



Tasmanian Greens Party Policy 2014

Community Development

[RATIFIED: 18 JAN 2014 - VERSION: 14.1.0]

The Greens believe that every person has something special and unique to contribute to our community. These opportunities can best be realised by creating a community in which each person is provided with a sense of his or her own worth, a process which begins in childhood.

The determining factors for whether people stay in the state, find rewarding employment and secure a meaningful place in the community include: access to secure, affordable long term housing; appropriate education and training; diverse cultural and recreational facilities; reliable and affordable transport; adequate health and community services and comprehensive information about all services available to the community.

All Tasmanians have the right to participate in society and in all aspects of public life to the fullest extent of their interests and abilities. We believe in protecting the rights to equal respect, opportunity and responsibility in society, and full participation in all decision-making processes, regardless of age, gender, religion, physical or intellectual ability, cultural background, employment or relationship status.

The Tasmanian Greens believe that the fundamental work which women do to keep society functioning is unrecognised and undervalued. Women are still exposed to injustice, harassment, discrimination, and inequity under the law and in industrial relations. We believe the role of women and girls in our community should be valued, their equality acknowledged and they should feel safe from violence and discrimination.

Children embody Tasmania's future. Young parents need access to practical assistance and advice in handling the issues of parenthood so they and the community can provide a safe and secure environment for children.

The Tasmanian Greens acknowledge that many young people wish to leave the state in order to obtain employment or to gain a wider perspective on the world. Attracting them back to Tasmania after they leave, must be a major policy objective of government. The inclusion of youth interests in public policy decision-making is vital. We strongly believe that young people and their representatives must be closely consulted and involved with the development and implementation of any proposals and government policies that affect them.

Older Tasmanians make an enormous contribution to our society through their skills, knowledge and experience. As a community, we must encourage and enable their participation in employment, volunteering and as grandparents and carers. The Tasmanian Greens recognise that ageing is different for every individual, and we are committed to policies that promote positive, inclusive ageing to encourage older Tasmanians to remain contributing and connected members of our community, living active and independent lives with the diversity and individuality of every older Tasmanian respected.

The Tasmanian Greens believe that sexual and gender diversity should be embraced. Discrimination and prejudice have no place in a healthy, egalitarian society.

We recognise that Tasmanians from humanitarian entrant background face specific challenges in securing the necessary education, training, employment and equitable access to government services and we commit to continue to work to strengthen opportunities for our new Tasmanians.

People living with disability must also be recognised as equal, contributing members of the Tasmanian community who possess a significant range of abilities. The meaningful inclusion of Tasmanians with disability in our community and economy is fundamental to a truly connected and decent Tasmania.

The Tasmanians Greens strongly support the National Disability Insurance Scheme as a significant enabler for people with disability to live independent, productive lives.

Tasmania is a better place because of progressive law reform and the participation of all our citizens, whatever their background, in community life.

Measures

Community Engagement

The Tasmanian Greens will work towards:

1. regulating equal access to all forms of education and training;
2. encouraging extension and bridging courses for traditionally excluded population cohorts to facilitate their continuation or re-entry into formal education;
3. supporting equal access for all Tasmanians to recreation facilities, coaching, sports education, competition, media coverage and funding;
4. supporting programs which encourage sporting and recreational pursuits beyond early secondary school;
5. providing comprehensive health programs for targeted population groups throughout schools, hospitals and community health clinics;
6. encouraging the participation of all Tasmanians in community activities;
7. developing programs which create an awareness of voluntary organisations, promoting participation and providing experience in volunteering;
8. expanding opportunities for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to be mentored by Tasmanians with proven experience and success in relevant areas;
9. promoting community gardens, artistic programs and participation in community festivals;
10. ensuring health and community services are adequately resourced to respond to the diversity of the Tasmanian community.

Women

The Tasmanian Greens will work towards:

11. promoting equal representation of woman and men for public boards and committees;
12. encouraging girls, through educational institutions and employers, into non-traditional areas of work and study;
13. increasing the number of women in senior, policy and decision-making positions;
14. focusing on primary prevention by providing a broad range of education programs on non-violent conflict resolution and respectful relationships;
15. providing opportunities for single parents to participate in education programs by establishing child care facilities in associated institutions;
16. continuing funding of sexual assault support services around the State;
17. creating a society where family violence and sexual assault is not tolerated;
18. ensuring adequate funding of police and family counselling services in responding to family violence;

19. ensuring women's access to safe, secure accommodation through the provision of adequate emergency housing, a comprehensive housing policy, and funding a network of crisis and long-term support services;
20. providing or encouraging a child protection focus that strengthens families' capacity to care for children;
21. assessing the efficacy of laws which have a bearing on violence against women and the treatment of victims and perpetrators;
22. using social educational campaigns to change in the way violence is viewed in our society, including the message that family violence against women and children is a crime and contravenes the Family Violence Act.

Culturally And Linguistically Diverse Communities

The Tasmanian Greens will work towards:

23. encouraging the extension of co-ordinated language learning to non-English speaking people, particularly people from humanitarian entrant backgrounds;
24. ensuring that members of CALD communities have equal access to information about social, legal, educational and cultural issues, and information about existing services, regardless of their language background;
25. increasing resources for interpreters;
26. ensuring that members of CALD communities who have been the victims of trauma or torture are adequately and sensitively supported;
27. increasing resources for CALD women to become full participants in society so that their skills and talents are recognised and harnessed, while accommodating cultural differences.

Seniors

The Tasmanian Greens will work towards:

28. ensuring government policy enables more older Tasmanians to maintain employment, if that is their wish;
29. strengthening statewide community transport networks to better serve older Tasmanians, irrespective of where they live;
30. supporting programs which encourage older Tasmanians to participate in all community activities with a focus on physical and mental wellbeing;
31. continuing to resource the statewide Elder Abuse Prevention Strategy to provide information, support, advocacy and referral services for people experiencing elder abuse.

Youth

The Tasmanian Greens will work towards:

32. developing a state employment strategy for young people, which involves them and facilitates community development to create employment opportunities for young people at a local level;
33. recognising young people when formulating economic and employment strategies;
34. engaging with students, teachers and communities in developing programs that prepare young people for future social responsibilities and employment;
35. engaging with young people in developing strategies that deal with youth homelessness, family breakdown, suicide risk and mental health problems;

36. supporting residential services for young people with drug and alcohol related issues;
37. ensuring that support services throughout the state are funded so that immediate care can be given to abused youth.

Disability

The Tasmanian Greens will work towards:

38. recognising the rights of people with disabilities to make their own choices, be treated as equal and contributing members of our community, live independently and participate in decisions that affect their lives;
39. developing state strategies to be responsive to, and provide secure employment opportunities to, people with disability, their families and carers;
40. working with business to develop opportunities for Tasmanians with disabilities to participate more fully in the workforce;
41. strengthening and developing advocacy, both professional and self-advocacy to strengthen the voices of Tasmanians with disabilities;
42. expanding specialist disability services that are self-managed and self-controlled;
43. encouraging the development of housing models that meet the needs of people with disability;
44. ensuring that carers are recognised and valued for their contribution to the community.

Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, Bisexual and Intersex people

The Tasmanian Greens will work towards:

45. ensuring that any state laws or regulations which discriminate against gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex people are repealed, and legislate to give legal status and rights to same gender partnerships, including the institution of marriage;
46. supporting legislation that provides for those convicted of consensual sexual acts with other men to have the convictions expunged.