



Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre

Our VISION for the future

A healthy, self-determined and respected Tasmanian
Aboriginal Community

Our central PURPOSE

To improve the circumstances and pursue the rights
and interests of the Aboriginal community in Tasmania

**Annual Report
2023-2024**



CEO & Chairpersons Message

The incoming TAC Board elected last October was Graeme Gardner unopposed as Chair with Board members Annette Peardon, Michelle Purdy, Maggie Blanden, Nindarra Wheatley and Jenelle Jennings, The 3 Branch representatives on the Board were Jillian Mundy, Lynne Spotswood, and Tony Medcraft. Maggie and Nindarra resigned during the year and were replaced by Robert Arnol and Michael Beeton.

Most of the issues from the previous year were continued into this year. These included the State-based Treaty proposal, land returns, Close the Gap, repatriations, Invasion Day, business purchase proposals, environmental and Heritage protection. We were very disappointed that the Tasmanian government decided not to pursue a Treaty but were very pleased that it dropped the Minister Roger Jaensch idea to change the Aboriginal Land Council, particularly to make it easier for white people to become enrolled to vote in ALCT elections.

We continued our good record in getting government funds for community services as you will see from our audited annual financial report. Our excellent financial management continued. We ended the financial year with net assets worth over \$44.5M; income over \$24.5M including grants of over \$19M up from nearly \$17M the previous year and cash at the end of the financial year of over \$25M. Of course most of that is spent on delivering community services under grant conditions agreed with governments and other funders. Our challenge for the coming year is to get agreement for safe ways to invest and spend some of that money in ways that will benefit our community in future years.

Some of our main strategic goals were advanced during the year. We got underway with new Aboriginal training and employment programs including Aboriginal Health Worker training being delivered by our own Registered Training Organisation and skills training being developed for those unemployed or underemployed.

We expect to have another Aboriginal Health Worker training program in 2025. We have significantly expanded our ability to employ more people in land and cultural protection and continue to expand our land and sea country programs.

Connected with our expanded employment potential has been a review of our own TAC Enterprise Agreement which has been a protracted and detailed process that we hope is nearing completion. We have put in a lot of work to ensure compliance with the new child safety rules.

Again this year there were a lot of governance matters that occupied the time of the Board and staff. Just as we achieved accreditation of the Aged Home Care Packages, a further assessment was sprung on us unannounced with a few days notice and they found more deficiencies in the governance of our program. We lodged an objection to that finding which was upheld so we are very happy to say that our Home Care Package program is again fully compliant and accredited. We are lodging a complaint about how the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission handled their last assessment of our program, trying to keep the government bodies accountable.

We were able to gain continued accreditation of our health clinics and child care as well as aged care. And of course we celebrated 50 years of successful operation of our organisation. We also continued our national work in Aboriginal health, children and families, language, and suicide prevention.

We hope readers will be inspired by our achievements as outlined in these pages. We continue to expand despite the challenges and are hopeful of more major achievements in 2025.

Our success continues to be due to the dedication of our staff, Board members, and our community. Great job one and all.

**Graeme Gardner and Heather Sculthorpe
November 2024**

Strategic Priorities

- Strong, safe, resilient community
- Land, heritage and culture
- Business and economic development
- Strong, well-functioning TAC
- External profile and influence



Board of Directors

Governing Body

The Board of Directors and the number of meetings they attended are shown below

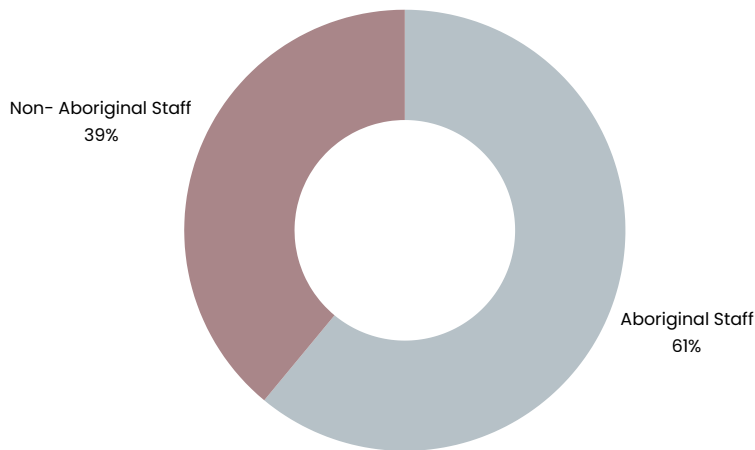
Name	Number Eligible to attend	Number attended
Graeme Gardner	7	7
Annette Peardon	7	3
Michael Beeton	3	3
Michelle Purdy	7	7
Jenelle Jennings	4	4
Maggie Blanden	4	4
Nindarra Wheatley	4	4
Tony Medcraft	7	7
Jillian Mundy	7	7
Lynne Spotswood	7	6
Lucas Maynard: To Oct 2023	3	3
Rebecca Digney: To Oct 2023	3	1

Our Staff

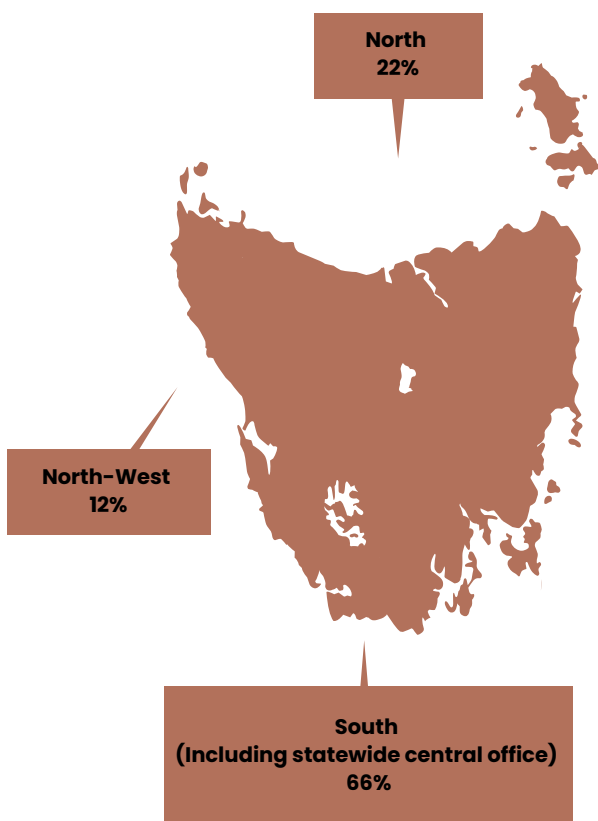


- 213 Staff across the state
- 99 Staff are part-time
- 28 Staff are casual
- 86 Staff are full-time

Percentage of Aboriginal & Non-Aboriginal Staff



Location of Staff



Health

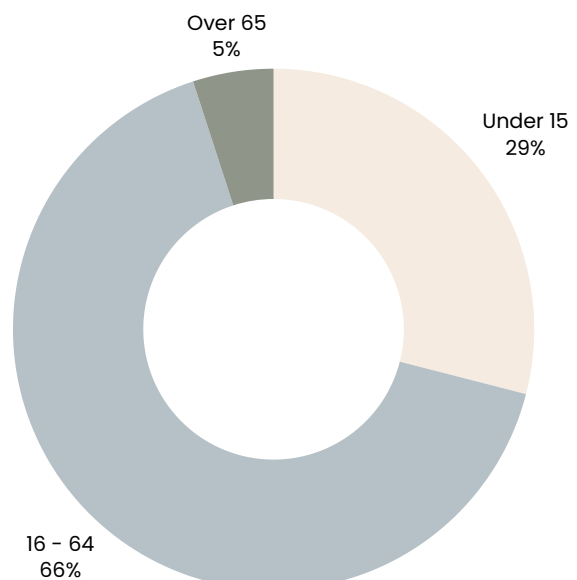
The organisation's Aboriginal Health Service (AHS) provided medical, allied health, emotional wellbeing and other community support services throughout the year.

This comprehensive range of integrated programs, services and activities provided seamless, whole of lifespan support to Aboriginal people across lutruwita/Tasmania. There were health clinics operating in niapluna/Hobart, Launceston and pataway/Burnie, as well as outreach clinics in limilinaturi/Devonport and kotalayna/Bridgewater.

There has been substantial growth in recent years across the AHS, marked by an increase in demand for services. Over the past 12 months the organisation has responded to this with an expansion of training opportunities for staff, increased recruitment and a capital upgrade for the nipaluna/Hobart AHS.

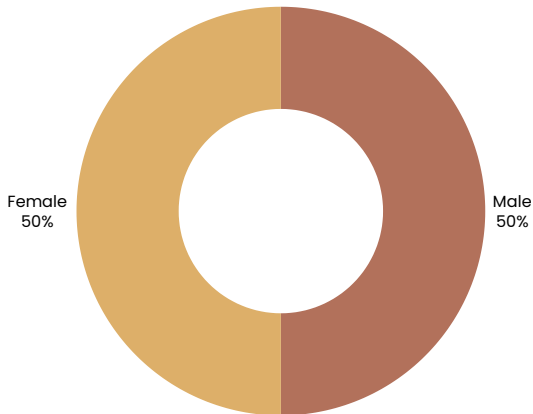
4,647 Total number of current patients
40% of patients are under 20 years of age

Current AHS Patients



Health

Gender of Current AHS Patients



22,715 GP client contacts which is a **14%** Increase

1,962 number of allied health client contacts, which is a **31%** increase

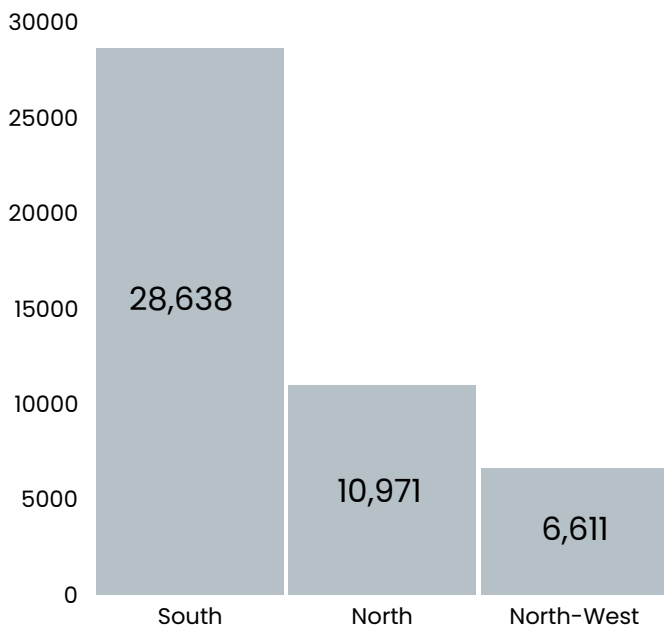
98% of children 12-72 months of age are fully immunised

89% of pregnant women receiving their first antenatal check in the first trimester

10% increase in adults between 25 and 54 years of age receiving a Health Check (Item 715)

We transported patients **5,466** times to appointments at the AHS and to see specialists

Episodes of Care by Region



48,424 number of episodes of care state-wide

An episode of care is a contact between an individual client and service, with one or more staff, to provide health care within one calendar day. All contacts on the one day are treated as one episode of care.

Integrated Team Care ITC

The Integrated Team Care (ITC) team provided care coordination to help community members who have chronic health conditions. We supported patients to access health specialists as well as provided access to resources that normally would be inaccessible due to cost or wait-list times.



303 Patients
138 Female
165 Male



662 Transports



74 new patients

Aged Care Program

Our Aged Care Program delivered home care packages to clients of the TAC across Iutruwita. An Elder Care Support Connector role was established to support clients to navigate the My Aged Care system and to access community home support services while waiting for home care package eligibility assessment and commencement.

The Aged Care Program supported **58** Aboriginal community to live independently in the community.



9,113 the total number of hours delivered to all Aged Care clients



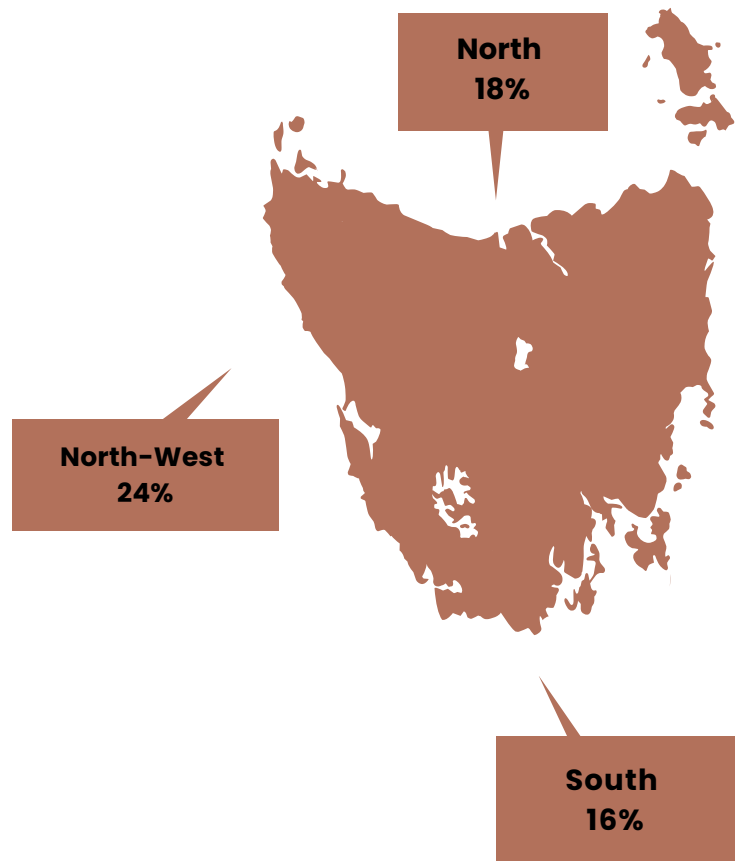
175 hours – average number of hours delivered to all Aged Care clients per week



Levels of Aged Care Packages:

Level 1 (x6)
Level 2 (x2)
Level 3 (x20)
Level 4 (x5)

Aged Care Clients



Family and Children's Program

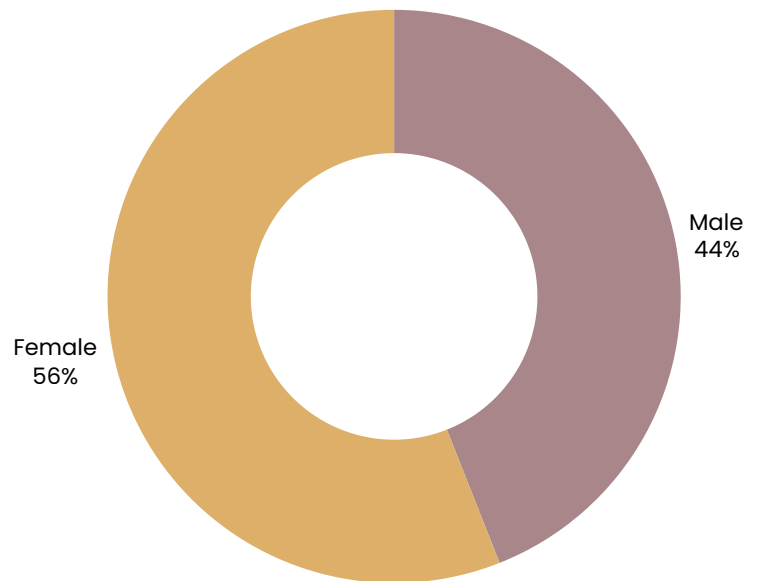
The Family and Children's Program provided support to families across a range of programs which aim to ensure that families grow up feeling empowered, self-determining and connected to country, community and culture. The Program was delivered from pataway, Launceston and nipaluna and over the last 12 months there has been a noticeable increase in demand for family support and school engagement services. In addition to the increase in demand for these services, the Family and Children's Program has identified a need for increased connection and engagement for families involved in the child protection system and this will remain an additional focus for the foreseeable future. Early intervention and advocacy will continue to be a priority for the Family and Children's Programs.



Family Support Workers worked with more than **150** families

Playgroup, Early Learning Home Visitor and Preparing for Success at School services supported **28** parents / carers of **49** children

Gender of Participants



Connected Beginnings

The Connected Beginnings Program has worked collectively in pataway, kanamaluka and kutalayna to improve school readiness for 0-5 year olds. The Program has challenged service systems that are set up to support our children and provide a greater understanding of what our children need to thrive. The Program delivers monthly kipli & kani in each region in partnership with service providers and Material Institute. Summerfest and Winterfest community events were held in pataway and kutalayna, building community strength, pride, and breaking down barriers that cause racism and stigma.

rana, payngana, paliti rrala

Our rana, payngana, paliti rrala (Strong in body, mind and spirit) Program is a program designed to meet the social, emotional and spiritual wellbeing needs of our community. Over the past year our team included qualified counsellors who provide culturally appropriate counselling services and mental health support. The organisation also had community-based workers who ensured that the community was connected and engaged in community activities.

417 Clients

46 group activities
or classes

2,980 counselling
sessions

12 community
commemorative, celebratory &
educational events

takanmuna pakana

The takamuna pakana (recreational and sporting assistance) Program continued to enable the Aboriginal community to have equitable access to sports participation in club and representative sport through the financial assistance of memberships and equipment.



7 elite athlete
(AFL, BMX, hockey,
indoor cricket & rugby)

78 Aboriginal
participants

54% of participants
were female

rrala milaythina-ti (Strong in Country) project

rrala milaythina-ti project assisted Aboriginal community members to spend time on milaythina (country) around the State. Community were provided opportunities to connect with milaythina to improve their social, emotional and spiritual wellbeing.

197 participants on **15**
strong in country trips

rrala milaythina-ti Trip Locations



Training Unit

The TAC has its own training unit, including a small Registered Training Organisation (RTO) delivering, among other qualifications, the Certificate IV in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care. Training is delivered, organised and managed across lutruwita/Tasmania for a wide range of staff undertaking accredited qualifications. Over 2023–24 these qualifications included:

- **Cert III Conservation & Ecosystem Management (x7)**
- **Cert III in Individual Support (x4)**
- **Cert IV in Aging Services (x1)**
- **Cert IV Health Administration (x2)**
- **Cert IV Human Resource Management (x1)**
- **Cert IV in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care (x10)**
- **Cert IV Leadership and Management (x4)**

There are plans to commence another Aboriginal Health Worker group in late 2024.

The Training Unit also supported the awarding of 39 Cultural Safety accredited places, and organised, tracked and recorded staff training from mandatory tickets to advanced skills training. Over 2023–24, staff training involved 264 staff places in 36 different programs.

The establishment of a sustainable Aboriginal RTO, following a number of challenges faced in recent years, has been a significant achievement. This development has greatly improved the sector's capacity to meet current and future workforce needs.

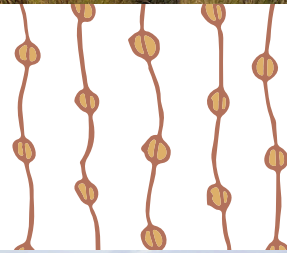
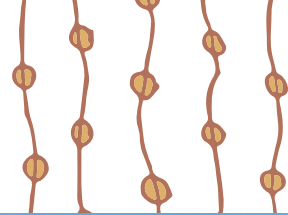
Healthy Country, caring for ancestral Country

The TAC continued to manage and protect our land and sea, for now and for the community into the future. Some of the key initiatives this year included:

- Pakana Rangers have continued to deliver the Lungtalanana Cultural Restoration Project on Clarke Island in the Furneaux.
- A community camp was set up on our new property at Dianna's Basin in NE lutruwita
- A partnership was established with State Government to survey the Preminghana Billybutton: a rare and threatened plant only found in that area.
- The annual yula/short-tailed shearwater monitoring on our returned Aboriginal lands, to inform community-led management of muttonbirding, took place.
- Cultural fire practitioner training on returned Aboriginal lands and a freediving course was delivered.
- Partnership with Tasmanian Land Conservancy and NRM South was established to install wildlife cameras at Devils Corner and Apslawn to understand the health of wildlife in these areas.

