

Tasmanian Facts and Figures on Disability

(as at February 2009)

There are approximately 111,700 people, or 23.5% of the population, living with a disability in Tasmania (ABS, 2004). Of these, 37,100 people (7.8%) have a profound or severe core activity limitation and 22,900 people (4.8%) require assistance with self-care, mobility, communication or coping with everyday life.¹ Together with South Australia, the State has the highest proportion of people with disabilities in Australia.

In Tasmania 24,824 people are reliant on the Disability Support Pension (DSP) which means they are living on a low income. In addition social factors like the accessibility of the physical environment, the availability of transport, barriers to accessing specialist disability and generic services and discrimination deepen the disadvantage that people face and severely limit their participation.²

Tasmanian Government Statistics

In 2007 it was reported that there were approximately 22,100 Tasmanians under the age of 65 had a profound or severe disability. This group is the primary target group for specialist disability services.³ However, the Department of Health and Human Services only provides services to 5,733 Tasmanians (or 26%) of the target group.⁴ To provide these services, the NGO sector receives \$71.1 million and the Government \$27.8 million.

As at September 2007 there were substantive waiting lists for disability services with over 490 people waiting for the following service types:

- **299 people waiting for Individual Support Packages (ISPs);**
- **107 people waiting for day services; and**
- **31 people requiring long term supported accommodation options⁵**

¹ ABS. Cat no 4430.0 Disability Ageing and Carers. (2004) ² My Life as a Budget Item: Disability, budget priorities and poverty in Tasmania Teresa Hinton. Social Action and Research Centre. Anglicare Tasmania. Oct 2006 ³ DHHS Tasmania – Review of Tasmanian disability services. KPMG. June 2008. (p16) ⁴ DHHS Tasmania – Review of Tasmanian disability services. KPMG. June 2008. (p21) ⁵ DHHS Tasmania – Review of Tasmanian disability services. KPMG. June 2008. (p19)