

Generational Change for Children and Families



A MAJORITY LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

- Invest an extra \$16.7 million into Child Safety and Youth Justice:
 - Intensive family support including support for at-risk youth
 - Incentives to complete Year 12 education
 - Extending care to age 21
 - Strengthening permanency placements
 - Support for young mums and their babies
 - Whole of Government Sexual Violence Action Plan



Investing in Tasmanians in need

In our first term, the Hodgman Liberal Government committed to a whole of government, comprehensive redesign of the child safety system (\$20.6 million *Strong Families – Safe Kids* including the recruitment of over 40 more staff to work in, or directly support, the frontline. Our 2017–18 Budget invested an additional \$27.5 million into Child Safety Services for a total investment of \$51.2 million to better support families and children at risk, and to ensure our Out of Home Care (OOHC) system provides the best possible care.

We have also launched the first whole of government Youth at Risk Strategy which includes a \$25 million youth employment strategy and a \$17.8 million investment in education to improve student wellbeing.

In our next term, a re-elected majority Liberal Government will invest further into improving the lives of Tasmanian children, young people and their families including:

\$9.5 million (over three years) in additional intensive family and parenting support services including specific support for at risk youth

A key component of *Strong Families – Safe Kids* is to better support families before they get into crisis. By giving earlier support, children are less likely to be removed from their families and relationship breakdown can be prevented. For adolescents, this breakdown often means absences from school and increased likelihood of drug and alcohol abuse, homelessness and mental health problems. Community sector organisations are currently delivering intensive family engagement services as well as a range of targeted youth support services.

A re-elected Hodgman majority Liberal Government will build on these programs and invest additional resourcing to extend these services to more families with an investment of \$7.5 million over the next three years.

Additional funding of \$2 million over three years will also be provided to further support the Youth at Risk Strategy, including Individualised Case Management, where at-risk young people will receive a targeted therapeutic response with a difference - an ongoing relationship with a support worker who will walk by their side as they connect into relevant support and accommodation services.

This adds to the funding provided in the 2017-18 Budget including:

- \$800,000 per annum to operate the new Moonah Youth at Risk Response Centre (in addition to the capital investment of \$1.7 million); and
- \$600,000 per annum to Save the Children to continue its youth justice intervention programs.

Relevant Targets

#31: 50% reduction in serious abuse and harm of children and young people by 2022

#27: Ensure the retention rate of students from Year 10 - 12 is at or above the national average by 2022.

#28: 75% of all students to complete their Tasmanian Certificate of Education (TCE) by 2022.

Why Tasmania Needs this

The Hodgman Liberal Government has already invested in reform of the Child Safety system and the first whole of government Youth at Risk Strategy.

This election commitment provides the funding to close the gap for these children, young people and their families to give them the positive future they deserve.

Investing in Tasmanians in need

\$4.35 million (over three years) to better support and engage with young people in care

Support for young people transitioning from OOHC should end when they are developmentally ready, not just at their 18th birthday. Continuing our reform of the Out of Home Care system, a re-elected Hodgman majority Liberal Government will invest \$3 million (over three years) to provide extended care (up to a maximum of 21 years).

In addition, incentive payments of \$2,500 will be paid to both the foster carer and the young person upon successful completion of their TCE in Year 12.

Plus, additional funding of \$50,000 (per annum) will be given to the CREATE Foundation Tasmania to support both the distribution of Grow Your Own Way kits to young people leaving OOHC and the delivery of additional Your Future workshops, camps and roundtable events.

Invest \$900,000 (over three years) to strengthen the permanency of placement process

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will put better processes and systems in place for Transfer of Guardianship and adoption, reinforced with targeted funding to ensure there is earlier decision making in the lives of children so they do not bounce between their biological family and multiple foster care homes.

Invest \$600,000 (over three years) to enable Karinya to continue to provide young Tasmanian mothers with intensive parenting support and living skills

This funding will enable the Mums'n'Bubs program to continue delivering an intervention service to more young Tasmanian mothers, that includes supported accommodation with intensive wrap-around support, individualised to the needs of each family unit.

\$200,000 to develop the first whole of government Action Plan Against Sexual Violence

Continuing our nation-leading \$26 million Family Violence Action Plan, a re-elected Hodgman majority Liberal Government will invest \$200,000 to comprehensively research and develop a whole of government Action Plan Against Sexual Violence including a review of multi-disciplinary models operating across Australia and provide recommendations regarding the best approach for Tasmania.

Our Record

In addition to our record investment for Child Safety and Out of Home Care Services, which includes the recruitment of more than 40 additional positions, we have:

- Established an independent process to review child death and serious injury;
- Strengthened the role of the Commissioner for Children and Young People;
- Made it safer for children by implementing the Working with Vulnerable People check;
- Initiated the development of Tasmania's first Vulnerable Babies and Infants Strategic Framework;
- Implemented the first whole of government Youth at Risk Strategy; and
- A nation-leading whole of government and community Action Plan to tackle family violence.



Investing in Tasmanians in need

\$600,000 for child personal safety education

A re-elected Hodgman majority Liberal Government will continue funding of \$200,000 per annum for the Bravehearts' education program in schools teaching our children about personal safety as a means of reducing child sexual violence.

\$580,000 for Kentish Family Support Services

A re-elected Hodgman majority Liberal Government will continue its support for the Kentish Family Support Service.

This centre was reopened following a 2014 election commitment from the Hodgman Liberal Government after being closed since 2010 due to a lack of funding from the former Labor Green Government.

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government understands the important role the centre has, and will provide \$580,000 over four years so that it can continue to deliver its vital programs to the local Kentish community.

Labor-Green Record

The Labor-Green Government presided over some of the worst child protection and youth justice outcomes across the country.

High numbers of notifications were left unassessed and vacancy control was imposed, stalling recruitment to vital frontline jobs.

Report after damning report identified that reform was needed yet nothing was done.

Cost

The additional cost of this policy is \$16.730 million.