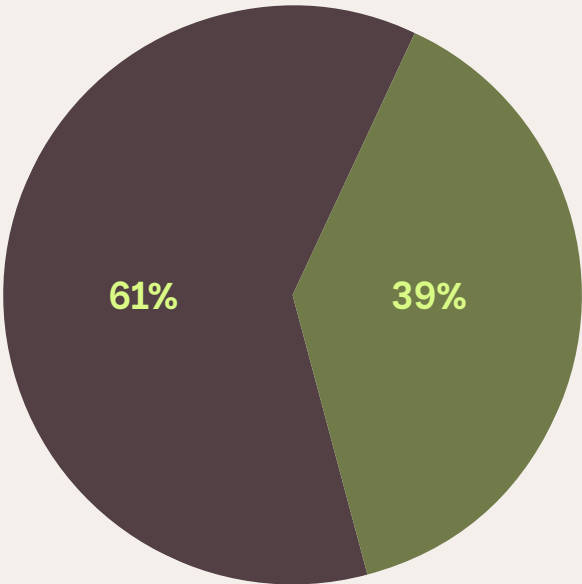
Financial snapshot

For the financial year ending June 30 2024

Income: \$4,776,443

Where our money comes from:

- Commonwealth Government and Older Persons Advocacy Network: 61%
- Tasmanian Government and other: 39%



What we spend it on:

