



## CEO Reflections

We are in the midst of a battle. I know the seriousness of the word 'battle', but I am not exaggerating.

Because every day, everyday Tasmanians are at risk of having their lives utterly destroyed. Blocked, gagged, ignored and abused; our clients are run over roughshod, often at a most vulnerable point in their lives.

We are not having it. And this past year we have achieved some stellar results through deploying our arsenal of talent and hard work.

We shifted to a more media-centric approach and alerted and engaged the media to be allies.

Sue Bailey of the Sunday Tasmanian gave voice to our clients' stories. Such was the strength of her work and the horror of those stories that she won an award for public service journalism at the Tasmanian Media Awards.

ABC Radio Hobart's Leon Compton interviewed me on several occasions. His talk-back show reaches much of Tasmania. Those interviews not only informed a broader audience, but unearthed yet more stories of mistreatment by the Public Trustee and those under guardianship, this time from the listeners themselves.

This momentum then meant that Anne Connolly featured us, our work and our clients' plight on ABC Four Corners 'State Control'. She continues to highlight guardianship & administration injustices across Australia.

In parallel we employed judicious and timely use of powerful advertising to raise issue awareness. That was in print, on radio and in social media channels. This got Tasmanians talking and satisfyingly, even those from further afield.

On Facebook we shared videos and written accounts of several of our brave clients and even a client's poem, 'The Predators'; which cumulatively captured unprecedented attention, with engagement totalling 288,784 people. Our targeted campaigning reached a staggering 659,630 individuals' screens.

Indeed, Advocacy Tasmania's profile is inexorably growing from island-wide to nationwide.

We are now being directly contacted by peers in other states for advice on getting results. And sometimes, just for encouragement.

Politicians are understanding the issues and our clients' ordeals and are supporting our campaign for guardianship and administrative change, with questions asked in parliament in both Tasmania and Canberra.

But the battle for the rights of Tasmanians is far from won.

We have opened up a new battle front; gag provisions. Without transparency there is no accountability and gag provisions in guardianship continue to allow terrible truths to remain concealed. And that silence begets suffering. We are onto it and we will bring it into the light.

Meanwhile, our daily advocacy work continues unceasingly. This year we provided advocacy support to 2419 Tasmanians and conducted 965 engagement sessions reaching 9084 people.

All this achieved in the shadow of Covid restrictions, where already challenging daily advocacy support and engagement work was made more testing.

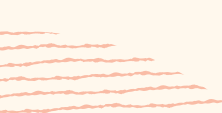
We are investing in and will continue to invest in our culture, our brand, our advocates, and the team who supports the advocates.

We are unwaveringly rights-based, action-orientated and ready to support our clients; older people, people living with disability or mental health issues and those who use alcohol and other drugs, in the way that they want to be supported. It is these Tasmanians who are bearing a disproportionate share of burdens resulting from the violations of rights.

There's much to do. The battle is far from over. But we are on the front-foot, and we will continue to charge forward until the rights of Tasmanians are respected.

I thank you for your support, it is incredibly important to me, our fabulous team and to the Tasmanians we serve.

**Leanne Groombridge**  
Chief Executive Officer

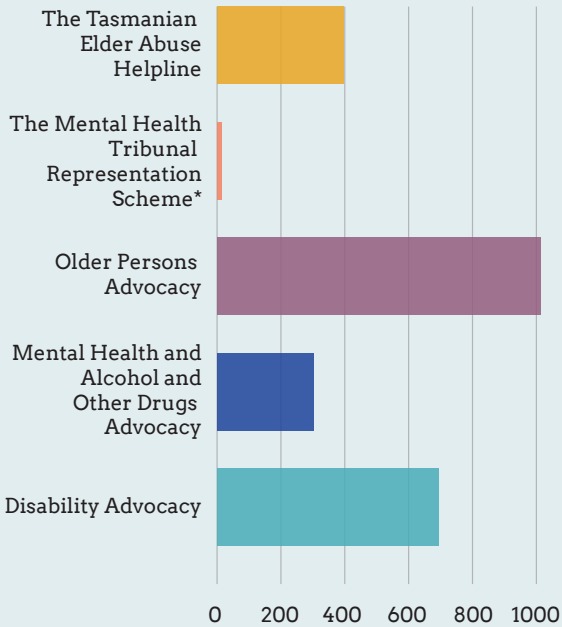


# Key Statistics

## People supported by program

Overall people supported: 2,419<sup>1</sup>

1. This is a decrease of 38% from the previous year due to a change in Tasmanian Government policy - see below\*



\*This is a decrease of 99% from the previous year due to the Tasmanian Government's decision to cease providing contact details of people listed for hearing before the Mental Health stream of TasCAT. We are working to have this decision reversed so that we can again support vulnerable Tasmanians listed for hearings.

# Engagement Snapshot



Engagement online  
**288,784**



and Reaching



**659,630**  
online

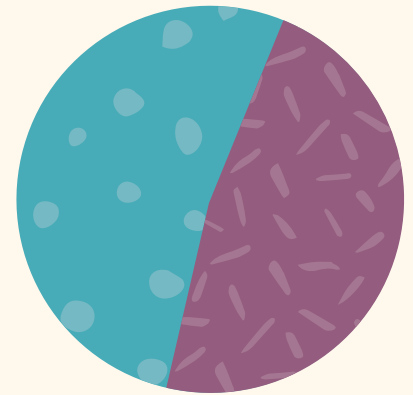
# Financial Snapshot

## Where does our money come from?

Income: \$3,592,957



**52%**  
Commonwealth Government and Older Persons Advocacy Network

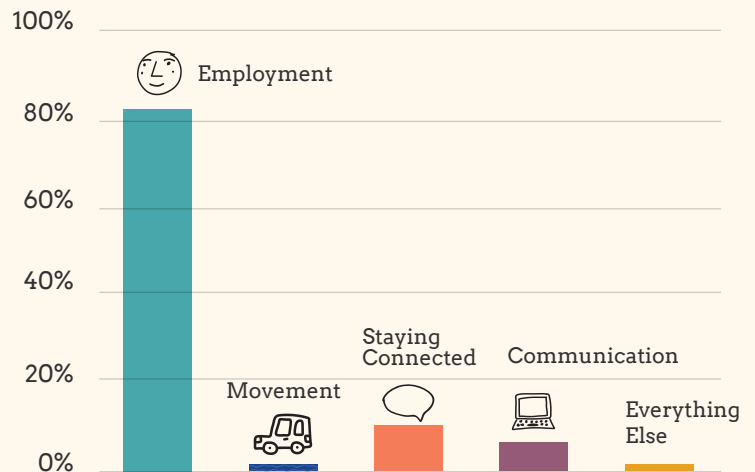


**48%**  
Tasmanian Government



## What do we spend it on?

Expenses: \$3,428,959



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Summary financial reports and audit information is available on our website

[yoursaytas.org](http://yoursaytas.org)