

A hand-up for Tasmanians in need



A MAJORITY LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

- Invest an additional \$1.8 million into food security
- Provide \$350,000 to develop a 10-year Industry Plan for the Community Sector
- Deliver \$1.2 million more for disability, including autism diagnosis and \$20 million for disability housing
- Invest an additional \$1 million for Joined Up human services

Investing in Tasmanians in need

Food Security

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will provide increased funding for food security in Tasmania, including –

- \$250,000 per annum for three years in core funding to Foodbank (in addition to our commitment of \$400,000 over four years provided in the 2017-18 Budget to establish a base in the North-West);
- \$700,000 in funding over three years to the Loaves & Fishes Tasmania Project, a social enterprise based at Devonport, that will see quality donated fresh and surplus food produce up to 12,000 nutritious ready-to-eat cooked meals to be distributed to Tasmanians doing it tough each week. The project is based on the successful FareShare program in Victoria, and is a partnership between the Devonport Chaplaincy, Secondbite, the Government through the soon-to-be-open Devonport Youth Accommodation facility, and the Devonport Homelessness Action Group.
- \$25,000 per annum in core funding for Produce to the People over three years, in addition to \$100,000 over four years to further develop and maintain its successful micro greens social enterprise.
- \$180,000 in additional funding over three years for Tasmania's three mobile food van services, including Gran's Van in Devonport, Louis' Van in Hobart and Launceston's Missionbeat, to continue their great community service of delivering hot food, as well as warm clothing and blankets, to those who are homeless.

Carers

There is an estimated 84,000 Tasmanians in caring roles in Tasmania, and this is increasing as our population ages. Carers are all ages, all backgrounds, and are in all of our communities, and provide support to their loved ones because of disability, mental illness, drug or alcohol issues, dementia or health conditions, from chronic illness, frailty in ageing, to palliative care.

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will make Carers Tasmania a peak body for the first time, increasing its funding from \$50,000 per annum to \$110,000 per annum, each year, from 2018-19. Indexation will also be applied on this funding from 2019-20.

In addition, we will provide \$40,000 over two years towards the "I Care" resource to allow 10,000 booklets to be provided to carers. The "I Care" resource is an omnibus of health and care-related information carried by carers to assist everyone, including acute and primary health care professionals.

Our Targets

#4: No new taxes or increased taxes for Tasmanians

#19: Ensure Tasmania has the lowest regulated electricity prices in the country throughout the next four-year term

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

#29: Triple the number of new affordable houses by 2025

#30: A 10% increase in housing available for young people at risk by 2025

#31: A 50% reduction in serious child abuse by 2022



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Volunteering

Every day, and in every corner of our State, Tasmania's communities are supported through the generosity of thousands of volunteers, who freely give their time and expertise to help others.

A re-elected Hodgman majority Liberal Government will –

- Increase core funding for Volunteering Tasmania to \$110,000 per annum from 2018-19, with indexation applied from 2019-20, to provide practical services to organisations with volunteers, and operate its "Volunteer Connect" web portal.
- Allow Volunteering Tasmania to use \$100,000 per annum over three years in project funding (from \$170,000 per annum in ongoing funding) towards its innovative new project to "Safeguard Volunteering in Tasmania", with the provision of additional in-kind support of a dedicated project officer located in the Department of Premier and Cabinet to work with them in partnership.
- Continue its \$200,000 support (over four years) provided to Volunteering Tasmania and announced in the 2017-18 Budget to build an army of volunteers in the event of a natural disaster or emergency, called EV-CREW.
- Provide \$800,000 per annum for enhanced support for volunteer ambulance officers, including reimbursement for out of pocket expenses, enhanced training and formal recognition of skills, better equipment for training, more support through volunteer training coordinators, and increased volunteer recruitment and retention.

Grassroots Community Support

A re-elected Hodgman majority Liberal Government is providing increased funding for a range of proven grassroots community organisations that support Tasmanians every day, including –

- \$6.5 million in additional funding for Tasmania's Neighbourhood House network, including increased core funding per House, funding for Phoenix House on King Island for the first time, \$2 million for capital upgrades and \$150,000 for security improvements.
- \$705,000 in additional funding over 3 years for Tasmania's Men's Sheds, including a \$125,000 per annum grant fund and \$110,000 in core operational funding for the Tasmanian Men's Shed Association, making it a peak body for the first time and delivering certainty for the organisation into the future.

Why Tasmania Needs This

Tasmania has entrenched disadvantage, with almost one third of our population relying on Commonwealth benefits as their main source of income, as compared to just 22 per cent nationally.

The Liberal approach in Government has been to provide a hand-up approach.

We are providing a range of vital supports to those in need, while at the same time building a stronger economy and creating an improved education system that will provide greater opportunity for Tasmanians to get a chance to get the skills they need to get a job.



