

MEDIA RELEASE – Monday, 15 June 2026

Auditor-General finds Tasmanian Government Departments still have a way to go to appropriately manage gifts, benefits and hospitality

Failure to appropriately manage gifts, benefits and hospitality (GB&H) may compromise personal integrity and undermine trust in public organisations. This is particularly significant at a time of declining community confidence in government.

The Auditor-General reviewed whether Tasmanian Government Departments (agencies) transparently mitigated the risk of actual, perceived or potential conflicts of interest through effective management of GB&H.

Mr Thompson said, “Despite more than a decade of reviews and policy changes relating to the management of GB&H, the audited agencies were, overall, still not meeting expectations. There is a tendency for some employees – particularly those in senior management – to accept GB&H.”

Mr Thompson noted that while there may be legitimate business reasons for these employees to attend certain events, the frequency and high value of some GB&H accepted are inconsistent with the central principle of the 2016 whole-of-government *Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy* whose underlying message is that, in most situations, ‘thanks’ is enough.

Since 2015, the Integrity Commission has reviewed the management of GB&H twice, with each investigation resulting in the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) updating the whole-of-government GB&H policy (the Policy). DPAC published the latest version of the Policy in January 2026.

The review focused on the financial year 2024-25, before the implementation of the new 2026 Policy. However, we reviewed the new policy after it was published and included our findings in the report.

Mr Thompson provided recommendations to agencies and to the Head of the State Service to ensure that agencies improve management of conflicts of interest for GB&H.

Click on this [link to read the Report](#).

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