



our island our voices



2010 Tasmanian State Election How do the Parties Compare?

Prepared by TasCOSS

Last updated 17 March 2010

Education - Supporting Tasmania's disengaged Students to improve Tasmania's retention rates.

What did we ask for?

- Doubling the funding for disadvantaged schools through the 'Raising the Bar Closing the Gap' initiative
- Funding increased access to a affordable and appropriate accommodation and transport for students living in remote, regional and urban fringe areas
- Investing in evidence-based programs to enable schools to provide supportive school environments
- Funding a mandatory state-wide program to tackle bullying
- Increased support for at-risk students.

| Labor | Liberals | Tasmanian Greens | TasCOSS analysis |
|--|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$76.1 million over 3 years to build up to 30 Child and Family Centres ▪ \$12 million over 4 years to extend Raising the Bar Closing the Gap to government secondary schools. ▪ Expanding student hostel accommodation provided for rural and remote students ▪ \$17.5 million to develop five LINCS (Learning and Information Network Centres) ▪ \$8 million over 4 years to support anti-bullying initiatives by schools and the employment of up to 12 more psychologists ▪ \$1.6 million increase support to trainees who must travel from home to train ▪ \$18 million to transform Cosgrove High School into specialist sports school ▪ \$6.5 million over four years to high schools to support students at risk of becoming disengaged ▪ \$1.56 million extra over four years for Catholic and Independent schools to assist their programs for special needs children | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$2.5 million per year into Pathway Planning for Tasmanian high school students ▪ An additional \$1.3 million for the A-Team model program for a three year trial. ▪ An additional 6 weeks employment for teacher aides and support staff per annum ▪ Reforms to Tasmania <i>Tomorrow</i>, with expected savings of \$1 million per annum ▪ An additional \$12 million (\$4 million per year) for high schools ▪ Expand rural/regional High School educational responsibility to Year 12 ▪ Renewing Our High Schools Capital Works Fund of \$8 million over four years ▪ \$650,000 per year for three years for additional teacher professional development ▪ Extra \$930,000 a year for special schools ▪ \$1 million capital assistance fund boost to non-government schools. ▪ Abolition of school levies in all Tasmanian primary schools | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$46 million package to deliver two key priority education infrastructure programs: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) A \$36 million program to build and/or retrofit seven new Dedicated Learning Centres for disruptive and/or disengaged students; and, ii) A \$10 million program to conduct an audit of asbestos in public schools, identify priority removal sites and provide targeted funding for removal, and identify and fund priority school infrastructure upgrades. ▪ \$8.5 million over three years to implement the 'Apple-A-Day' state-wide program promoting nutrition in Tasmanian schools. ▪ Recurrent funding of \$140,000 annually for the continuation of the 'A-Team' program for three years ▪ Reinstating TAFE and Colleges ▪ \$18 million over 3 years for 50 pathway planners and 12 psychologists ▪ \$9.9 extra for early years education ▪ End unpaid stand-down for teaching support staff | <p><i>Positive policy responses from all three parties.</i></p> <p><i>It is clear all parties recognise that the problems with Tasmania's poor retention rates start much earlier than just those students that start dropping out after year 10.</i></p> <p><i>All parties have committed to investing significantly more money to support students that are at-risk of disengaging from education at the primary and high school levels.</i></p> <p><i>All parties have also committed to improving education in regional and rural services and additional support to students with special needs.</i></p> <p><i>Labor's additional funding for the successful "Raising the Bar, Closing the Gap" initiative is welcome, as is the Liberals and Greens commitment to Pathway Planners</i></p> |

Mental Health -Supporting Tasmanians living with a mental illness.

What did we ask for?

