



Media release
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Community Central forced to close its doors

Colony 47 has been forced to close its Community Central program, which provides day and night services to Tasmanian families and individuals, through mental health rehabilitation that focuses on recovery.

Community Central, located in Murray Street, has been providing meals, referrals and other social opportunities to people in the Hobart area for more than 30 years.

The program services around 20 clients per day and employs one full-time staff member, five part-timers and three casual employees.

Colony 47 CEO Therese Taylor said sadly the service had been running at a significant loss for some time and while amendments had been made to try to make the program more viable, it was still running at a \$90k deficit.

“The changing political and economic climate in Tasmania has meant a significant increase in the demand for all Colony 47 services this year, with notable increases in housing, mental health and family counselling services,” Ms Taylor said.

“These changes in the political environment at both the federal and state level have had a significant impact on the sector as a whole, which is so heavily reliant on government funds for service delivery.

“Funding shortfalls are endemic across the sector and we hope that this devastating loss will send a clear message to both government and the community that these types of programs need funding and donations in order to survive.”

Ms Taylor said the Board at Colony 47 had undertaken lengthy negotiations with the State Government in an attempt to secure additional funding and avoid closure, but unfortunately these had not been successful.

“In order for the service to run as a recovery model within the CBD, which would fit the requirements for government funding, it would independently need to find an additional \$150k annually, which is simply not a realistic option for Colony 47,” she said.

“As a result of these deliberations, we have made the difficult decision to close the service by the end of May.

“This has not been an easy decision, but we have made it because we believe it is the only option we have to secure the sustainable running of our services and programs.”

Ms Taylor said staff, volunteers and clients of the Community Central program had been notified and management was talking to individuals about their employment options.

“We are truly sad to be closing our doors on such a long-standing service in the Tasmanian community, and we are working with our staff, volunteers and clients to support them through the process, which we appreciate, will be hard for many of them,” she said.

Colony 47 is a leader in the provision of a whole-of-community approach to social inclusion, education, support and the creation of opportunities as well as stable and safe accommodation for those in need.

The organisation continues to deliver quality, targeted services to marginalised members of the Tasmanian community through an integrated network of over 26 programs.

Community Central is funded by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) through Mental Health Services and Community Participation programs.

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