

ENSURING QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION

BUILDING BACK GREENER & FAIRER: A GREEN NEW DEAL FOR LUTRUWITA/TASMANIA

BACKGROUND

Every young Tasmanian is brimming with possibilities and deserves a high-quality public education that nourishes their potential, and gives clear training and career pathways. Potential should not be determined by a child's address or the wealth of their parents and carers. All young Tasmanians have the right to a quality education.

A strong investment in public education is a cornerstone of lutruwita/Tasmania's future social and economic wellbeing. It's an investment in a prosperous, fair, and sustainable future.

Education plays a critical role in our development. It is a key social determinant of health outcomes and health equity. The level of education a person has, has even found to be a stronger predictor of life expectancy than income and standard of living.

Higher levels of education are a significant predictor of life-satisfaction and general wellbeing. Education also contributes to society more broadly by reducing criminality and increasing volunteering, and forms the pillar of economic prosperity in advanced industrial societies.

Education forms the bedrock of prosperity, wellbeing and health for individuals, society, and our economy.

Addressing Disadvantage in the School Funding Model

We will review the Fairer Funding Model to identify opportunities to improve disadvantage-weighting in resource allocation, with a particular focus on ensuring funding for students with educational disadvantages does not effectively diminish in schools with higher enrolments.

A Quality Guarantee

We will develop a Quality Guarantee for Tasmanian public schools.

We will develop annual minimum standards for all schools in consultation with school communities. These standards will improve every year, and the Government will be required to report on whether or not these standards have been met each year.

Investing in Education Professionals

We will employ 50 school psychologists, 40 social workers, and 70 speech pathologists.

This will increase the support workforce by 80%, provide for 1 of each of these workers per 1.6 schools and 500 students. We will also employ 30 education support specialists.

We will remove principals from the school staffing allocation and employ 195 teachers.

Free Tutoring for Struggling Students

We will fund 30 hours of tutoring for each student who falls below the national standard, for each domain they fall below. This program will be optional, and will not be subject to means testing or any other requirements.

School Disability Funding

We will institute an ongoing and transparent program of review of the Educational Adjustment funding model. We will also ensure that methodologies and formulas are made public and accompanied by easy to understand explanatory material.

We will invest an additional \$20 million per year in disability supports in schools.

Investing in the public VET provider

We will invest in 100 more TasTAFE teachers to ensure it can offer the quality and breadth of courses Tasmanians need from their public VET provider. We will also ensure TasTAFE receives all government VET contracts, except in exceptional circumstances.

We will not make TasTAFE a Government Business Enterprise.

Free TasTAFE

We will make TasTAFE courses free for Tasmanian students.

The Tasmanian Greens acknowledge and pay respect to the palawa/pakana people as the original owners and ongoing custodians of lutruwita/Tasmania. We are committed to Truth, Treaty, Justice, and the return of lands.

GREEN NEW DEAL