- Provide more funding to both government and non-government mental health services for the employment of additional support workers and specialist services
- Funding for a social marketing strategy to address stigma and discrimination associated with mental illness in the Tasmanian community
- Support for a pilot program to enable the community to establish partnerships with Tasmanian employers and industry groups to encourage and support employers and workplaces to employ Tasmanians with a mental illness
- Increasing access for mental health consumers to supported accommodation, recovery and rehabilitation programs and to mainstream education and training opportunities including the Tasmanian Polytechnic

| Labor | Liberals | Tasmanian Greens | TasCOSS analysis |
|---|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No Policy Announcements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expecting an announcement before election. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$1.21 million over three years to fund three new mental health advocacy positions ▪ Extra resourcing for suicide prevention programs ▪ Reform of <i>Mental Health Act 1996</i> as an immediate legislative priority of the new Parliament | <p><i>Liberals policy expected in final days of election campaign</i></p> <p><i>Extremely disappointing Labor Party has not announced anything in relation to mental health.</i></p> <p><i>Greens commitments to fund mental health advocacy positions is positive but not a broad agenda and does nothing to address current levels of unmet need,</i></p> |

Public Transport – Building a 21st century Public Transport system in Tasmania

What did we ask for?

- Allocate \$100 million over 5 years to establish a public transport fund to:
 - i) improving Tasmania’s mass transit system
 - ii) supporting practical community based public transport solutions
 - iii) making Tasmania’s public transport system more user friendly
 - iv) a strategic approach to planning Tasmania’s public transport system

| Labor | Liberals | Tasmanian Greens | TasCOSS analysis |
|---|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$7 million over 4 years for regional and rural bus operators to expand services ▪ \$16 million over 4 years to: develop a network of park and ride facilities; improved customer information (including a journey planner and downloading of timetables to mobile phones); a trial of Service Officers on buses; CCTV on buses; work on bus priority and bus pre-emption at traffic lights to shorten travel times; purchasing new buses and a potential trial of hybrid buses; an upgrade of off-road infrastructure, including new bus shelters, reflective signs and the trial of bikes on buses; investigating the expansion of Greencard ticketing. ▪ Light rail optimisation study | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Audit of existing services to identify opportunities for efficiencies, gaps and needs ▪ Commitment that Infrastructure Tasmania will consult all stakeholders on passenger transport investment needs ▪ The establishment of a dedicated passenger transport fund, which will fund identified needs and be in a position to leverage Commonwealth investment opportunities ▪ Free student fares for any service at any time of day during the week ▪ Commitment to electronic ticketing ▪ Light rail optimisation study | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$15 million over 3 years for free bus travel for all Tasmanian students ▪ \$8 million over 4 years for an Eastern Shore Mini-Metro Flexibus Plan to deliver 4 minibuses and drivers ▪ New road developments and upgrades should include cycle lanes ▪ Light rail optimisation study ▪ Commitment to prioritise lobbying Federal government for construction funds for proposed \$60 million light rail ▪ Lobby Federal government to assist in establishing light rail to link population centers along the North West coast ▪ \$1.5 million over three years to develop and implement a comprehensive i-bus timetable and ticketing system that includes both public and private operators ▪ \$500,000 to develop an expanded MiniMetro FlexiBus branch system to feed off the main arterial Metro ‘trunks’ ▪ \$7.4 million for MiniMetro services along the North-West Coast | <p><i>None of the three parties have responded to the urgent issue of Tasmania’s inadequate public transport services to the level we would have liked.</i></p> <p><i>However, together the three parties combined policies represent a very comprehensive approach to public transport.</i></p> <p><i>We welcome the Liberals commitment to establish a fund to support investment in public transport and infrastructure, but provided no details on how much will be provided to this fund.</i></p> <p><i>We welcome Labor promise to fund a range of practical initiatives to increase the use of public transport. And we welcome the Tasmanians Greens commitment to fund a range of new services in some of the most high need areas – Hobart; Northern Suburbs and Eastern Shore and along the North-West Coast.</i></p> <p><i>Hopefully the next Government looks at some of these good ideas from the other parties in committing to a more comprehensive approach to improving public transport infrastructure and services across all Tasmanian communities.</i></p> |

Preventative Health – It’s time to start addressing the causes of Tasmania’s poor health, not just continue to treat the symptoms.

What did we ask for?

