

Cost of living bedding down

Elena Couper

With the mounting pressure of the cost of living crisis, many Australians have noticed their sex lives have been impacted.

New research from Afterpay has found increasing financial pressures have led 16 per cent of Aussies to have a lower desire for physical intimacy, while one in seven report higher tension with their partner.

Sexologist Chantelle Otten said external pressures, such as higher costs, can be a "major passion-killer".

With that in mind, Ms Otten said there are many ways to spice it up in the bedroom without breaking the bank.

"While financial worries can intrude on our intimate lives, there are numerous ways to maintain, or even rekindle, that spark without weighing on the wallet," she said.

"Sex is a powerful stress reliever and a fantastic way to enhance your closeness — both emotionally and physically."

Budget constraints often push people to think outside of the box, finding simple but effective ways to add something extra special to the experience.

Otten recommends going back to basics — dimming the lights, turning on some music and using silk scarfs or ice cubes for some sensory play.

This is backed up by Afterpay's research, finding 17 per cent of Aussies like setting the mood with lighting and music, or by incorporating toys for her.

Open communication is key to helping partners feel close to each other, allowing each individual to share their desires, fantasies and boundaries.

The same can be said for tackling external stressors in the relationship, such as financial concerns, with a mutual deep understanding of each other's needs helping to bring couples closer together.

Ms Otten says surprises and novelty can also help to shake things up, adding some excitement to the relationship by breaking routine.

Ms Otten also says romantic gestures like preparing a meal together or having some spa time can release tension and help set the right mood.

"An enriching sex life doesn't necessarily equate to an expensive one," she said.



Incat strategic adviser Peter Gutwein, apprentices Sarah Thomson and Carys Lavia, Senator Jacqui Lambie, Incat chairman Robert Clifford and apprentices Joel Bresnehan and Adrian Sheldrick above Wilsons dock at Incat. Picture: Linda Higginson

'Growth mode': Incat needs 200 new staff

Alex Treacy

Hobart ferry builder Incat has announced it plans to hire an extra 200 employees as it enters "growth mode" in advance of November's Interferry conference, which will see hundreds of industry heavyweights descend on the city.

Apprentices are expected to play a key role in the expansion, with 15 new apprentices starting July 26 and another 15 set to be taken on in January 2024, Incat founder and chairman Robert Clifford said.

Once the January batch come aboard, the company will have about 70 apprentices on the books, in trades as diverse as mechanical, electrical, fabrication and welding.

That is in addition to 25 apprentices who have just completed their qualifications, becoming fully fledged members of a workforce that currently stands at about 430 employees.



A 130m ship under construction by Incat. Picture: Linda Higginson

rently stands at about 430 employees.

"The company is in growth mode. We have exciting plans ahead and there has never been a better time for young men and women who want to help us build the most environmentally friendly ships in the world gain a job and the skills they need in this fast paced environment," Mr Clifford said.

It's not just the next generation of tradies Incat is looking

to welcome into the fold.

"We are already increasing our workforce and have just finalised plans for the recruitment of at least another 200 employees over the next 12 months with the expectation that our workforce will more than double in coming years," Mr Clifford said.

He said he expected Incat's opportunity to crystallise in November, when Hobart hosts the 47th Interferry conference,

featuring 400 industry heavyweights from across the world. Delegates will have the chance to see Incat's groundbreaking aluminium-hulled battery-electric ferry, due for completion in 2025 for South American client Buquebus.

Once complete, it would be the world's largest battery-electric, lightweight ferry, able to hold 2100 passengers and more than 200 vehicles as it plies the River Plate between Argentina and Uruguay.

"The opportunity ahead of us is unbelievable. Electric ships are going to take over our section of the market," Mr Clifford said.

Incat strategic adviser Peter Gutwein, Tasmania's 46th premier, said there was "massive" global interest in the company's unique offering.

"Robert has spent lots of time overseas dealing with various ferry owners interest-

ed in moving from steel (hulled) to aluminium," Mr Gutwein said.

Incat is in negotiations with a customer in Malta and another operating the English Channel for battery-electric ferries along the lines of the one under construction.

Blackmans Bay apprentice Carys Lavia, 17, halfway through a Cert III in engineering with Incat, said she had steadily upskilled throughout her time with the shipbuilder.

"I knew I wanted to do something hands-on because I can't sit still. I was just browsing one day and saw the Incat apprenticeship and thought 'just go for it'," she said.

Tasmanian Senator Jacqui Lambie said the Interferry conference, which will run from November 4-8, was an opportunity for Tasmania to "lead from the front foot".

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Two hurt in tree crash

A driver and passenger were flown to hospital with serious injuries after the car they were travelling in hit a tree on the Tasman Highway.

Police and emergency services responded to the serious single-vehicle crash on the Tasman Highway, north of Triabunna, just before 10am on Monday.

A white dual-cab ute was found to have left the roadway and crashed into a

tree while travelling south near Hermitage Rd.

The driver and one passenger were treated for serious injuries at the scene by paramedics, before they were flown to the Royal Hobart Hospital by the Westpac Rescue Helicopter.

Three other passengers were treated for non-serious injuries at the scene.

The Tasman Highway was closed for almost five hours.

New review for Battery Point walkway

Judy Augustine

The Hobart City Council will reinvestigate the possibility of building a walkway from Battery Point to Sandy Bay, and whether one could be built which addresses the concerns of residents.

In 2014, stage one of the walkway was approved by the Hobart City Council, but after a successful appeal, it did not go ahead.

The proposal was discussed by the Hobart City Council on Monday, with Cr Mike Dutta suggesting the council investigate the feasibility of a walkway along the foreshore, determine preliminary costs and consult with Battery Point residents.

He suggested the council allocate \$100,000 for this work.

Mr Dutta said a new design should address concerns which resulted in it being appealed.

Cr Ryan Posselt said there were many who wanted to see the project come to fruition.

"The fact it's come back and there's so much community interest in it really reflects the importance of this project to the broader community," Mr Posselt said.

Ald Marti Zucco did not believe the finances of the investigation work stacked up.

"I've got no problem with wanting to [look at this] down

the track, but show me the money," he said.

Mr Dutta said the council would seek government funding for the construction phase.

"No doubt we all are concerned when it comes to money," he said.

"The question we are asking is: on the basis of the refusal, is it feasible for us to come up with another ... design that will resolve those issues. If it does we are on the right track."