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St Giles donors hit by Budget and a biting NDIS

The St Giles Society in Hobart and Launceston has seen a 40 per cent drop in donations for its mid-year appeal.

“We believe the hundreds of mums and dads who usually donate to St Giles are those who will be negatively impacted by the recent Federal Budget,” St Giles Fundraising manager Danielle Blewett said.

“And, a year into the trial of the NDIS, therapy service funding gaps are being exposed between State and Federal financial responsibility. This, combined with the community's fear after the recent Federal Budget, means St Giles is walking across a financial mine field,” she said.

“Families who will struggle to find the \$7 Medicare co-payment, working families, people on a disability pension and single parents are a large proportion of the people who use our service.

“Many of these Tasmanians usually find a way to donate to St Giles within their means.

“Our donors are historically large numbers of people making small, affordable donations of say, \$10 to \$20. They have almost vanished.”

St Giles Mid-Year Appeal was launched on May 25 and closes on June 30. The Appeal target is \$70,000 of which \$15,000 has been raised so far.

The Appeal partly funds a \$1 million-plus shortfall in the cost of providing children's disability and therapy services in Hobart and Launceston.

“We pride ourselves in our prudent and sustainable delivery of high quality children's therapy and disability respite,” Ms Blewett said.

“Without adequate funding our waiting lists grow.”

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