- Implement a sustainable *Health in all Policies* approach to lead and coordinate chronic disease prevention and health promotion strategies across all State Government agencies and the community.
- Initiate a new high-level health promotion taskforce reporting to the Premier, with responsibility for setting priorities.
- Grow the expenditure on population health from its current share of the total DHHS budget of 1.5% to 5% by 2013-15.

| Labor | Liberals | Tasmanian Greens | TasCOSS analysis |
|--|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commitment to developing a whole of government framework for health promotion policy in consultation with Chronic Disease, Health Promotion and Community Service Organisations. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$7.5 million in 2010/11 to establish Well Health Tasmania – a strategic unit led by an independent, expert executive to drive a ‘cultural change’ in health. ▪ Well Health Tasmania to report to the Government within 12-months on a comprehensive health promotion plan for Tasmania | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$8.5 million over three years to implement the ‘Apple-A-Day’ state-wide program promoting nutrition in Tasmanian schools ▪ The establishment of a Health Promotion Taskforce reporting to the Premier ▪ Committed to an audit of the health budget to determine health promotion resourcing needs and availability ▪ Double the Health Budget’s allocation for health promotion from 1.5% to 3% over five years ▪ \$30 million over three years for Tasmanian Life Health Centres (located with Child and Family Centres) ▪ Legislative change to ban junk food advertising specifically aimed at children ▪ Establishment of a Children’s Advertising Advisory Board ▪ Develop a Plan to Combat Childhood Obesity | <p><i>Excellent responses from the Liberal Party and the Tasmanian Greens.</i></p> <p><i>The Liberals ‘Well Health Tasmania’ promises to provide the high level strategic will to drive a preventative health approach across Government.</i></p> <p><i>The Greens have also committed to a similar model with a high level task force The Greens go further by also committing to a range of practical health promotion initiatives in the community including the establishment of preventative health clinics.</i></p> <p><i>Labor has stated that health promotion will be a focus for them in the future, but have not committed to any additional funding or new initiatives in this area during the campaign.</i></p> |

Elder Abuse – Protecting Tasmania’s most vulnerable

What did we ask for?

- Funding over four years for a whole of government strategy to address the emotional, physical, psychological and financial abuse faced by older Tasmanians.

| Labor | Liberals | Tasmanian Greens | TasCOSS analysis |
|---|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$2.57 million over four- years for a whole of government Elder Abuse strategy including: ▪ A referral and information hotline ▪ A statewide counselling service ▪ Specialist information website ▪ Establishing a Protecting Older Tasmanians Advisory Committee | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a \$500,000 per annum whole of government elder abuse prevention strategy. • Immediately set up advisory council to develop coordinated strategy to include – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information, counseling, referral and advocacy services ▪ Central contract number and website ▪ Training and support of aged care workers; ▪ Legislative review; ▪ Coordinated approach across Government and non-government services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$500,000 to develop and implement an ‘Elder Abuse Prevention Strategy’ for Tasmania | <p><i>Tri-partisan support. Very similar policies and funding commitment from all three parties.</i></p> |

Affordable Housing – A human right

What did we ask for?

- A public and community housing system that increases supply, maintains rents at levels that keep tenants out of hardship and improves the thermal efficiency of housing.

| Labor | Liberals | Tasmanian Greens | TasCOSS analysis |
|--|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No Policy Announcement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No Policy Announcement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No Policy Announcement | <p><i>Extremely disappointing that no party has announced a policy on public or affordable housing, despite the fact this is the most pressing social issue facing Tasmania.</i></p> <p><i>The next Tasmanian Government is likely to have to respond to a Commonwealth led reform process of housing policy. .</i></p> |

Gambling – No more excuses

What did we ask for?

