

27 August 2025



Dear Students and Families,

DECYP Student Residences Update

I am writing to let you know about changes to the Department for Education, Children and Young People student residence operations in Burnie, Launceston and Hobart.

The department has completed an extensive review of student residence operations. This included surveying and feedback from families, students and other stakeholders. Thank you to all the stakeholders that provided feedback.

Staffing Model for 2026 onwards

To strengthen student supervision and well-being supports, each student residence will work under an improved staffing model from the start of the 2026 Tasmanian school year for colleges. For statewide consistency, each facility will include:

- Operations Manager – responsible for the overall oversight and management of the student residence,
- Youth Worker – responsible for leading resident student wellbeing support. They will also work with the student's college on required supports, including connecting with teachers, senior staff and professional support staff,
- Supervisors – responsible for the supervision of all students in residence, including morning and evening check-ins,
- Tutors – study and assignment support for students.

Student Residences Framework

As part of a holistic improvement plan, the student residence team will be implementing additional requirements to bolster supports for students in residence including:

- Ensuring DECYP achieves accreditation to the Boarding Standard in Australian Schools and Residences,
- Maintains membership of the Australian Boarding Schools Association, including access to contemporary professional learning for staff,
- Adoption of a new suite of contemporary student residence policies, procedures and guidelines,

- Procurement and implementation of a Boarding Management System, which provides a single point of communication and check-ins with students and families,
- Additional risk management and safeguarding planning.

Facility Upgrades

Students and Families will also observe improvements to the facilities at each student residence over time, as DECYP seeks to invest in contemporary student residences. After independent assessment of each facility, priority work will start at Hellyer and Hobart residences as soon as possible. The financial investment for these important upgrades is significant and will benefit regional and remote students attending a college into the future.

Subject to confirmation, the building upgrades are likely to make more room at the Hellyer and Newstead Student Residences. When complete, this will also help to reduce the current waiting lists.

Catering

The Hellyer Student Residence is the only facility that currently provides a catered service for students. The Department is pleased to confirm that, in response to stakeholder feedback, the Newstead and Hobart residences will also move to a catered service, with the timing of these changes to be confirmed and communicated with students and families when practicable. The intention is for this change to provide better support for the resident students by ensuring they are meeting their nutritional needs to support their studies and general wellbeing.

Admissions and Fee Structures

Based on the survey results from students and families, changes to admissions processes will be occurring. These include:

- the introduction of panels to assess all applications,
- and the requirement for further transitional planning information to be provided by the student's district school.

In accordance with supporting a statewide service delivery model, student residence fees will also be changing to ensure they are uniform from the beginning of 2026. To support students and families, fees will only increase in alignment with the Assistance for Isolated Children Scheme paid by Services Australia. The 2026 fee structure will be:

- 5-day boarding – 85% of the base level – Assistance for Isolated Children Scheme allowance,
- 7-day boarding – 90% of the base level – Assistance for Isolated Children Scheme allowance.

Fees will need to be paid directly from Services Australia to DECYP and any surplus will be transferred to the family/student account. Families can contact their student residence to discuss any hardship or other capacity to pay issues.

DECYP is fully committed to supporting regional communities to continue to access safe and contemporary student accommodation for Years 11 and 12 students. It is also committed to improving the services and supports available to students while they are living in a residence away from home.

If you have any questions or concerns about DECYP's student residences or the information provided above, please contact Stuart Wright, Manager Statewide Student Residences on 03 6165 6466 or studentresidences@decyp.tas.gov.au in the first instance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam Clifford'.

Adam Clifford
Director, Operations

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Wright'.

Stuart Wright
Manager Statewide Student Residences