

Briefing Note: Cost of Living (Energy)

20 October 2017

Background

	Parenting Payment Partnered	Parenting Payment Single	Disability Support Pension	Newstart Allowance	Youth Allowance (other)	Youth Allowance (student and apprentice)	Total
TAS	2,844	7,250	27,317	21,437	3,607	4,287	66,742
Source: DSS Demographic Data, March 2017 ¹²							

Other measures of poverty

- 16,038 families with children (under 16) living on less than \$37,378 per year in Tasmania (the indexed-to-2016 Henderson poverty line for a single parent family with two children (PHIDU).
- 21,500 Tasmanian households (10.2%) could not pay an electricity, gas, or phone bill on time in the past year (2015-16 ABS Household Expenditure Survey). This is higher than the nationwide rate.

Income scenarios

- A single parent of two children = \$35,041 (not working; the youngest who is 5 or younger and the oldest 12 or younger, not including rent assistance, and max PPS and FTB part A and B).
- A couple with two children = \$41,048 (the youngest 5 or younger and the oldest 12 or younger, both out-of-work, one on parenting payment partnered and the other on Newstart, not including rent assistance, max PPP, Newstart, and FTB part A and B).
- A single = \$14,047 (Newstart, not-in-work, not including rent assistance).

¹The figure for Newstart will include many people with disabilities who have been shifted off the DSP, and single parents whose youngest child has turned 8, and partnered parents whose youngest child has turned 6.

² In all instances, these administrative numbers include people on a 'zero rate' due to earnings, who are in the grace period before payment enrolment is cancelled.