A commitment to reduce the harm caused by gambling by tightening the regulation of gaming machines through:

- Lowering the bet limit for electronic gaming machines from \$5 to \$1
- Reducing the level of advertising of gaming venues
- Reducing the opening hours of gaming venues
- Reducing the number of gaming machines in the community.

| Labor | Liberals | Tasmanian Greens | TasCOSS analysis |
|---|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Will support lowering the betting limit to \$1 but only as part of a national approach. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supports lowering the betting limit to \$1, but not dependent on a national approach. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commitment to remove all pokies from pubs, clubs and casinos over a five-year roll-back ▪ Creation of a 'Pokie-Free Tasmania Adaptation Fund' ▪ Amend the <i>Gaming Control Act 1993</i> to end the monopoly held by Federal Hotels ▪ Help venues identify and implement alternative forms of revenue raising ▪ Harm minimisation strategies during transition period, including a \$1 bet limit on all pokies ▪ Require casinos to contribute 4% of gaming profits (excluding pokies) to the Community Support Fund | <p><i>Tasmanian Greens commitment to remove all gaming machines from Tasmania within 5-years goes further than any political party has previously been prepared to commit in reducing the harm caused by problem gambling. In the meantime, the Greens support tighter regulations including the \$1 bet limit.</i></p> <p><i>The Tasmanian Liberals commitment to support lowering the bet limit to \$1 demonstrates political leadership on this issue.</i></p> <p><i>It is highly unlikely a national approach to the issue of gambling regulation can ever be achieved across different jurisdictions thus Labor's commitment to a national approach is fairly hollow.</i></p> <p><i>Tasmania has the opportunity to lead the nation on this issue by having by far the most robust and comprehensive harm minimisation approach to problem gambling.</i></p> |

Tasmania's Community Services Industry – Supporting the organisations that support our community.

What did we ask for?

- Fully fund community service organisations that receive State Government funding to pay higher wages, as a result of any decision from the community services pay equity case that Fair Work Australia is hearing in 2010
- Continue to apply the existing community services indexation funding formula for the next four years and commit to full cost funding, including for quality and safety
- Create a good governance, management and professional development fund to drive investment in skill development
- Refund existing community service industry development activities
- Commission an independent community services workforce capacity study
- Commission a 2025 Community Services Futures Plan

| Labor | Liberals | Tasmanian Greens | TasCOSS analysis |
|---|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop a Community Sector/State Government Partnership Agreement ▪ Continuation of the existing indexation formula to Community Service Organisations (CSOs) funding received from DHHS ▪ Work with CSOs to extend the formula to recurrent funding received from all department ▪ Double funding to the Strengthening Community Organisations Fund to \$2m over 4 years, with a Steering Committee to be jointly chaired by CSOs. ▪ An additional \$400 000 over 4 years for the development of a Community Services 2025 Action Plan ▪ Support the national pay equity case ▪ Establish a Portable Leave Working Party ▪ Funding for a community services workforce profile study | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continuation of the existing indexation formula to CSO funding received from DHHS ▪ Work with CSOs to extend the formula to recurrent funding received by CSOs from all Government departments ▪ Commitment to commission a study to analyse long-term service planning and delivery issues ▪ Commitment to commission an actuary study and to develop a strategy to introduce Portable Leave ▪ \$100 000 for a community services workforce profile study ▪ Support the national pay equity case ▪ \$2.945 million in additional funds for community houses over 4 years to refurbish and upgrade existing houses, increase annual recurrent funding by 15%, and establish up to four new community houses. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop a Community Sector/State Government Partnership Agreement ▪ Continuation of the existing indexation formula to CSO funding received from DHHS ▪ Work with CSOs to extend the formula to recurrent funding received by CSOs from all Government departments ▪ Implementation of the Tasmanian Community Services Industry Plan and create a Community and Disability Services Commissioner ▪ Support the national pay equity case ▪ In principle support for a Portable Leave Scheme ▪ \$100 000 for a broad community services industry profile examining all areas including workforce, service delivery, unmet need etc | <p><i>Comprehensive responses from all three parties. Tri-partisan commitments to continue current indexation arrangements for CSOs and to support the national wage-parity case.</i></p> <p><i>All parties demonstrate an awareness of the significant workforce issues facing the industry and have promised additional resources to address this issue.</i></p> <p><i>Tasmanians Greens package of commitments to enhance disability services in the non-government is also welcome.</i></p> <p><i>Commitments demonstrate a positive and constructive relationship between the Industry and Government, irrespective of the election outcome.</i></p> |

Cost of Living and Concessions – Safeguarding low income Tasmanians from the rising costs of essential services

What did we ask for?

