



MEDIA RELEASE

***Just Moving On* gets moving Program Launch**

Tuesday 30 March, 11:00am, Parliament Lawns

Connect 42 today celebrated the official launch of *Just Moving On*, a through-care program to support people exiting prison to reconnect with family and build the literacy and life skills for education and employment.

Funded by the Tasmanian Community Fund and Connect 42, *Just Moving On* will be delivered in partnership with the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry to around 15 recently returned citizens.

Connect42 Founder and 2017 Tasmanian Australian of the Year, Rosalie Martin said the program would support around 15 recently returned citizens and up to 150 Tasmanians to develop pro-social skills in language, literacy and relationships - for themselves, their children and those others whom they influence.

“Our aim is that by supporting the language and relationship skills to reconnect with community, we can support our participants to also take these skills into new and productive opportunities for employment.

“These are mums and dads who have asked us to teach them to read. They want to share books with their children. We want to give people the language that allows them to speak out, rather than act out, because everyone deserves a chance to change,” said Ms Martin.

Working in partnership with the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce, the program will allow well-delivered *through-care* which will reduce re-offending, support pro-social reintegration to community and deliver stronger, safer, more connected communities.

TCCI Chief Operating Officer, Colleen Reardon said the program is a step in the right direction to keep people out of prison and support them into employment.

“TCCI is pleased to be a part of this program assisting participants transition to work, education and training. We look forward to working with our networks to remove barriers for people with criminal convictions allowing them to engage in meaningful work and give back to their communities.”

We will be working with employers to support participants, we are keen to facilitate these relationships, change attitudes and create opportunities for work and training.”

Tasmanian Community Fund Chair, Sally Darke said that the program fits well with the strategic direction of the Fund, with community wellbeing and workforce engagement a central focus.

“The Fund has always transitioned to meet community needs and our board believe that *Just Moving On* is a fine example of a project that collaborates across organisations to meet the needs of our people.”

“This is a \$400,000 investment in a model that we hope will support people exiting prison to remain part of our community.

“With the TCF support, our TCCI partnership and the support of the Tasmania Prison Service, we have an opportunity to prevent crime and improve community safety and promote wellbeing. This is about every Tasmanian having choice and a voice and being seen and supported regardless of their lived past or perceived future,” said Ms Martin.