



**THE HON JUSTINE ELLIOT MP
MINISTER FOR AGEING**

The Hon Lara Giddings MHA
Deputy Premier
Attorney-General
Minister for Justice
Minister for Health
10th Floor
Executive Building
15 Murray Street
HOBART TAS 7000

Dear Attorney-General

As you are aware, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) is yet to consider roles and responsibilities in relation to aged care, including the future treatment of the Home and Community Care (HACC) Program. I am pleased to assure you that in the interim, current funding for HACC, and governance of the program through the existing HACC Review Agreement, will continue until COAG can consider these reforms.

Therefore, following presentation of the Australian Government Budget of 2009-10 and subject to the Appropriation Bills being passed by Parliament, I would like to offer you additional funds for the HACC Program in Tasmania for the 2009-10 financial year. In order to receive the level of Australian Government funding for the HACC Program set out in this letter, you will need to match the Australian Government's offer as detailed below.

The Australian Government continues to maintain growth in HACC funding and has, in this Budget, made provision for national real growth of six per cent. The total Australian Government provision for the HACC Program of \$1,184.959 million has been allocated among the States and Territories in accordance with the HACC funding equalisation strategy.

The offer to Tasmania for 2009-10 comprises an Australian Government contribution of \$31.314 million which is a 9.25 per cent increase over 2008-09. Cost indexation of 2.5 per cent for projects funded in 2009-10 will apply and is included in this offer. The matching requirement for Tasmania is \$23.107 million. This will result in total quantum funding for the HACC Program in Tasmania of \$54.421 million.

In the event that you agree to match this offer of growth funding, HACC administration funding available to Tasmania from program funds in 2009-10 is \$680,564.

If you are not able to agree to this offer or totally match the Australian Government contribution, surplus funds will be offered later in the financial year to those States and Territories that are able to match additional funds.

I would also like to take this opportunity to confirm the required annual contribution for the HACC Planning and Development Fund from Tasmania in 2009-10, which is \$50,000. The Department of Health and Ageing will liaise with the Department of Health and Human Services in order to progress the transfer of these funds.

Yours sincerely

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

JUSTINE ELLIOT

- 6 JUL 2009