



MEDIA RELEASE - April 30, 2026 - For immediate release

COTA Tasmania welcomes COTA Tasmania welcomes free wills initiative for Tasmanians

COTA Tasmania has welcomed the Public Trustee's announcement that it will offer free will preparation for Tasmanians who book an appointment during May, describing it as a practical and timely initiative that will help people plan for the future while easing cost-of-living pressures.

The Public Trustee has announced that the offer will be available statewide, covering appointments booked during May for both May and June, with appointments available through offices in Hobart, Launceston, Devonport, and Burnie, as well as by phone or video call.

Brigid Wilkinson, COTA Tasmania CEO, said the initiative would remove a real barrier for many Tasmanians.

"Making a will is one of those important life admin tasks that many people know they should do, but often put off," Ms Wilkinson said.

"For some people, it feels too difficult, too confronting, or simply too expensive - particularly at a time when household budgets are under real pressure.

"This free wills initiative is a practical way to help Tasmanians take an important step to protect their wishes, reduce uncertainty, and make things easier for the people they care about."

The Public Trustee has noted that around half of Tasmanians die without a valid will, which can leave families facing legal processes, costs, and uncertainty.

COTA Tasmania works closely with the Public Trustee and said the initiative was especially important for older Tasmanians, but should be considered by adults of all ages.

"A valid will gives people a say in what happens to their estate, their personal possessions, and the things that matter to them," Ms Wilkinson said. "It can also reduce stress, confusion, and potential conflict for families at what is already a very difficult time.

"None of us likes to think about these things, but planning ahead is an act of care - for ourselves, for our families, and for the people who may one day need to make decisions after we are gone."

Ms Wilkinson said COTA Tasmania regularly receives enquiries about how to navigate the processes involved in creating Wills and Powers of Attorney, as well as concerns around costs to obtain these.

“We congratulate the Public Trustee on this initiative and encourage Tasmanians to take advantage of this opportunity. This is exactly the kind of simple, practical support that can make a real difference,” she said.

To book an appointment, visit www.publictrustee.tas.gov.au or call **1800 068 784**.

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