

Multicultural Tasmania

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The Plan to rebuild essential services

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“The Multicultural Council of Tasmania has welcomed the Liberals’ plan to increase the number of international skilled migrants settling in Tasmania ... the Australian States with growing numbers of international skilled migrants also have growing domestic economies that are creating jobs, not losing jobs”.

[Anna Reynolds, CEO, Multicultural Council of Tasmania, 11 February 2014]

Multicultural Tasmania

Tasmania is a rich, culturally diverse community.

However, just 12 per cent of Tasmania’s population, or more than 57,000 people were born overseas, compared to almost a quarter of Australia’s population.

The Liberals recognise there are demonstrated economic and cultural benefits in attracting more migrants to Tasmania, and we have a plan to help foster a rich and culturally diverse community in the State.

Boosting skilled and business migration

The Liberals’ Big Tasmania policy makes population growth a priority. We have set a long-term target to grow Tasmania’s population to 650,000 by 2050.

The Liberals recognise that an increasing population is essential for a prosperous Tasmania, to generate the wealth, jobs and opportunities to grow our economy.

A big part of this will be to increase Tasmania’s share of economic migrants (skilled and business arrivals), and encourage international students to stay once they have completed their studies.

A majority Hodgman Liberal Government will –

- **Develop a Business and Skilled Migration Strategy** to increase Tasmania’s share of business and skilled migrants, as a driver for economic growth. The strategy will address processing times, flexibility of entry criteria, links to skills shortages, mentoring and ensuring overseas qualifications are recognised;
- **Invest an additional \$500,000** into attracting business and skilled migrants to Tasmania. This will include broadening the promotion of the State through targeted marketing strategies overseas, trade missions and working closely with the Australian Government and the Department of Immigration; and
- **Encourage international students living and studying in Tasmania** to make our State their permanent home by providing improved pathways to permanent residency.

In 2012-13 Tasmania attracted only 308 skilled migrants, which is just 0.5 per cent of Australia’s share.

A Community and Multicultural Centre

The Liberals will provide \$100,000 to develop a Plan for a shared Community and Multicultural Centre for Glenorchy, including the possibility of including such a Centre at the redeveloped KGV Sports and Community Precinct.

There is currently no facility where multicultural groups can integrate, interact socially, and hold community and sporting activities.

The Master Plan will also explore options for a place of worship for our culturally diverse communities in the northern suburbs. Tasmania is the only state in Australia without a Hindu Temple, despite a growing Bhutanese community.

Multicultural Council of Tasmania

The Liberals recognise that the Multicultural Council of Tasmania (MCOT) is the peak body representing our multicultural communities, and that funding to the Council is less than similar peak bodies.

We recognise the new strategic direction the Council is now undertaking, and following evaluation, will work with the MCOT to deliver increases in grant funding as the Budget can afford.

Stamping out racially-motivated crime

In 2011, the Tasmanian Law Reform Institute recommended new sentencing provisions to deal with racially motivated offences, or crimes that are motivated by racial hatred. The Labor-Green Government has failed to act on this recommendation.

The Liberals will act, and allow judges to take the racist motivation of an offender into consideration at sentencing.

This will send a strong message that racially-motivated offences are abhorrent and will not be tolerated.

The sentence aggravation provisions have been successfully enacted in other States and Territories.

Costings: \$100,000 (our attracting skilled migrants policy has been previously announced).