Investing in Tasmanians in need

Developing a 10-year Community Sector Industry Development Plan

The Hodgman Liberal Government recognises the community sector is undergoing a period of significant reform, including the roll-out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, reforms in aged care, child safety and out of home care systems, health system reforms and competition policy reform, to name a few.

The volume and speed of change has a risk of putting the capacity and capability of the sector at risk.

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will provide TasCOSS with \$350,000 over the next two years to fund the development and begin the implementation of a 10-year Community Sector Industry Development Plan, including regional consultations, online public consultation and an industry planning symposium.

The Plan will be overseen by a joint Committee of sector and peak body leadership, including representatives from key Government agencies.

\$1 million over two years to enable more clients to access the Joined Up Human Services Project

The Joined Up Human Services Project is a new way of thinking in Tasmania that works to shift entrenched poverty, helps people to move out of disadvantage by tackling the barriers they face, and helps prevent people from falling back into poverty by encouraging resilience over reliance.

The aim is to make it easier for people by telling their story just once, helping them to navigate a maze of human services in the support system, and ensure care is centred on the individual.

Through a Lead Service Coordinator, clients are already being placed in touch with a whole range of services, including drug and alcohol counsellors, mental health services, Housing Connect, education and training services and numerous others.

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will invest an additional \$1 million to ensure more clients can be supported with this unique model over the next two years.



Investing in Tasmanians in need

\$20 million over three years for Housing for People with Disability

As part of our \$125 million investment into stage 2 of our Affordable Housing Strategy – which kicks off early from 2018-19 – a re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will quarantine \$20 million for purpose-built homes for people living with disability. This additional funding provides opportunity for the Tasmanian Government to work in partnership with disability service providers, community housing providers and the private sector, to deliver these much-needed homes.

More funding for Autism Spectrum Disorder diagnostic services

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will invest in reducing the wait times for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) diagnostic services. By investing an additional \$300,000 over three years, children with ASD, together with their parents and carers, will be able to access earlier diagnosis, assessment and support.

This support will cover the screening and health check services undertaken by the Child Health and Parenting Services, and diagnostic assessments through St Giles. These checks have been instrumental in allowing earlier diagnosis of ASD through the normal child health checks.

Continuation of funding for The Cooperative Research Centre for Living with Autism (Autism CRC)

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will continue funding of \$150,000 over three years to extend the research partnership with the Autism CRC to establish an autism research base in Tasmania.

\$200,000 p.a. funding for National Disability Services

To assist the sector meet the required growth in workforce, skills development and strengthening quality and safety, a re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will significantly increase core funding to National Disability Services (NDS) in Tasmania to \$200,000 per annum for three years to enable it to continue to identify and prioritise sector development activities to meet the needs of NDIS clients.

With the enormous changes to the sector resulting from the NDIS, this is much-needed funding for the peak representative body.

\$50,000 p.a. for Physical Disability Sports

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will provide \$50,000 per annum to Paraquaid to support participation in sports for Tasmanians with physical disability.



Investing in Tasmanians in need

Cost of Living

The Liberals understand that Tasmanians are being hit with ever increasing costs. That's why keeping prices down and taking decisive action to address cost of living pressures is a key priority of a re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government.

We will –

- De-link Tasmania from the National Electricity Market, reducing power prices by an estimated \$200 per year on average. This will be implemented in 2021, and prior to that power price increases will be capped at CPI. This will prevent Tasmanians from facing the huge 15-20% increases that mainlanders are experiencing.
- Reduce water bills by \$110 per year. Water bills have increased by 51% since 2010-11, under local government ownership. By taking over Taswater, a re-elected Liberal Government will fix water/sewerage infrastructure earlier, freeze water bills and then cap them at 3.5%, saving Tasmanians more.
- Free entry to our National Parks for Tasmanian Seniors for one year, and then an ongoing 50% discount on concession rates for annual park passes.
- Provide a 50% stamp duty "holiday" for first home buyers on homes up to \$400,000, saving them nearly \$7000 on stamp duty, which can assist them with a deposit.
- Provide a 50% stamp duty discount for eligible seniors downsizing to a smaller home.

Other Liberal policies for Tasmanians in need

A re-elected Hodgman majority Liberal has released a number of other policies for Tasmanians in need (www.tas.liberal.org.au/policy) including:

- Supporting our Communities
- Supporting our Seniors
- Supporting our Veterans
- New \$125 million Affordable Housing Action Plan
- Record funding for education, health and mental health
- Delivering better bus services for regional centres in southern Tasmania
- Land tax relief to improve Tasmania's rental market
- Generational change for children and families

Cost The additional cost of this policy over 3 years is \$4.045 million.