Healthy Country, caring for ancestral Country

- For the proposed Tayaritja Milaythina Muka IPA we:
- Participated in the CSIRO South-east Australian Marine Ecosystem Survey voyage learning about how climate change is impacting our seas.
- Collected and stored threatened giant kelp spores for future restoration activities (in partnership with UTas).
- Established a marine debris monitoring plan
- Produced a draft management plan for further consultation with community and stakeholders
- Commenced a partnership with University of Tasmania to map seagrass around the Furneaux Islands, to inform the development of Pakana-led seagrass monitoring
- A junior ranger program - muylatina milaythina (embrace country) - was established.
- Engagement took place with Parks Australia on the development of a management plan for the South-east Marine Parks Network which includes nine marine parks in Palawa Sea Country, to protect cultural values and establish opportunities for the Palawa community to engage in management activities.



Healthy Country, caring for ancestral Country

Land Management		
18,721 hectares of land managed	4 land management crews	12 Aboriginal rangers
Big Dog Island	trawtha makuminya	Chappell Island/ Hummocky
17.4 km tracks slashed and maintained 1 community cultural burning workshop undertaken for 30 community members Yula monitoring survey completed	Monitoring and analysis of Eucalyptus Gunnii population. Visitor amenities and services maintained and repaired. Control of Feral deer population over 90 days.	7 hectares of boxthorn removed and burnt 3 hectares of exotic grass burnt and revegetated with tussocks. Over 60 hectares of area monitored for new boxthorn growth
piyura kitina	lungtalanana	Preminghana
Rabbits controlled on heritage sites. Collection of 60 trapping nights of fauna camera data. Cultural burning undertaken to restore landscapes. Feral goats controlled over 76 hectares. Exotic weeds controlled over 50ha. Visitor asset management occurring to ensure safety and amenity.	Camera trap data collected over 168 traps nights on 70 cameras 157 hectares culturally burnt. Feral cat eradication plan finalised for implementation. 2 community cultural burning workshops undertaken for 50 community members. Island wide bird surveys undertaken. Island wide mammal surveys undertaken. Facilitated access to the Island for 100 community members. Visitor infrastructure maintained for three houses.	34ha of gorse controlled Preminghana billybutton surveys conducted 5.4 km of tracks slashed and maintained 1 km of road maintained Cultural burning undertaken to control gorse to restore landscapes 80 kg of manuka Honey production
Badger Island	Kings Run	Windsong / Little Swanport
Areas of Isolated boxthorn removed Visitor infrastructure maintained	4.2km of tracks slashed and maintained Visitor infrastructure maintained.	3 ha of gorse controlled
Babel Island	putalina	Diana's Basin
Yula monitoring survey completed Over 100 tussocks planted in areas to prevent erosion	Track maintenance over 500m of tracks Asset protection to ensure visitor safety and comfort. Significant cultural sites protected.	Development of community camp facilities and services. Removal of Spanish heath along 200m of coastline. Cultural burning undertaken to protect campsites and community spaces.
Sea Country		
Proposed Tayaritja Milaythina Muka Indigenous Protected Area 1,290,800 hectares of sea, islands and coasts	1 Pakana Sea Country Ranger Crew	3 Aboriginal Rangers
Barge purchased to support operations. 3 vessels maintained to AMSA survey standards 4 fee for service barge charters completed	A Freedive course for 7 Palawa community members Mapped seagrass over 110,707 hectares	

Palawa Kani

Our language team continued reviving our language, passing the knowledge and skills to Aboriginal community members of all ages, and encouraging mainstream use of palawa kani place names across Lutruwita.

