

# Supporting our Seniors



## A MAJORITY LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

- Provide a 50% stamp duty discount for seniors downsizing
- Continue the Elder Abuse Strategy
- Free National Park passes for Tasmanian Seniors
- \$585,000 for Active Ageing Plan in partnership with COTA
- Ongoing funding for Seniors Week



## Investing in older Tasmanians

### Removing disincentives to downsizing

A re-elected Hodgman majority Liberal Government will introduce a 50 per cent stamp duty discount program for 12 months, for eligible pensioners who sell their existing home and downsize to a new home or unit at a lower cost.

Selling the family home can be a hard decision. As children leave and parents get older, the housing needs of older Tasmanians change. In many cases, older Tasmanians are living in large homes with under-utilised space that are expensive to heat and maintain, especially on a fixed income, and not conducive to ageing.

By helping seniors to downsize, the number of larger homes available to families will increase, stimulating the home sales market, renovating, home building and construction sector.

Under the Liberal's plan, eligible pensioners will receive the 50 per cent stamp duty discount for homes purchased up to \$400,000.

The stamp duty on a \$400,000 is \$13,997.50. The rebate means that pensioners will save up to almost \$7000.

Legislation will be introduced at the earliest opportunity to give effect to the policy, and the program will commence from 10 February 2018, subject to the Hodgman Liberal Government being re-elected.

The Program will then be reviewed in the lead-up to the 2019-20 State Budget to determine its success prior to any decision to continue or modify it.

To be eligible, the purchaser of the property must –

- Be aged 60 or over, and hold a Pensioner Concession Card, a DVA Pensioner Concession Card or a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card;
- Own an existing home but not any other land or property at the transaction date;
- Sell the existing home within 3 months of the new home being purchased;
- Sell the existing home for a higher price than the new home they purchase;
- Live in the new home for at least one year following either the settlement date, or the completion of a new home's construction (where vacant land is purchased).

Normal stamp duty will apply for properties valued above \$400,000.

By offering the discount, seniors will not be penalised financially for downsizing. The rebate will not only provide seniors with more appropriate and affordable housing, more easily maintained, with more efficient heating and improved accessibility, but means they can save more from the sale of their home and enjoy it in their retirement.

### Our Targets

**#20:** Keep cost of living increases for Government services, on average, at or below the rate of inflation for the next four years of government.

### Why Tasmania Needs This

Tasmania has the oldest median age of all States and territories.

By 2020, it is projected that one in five people will be aged 65 years or older.

By 2030, one in four Tasmanian people will be 65 or older

Governments have a key role to play in supporting Tasmanians, as they age.

Our comprehensive *Active Ageing Plan* is about rethinking policies, practices and services that enable older people to participate at all levels of our community.

We want a Tasmania that is the best place to live, work, invest and be part of a family, as we grow older.



## Investing in older Tasmanians

### \$450,000 to continue the Elder Abuse Prevention Strategy

A re-elected Hodgman majority Liberal Government will provide funding of \$150,000 per annum over the next three years continue to implement the whole of government Elder Abuse Strategy aimed at prevention of elder abuse and raising awareness of the issue.

We will –

- Fund Advocacy Tasmania to provide support for clients who require follow-up services after using the Tasmanian Elder Abuse Helpline
- Fund the Council of the Ageing (Tasmania) – COTA – to implement elements of the Elder Abuse strategy, including peer networks, the training of community staff and World Elder Abuse Awareness Day activities.

### Free National Park passes and a 50 per cent ongoing discount

A re-elected Hodgman majority Liberal Government will offer a *Free Parks Pass for Tasmanian Seniors*, giving those over 60 unlimited, free access to our National Parks for one year.

Currently Tasmanian seniors pay \$51 for a One Park Annual Concession Pass and \$76 for an All Parks Annual Concession pass.

We will abolish these costs for a year, offering a *Free Parks Pass for Tasmanian Seniors* from 2018. This will include free day passes and a free annual pass. The *Free Parks Pass* will be linked to the existing Tasmanian Seniors Card to provide simple, streamlined access.

The following year, from 2019, we will offer a 50 per cent discount on the concession fee for an All Parks Annual Concession Pass for Tasmanian Senior Card holders. This will mean instead of paying the existing fee of \$76, Tasmanian Seniors will pay just \$38 for year-round access to our 19 National Parks.

### No “shack” tax or vacant property taxes

The Tasmanian Liberals have ruled out a “shack tax” or tax on vacant properties, acknowledging that seniors are the most likely to be adversely affected by Tasmanian Labor’s proposed new tax.

## What is active ageing

Active Ageing is more than being physically active.

It is about continuing to belong, be involved, learn, and have purpose as we age.

When people are supported to age actively, they are empowered to make choices about how to live their life, and ways they can reach their potential for physical, mental, spiritual and social wellbeing.

Active ageing is about providing people with opportunities to grow older in the way they want.



## Investing in older Tasmanians

### Acting to reduce cost of living pressures

The Hodgman Liberal Government recognises that Tasmanians are being hit with ever-increasing costs. That's why we are taking action to address cost of living pressures.

We will –

- Break away from mainland electricity pricing to force down power prices by 7-10 per cent, to deliver the lowest regulated electricity prices in the nation by 2022; and
- Freeze water and sewerage bills for one year, delivering permanently cheaper prices, and cap prices to no more than 3.5 per cent, saving up to \$700 on your water bills over six years (depending on our takeover of TasWater).

### Increased funding for COTA

A re-elected Hodgman majority Liberal Government will increase core operational funding to the Council of the Ageing (COTA) to \$110,000 per annum from 2018-19, with indexation of 2.25 per cent per annum applied from 2019-20.

This is an increase of almost \$20,000 per annum for COTA, the first change to core operational funding since 2010 and the first time indexation has been applied to DPAC-funded peak bodies.

This will assist COTA to advocate for, and support older Tasmanians, ensuring their voices and views are heard.

We will also provide funding of \$106,000 per annum for the next four years to COTA to fund Seniors Week.

### \$585,000 to implement our Active Ageing Plan

The Government's *Strong, Liveable Communities: Tasmania's Active Ageing Plan 2017-2022* is a comprehensive whole of government strategy for older Tasmanians.

A re-elected Hodgman majority Liberal Government will provide \$195,000 per annum for three years to COTA in partnership with the Tasmanian Government to implement initiatives under Tasmania's new *Active Ageing Plan 2017-2022*.

### Cost

The additional cost of this policy is \$2.103 million over three years, including free park passes announced recently.

*"It's pleasing that the government has recognised COTA Tasmania's valuable and unique contribution to the Tasmanian community, especially our older Tasmanians, for our research and advocacy activities, our very successful projects such as Seniors Week, and our significant work to support the State Government's Strong Liveable Communities: Active Ageing Plan 2017-2022".*

(Sue Leitch, CEO, COTA, 21 December 2017)