- Concessions that are reviewed annually
- Concessions that increase at pace with price increases
- Concessions for Gas, as well as Electricity
- Two-part concessions that account for household size
- Tenants to only pay consumption costs of water and sewerage charges
- Price regulation of APAYG
- Concessions for water delivery in rural areas

| Labor | Liberals | Tasmanian Greens | TasCOSS analysis |
|---|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Concessions that are indexed to essential service price increases ▪ Price increase cap of 5% annually on electricity, water and sewerage services in 2009-2011 (water and sewerage) and 2010-2011 (electricity) ▪ Tenants to only pay consumption costs of water and sewerage charges ▪ Public housing tenants will not pay any water and sewerage charges | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Committed to maintain the current framework of concessions, including indexing essential service concessions to price increases ▪ No price increase for water and sewerage 2010-2011, then increases capped for following three years at or below 5%. ▪ \$5 million water wise fund, rebates for grey water, tanks. ▪ Double heating allowance for eligible pensioners by 2012-2013. ▪ Exemption for Housing Tasmania tenants from paying water and sewerage bills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Concessions indexed to price increases ▪ Concessions for Gas, as well as Electricity ▪ Two-part concessions that account for household size ▪ Price regulation of APAYG ▪ Tenants to only pay consumption costs of water and sewerage charges ▪ Tariff weighting between fixed and consumption charges reviewed annually ▪ \$40 million State Rooftop Solar Rebate Scheme ▪ Water and sewerage charges capped for the next two years ▪ \$7.5 million for water efficiency and savings devices long-term loan program over 3 yrs ▪ A gross feed-in tariff at double the retail rate for all power generated ▪ \$5 million over three years to install wind and solar generators on up to 500 public housing dwellings | <p><i>Excellent responses from all three parties. The commitment to index concessions is a significant outcome that will minimise the impact of expected rises in the cost of electricity.</i></p> <p><i>Liberals commitment to double the heating allowance is welcome and the Tasmanian Greens investment in installing solar panels in public housing properties is an innovative approach.</i></p> |

Disability – Better services, better equipment

What did we ask for?

- A \$2 million increase in the funding for the Community Equipment Scheme

| Labor | Liberals | Tasmanian Greens | TasCOSS analysis |
|--|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commitment to increase funding for community equipment scheme by \$4 million over next four years. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$28 million Disability package including an additional \$1.5 million for the Community Equipment Scheme. Other initiatives including: ▪ \$5m for <i>Your Care, Your Choice</i> with annual funding of up to \$10,000 per annum for people with disabilities, families and carers for flexible support and services ▪ \$6m for more respite options ▪ \$3m no interest loan scheme for car purchases/modifications and home renovations for people with disabilities ▪ \$4.5m for early intensive intervention services for children with autism ▪ \$95,000 for five year, whole of government strategic plan for acquired brain injury | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create a Community and Disability Services Commissioner ▪ \$4.4 million (over three years) for an <i>Effective Disability Services</i> policy package including: ▪ \$3 million over three years (funding four FTEs) to fund two specialised Autism Spectrum Disorder Clinics; ▪ Establishing an independent Community and Disability Services Commissioner; ▪ Establishing a Disability Workforce Development Unit in Skills Tasmania ▪ Conducting a state-wide audit of Tasmanians living with disabilities ▪ Establishing a Public Sector Inclusive Employment Register; ▪ Financial support for the go.E Pilot Project, administered through the University of Tasmania; and, ▪ A Parliamentary apology to the victims of Willow Court. | <p><i>Excellent response from the Tasmanian Liberals. A broad response with limited funding from the Tasmanian Greens and disappointing response from Labor.</i></p> <p><i>Pleasing that both Labor and Liberals have committed to provide additional funding for the Community Equipment Scheme. Labor committing an additional \$1million each yeah, Liberals \$1.5 million.</i></p> |