Over **600** people from preschool age to Elders participated in palawa kani language activities across the State, including Truwana/ Cape Barren Island

Now **270** palawa kani placenames accessible to public on interactive webmap

1 large wall mural community project showcasing our language, history and culture to celebrate International Decade of Indigenous Languages

2 editions of wordlists of new words revived since the 2019 Dictionary freely available to all Aborigines

45 TAC Staff + **19** workers in **5** other Aboriginal organisations trained in palawa kani

Palawa Kipli

After four years of operation Palawa Kipli has become a successful palawa food and tour company and was in higher demand than ever before with approximately 400 catered events and bush tucker tours delivered over the 12-month period. Over this last year palawa kipli has been showcased in national tv shows such as The Cook Up with Adam Liaw on SBS food, Playschool on ABC iView and Left off the MAP on 7plus.

With the team expanding, including a newly appointed cook, we are certain the business will continue to be financially successful moving forward and to take on bigger events, groups and capacity into the future.

Closing the Gap

The TAC represents the Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations (Coalition of Peaks), working in partnership with the Tasmanian Government to implement the National Agreement on Closing the Gap in Tasmania. Priorities for the last year have been the development of a new Tasmanian Closing the Gap Implementation Plan and the establishment of a formal agreement between the partners, including governance structures that support self-determination through shared decision making.

The Palawa Children's Future Project

In June 2023, the Tasmanian Government funded TAC to develop models for transferring responsibility and control of Aboriginal children and youth in lutruwita/Tasmania to the palawa community. Implementation of these models will be part of progressive system transformation that has Aboriginal self-determination at the center.

An evidence based and community-led Strategy and Action Plan will be provided to the State Government in December 2024.

Partnerships

- ABC Hobart – many program presenters
- Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania (ALCT)
- Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Council, Tasmanian (ATDC)
- ARC Centre of Excellence for Biodiversity and Heritage
- Australian Marine Science Association
- Australian National University
- Bob Brown Foundation
- Burnet Institute
- Cancer Australia
- Commissioner for Children, Tasmania
- Constance ARI
- CREATE Foundation
- Elsie Cameron Foundation
- Engender Equality
- Firesticks Alliance
- Material Institute Lutruwita
- Move Media
- National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO).
- NRM North
- NRM South
- Outcome Health
- Pat Turner – National Coalition of Peak Organisations on Closing the Gap
- Performing Lines Tasmania
- Primary Health Tasmania
- Salvation Army Bridge Program
- Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC)
- Tangaroa Blue Foundation (marine debris)
- Tasmanian council of social Services (TasCOSS)
- Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC)
- Tasmanian Wilderness Society (TWS)
- Tenants Union
- Terrapin Puppet Theatre
- Theatre Royal
- Tjaltjraak Native Title Corp Rangers
- Tuylupa Tunapri
- University of Tasmania
- Vica Bailey
- Women’s Legal Service
- World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Australia

Financial Report 23-24

Income and Expenditure Statement

Income	
Grants	19,038,797
Gain on the Disposal of Assets	0
Fees & Other Income	4,538,213
Interest	1,031,260
Total Income	\$24,608,270

Expenditure	
Salaries and Employment Costs	15,463,778
Travel	736,877
Vehicle Costs	532,193
Resources, Materials, Supplies	1,766,443
Professional & Consultancy Costs	1,408,472
Miscellaneous Program Expenses	92,247
Utilities	832,610
Repairs & Maintenance	292,459
Insurances	234,006
Depreciation for the Year	387,952
Loss on Revaluation of Assets	75,405
Interest Expense	25,101
Total Expenditure	\$21,847,543

Asset Revaluation Reserve Movement	
Revaluation Increments	3,738,865
Revaluation Decrements	(49,545)
Total Asset Revaluation Reserve Movement	3,689,320
Total Comprehensive Income	\$6,450,047

Balance Sheet

Assets	
Current Assets	25,757,534
Non-current Assets	27,358,045
Total Assets	\$53,115,580

Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	7,737,619
Non-current Liabilities	866,218
Total Liabilities	\$8,603,837

