

LABOR'S

RECORD INVESTMENT IN LEARNING



Tasmanian
Labor 
Working For Tasmanians

INTRODUCTION

At the last election, the Liberals promised Tasmanians that student results would be at the national average by 2020. Instead, Tasmanian student results are the worst of all States.

The Liberals also promised 75 per cent of students would obtain a TCE by 2022, but instead attainment has declined for three consecutive years and remains where it was in 2008.

And they promised money for brand new schools in Legana, Brighton and Sorell. Not a single one of these projects has been delivered, while urgent upgrades and repairs at existing schools are ignored.

Labor is the only party that can be trusted with education.

We have a plan to **get the basics right** and make our education system the **equal of the nation**.

Our policy is realistic, achievable, and will **make a difference**.

ENSURE STUDENTS HAVE THE SUPPORT THEY NEED TO LEARN

School lunches - It is estimated thousands of Tasmanian students turn up to school each week without food for lunch.

Kids who go hungry find it harder to concentrate and learn.

Labor will ensure all Tasmanian primary school children are eating a healthy lunch every day by providing food in schools.

This will take pressure off parents in the mornings, improve health outcomes, reduce child poverty, and improve student learning.

Mental health workers in schools - Mental health is one of the biggest issues in Tasmanian schools.

Nearly 40 per cent of Year 9 and 10 girls report feeling unhappy, upset and as though they're doing things wrong a lot of the time, and over 5, 000 students between Year 4 and 12 feel the same way.

Thirty five per cent of senior students say they don't feel resilient in times of stress and around 900 year six students reported a low-level satisfaction with life.

This is tragic on a personal level, but it is also preventing some of our students from engaging in education successfully.

Labor will invest \$10 million per year to ensure every school has access to a mental health worker.

Appropriate support for students with disability - Labor strongly supports the Educational Adjustments model and wants to better understand the needs of students who are living with a disability but are not currently receiving the support they need to participate in school.

All Tasmanian students with a disability, and the dedicated people who educate them, should have the adjustments, resources and professional learning they need.

That is why Labor will commission a review into the implementation of the Educational Adjustments model, which will be delivered to Parliament within our first year in government.

Labor will also establish an independent Community Services Commissioner with the powers to investigate matters which relate to disability service provision, including education.

BACK TO BASICS IN CLASSROOMS

Reading and writing - In reading, writing and maths, Tasmanian students underperform students in every other State. We're simply not getting the basics right.

Every year 1,500 Tasmanian students start Year 7 with a very low reading ability. 1,500 students and their parents are being let down by a system that isn't working for them.

To address this, Labor will launch the most ambitious literacy program Tasmanian schools have ever seen.

Over the next 6 years, we will employ more than 350 additional teachers to provide small group and one-on-one teaching to students who need extra help.

We'll also hire 20 speech pathologists, and invest \$1 million per year in professional development for teachers.

And we'll introduce a systematic screening and teaching program for all primary students in all schools.

This will improve outcomes for all students, while helping those who need the most support.

Under Labor, Tasmanian students will leave school ready to achieve their full potential.

Mathematics - The final years of primary school are where Tasmanian students' maths results really start to decline compared to other States.

Labor acknowledges this is unacceptable and will allocate \$500,000 to a Mathematics Education Taskforce to drive further improvement. While the taskforce undertakes its work, we will increase the training and development budget by \$1,000,000 with a particular focus on upper primary and lower secondary Mathematics education.

Ensuring school leavers have good career opportunities - More than half of Tasmania's school leavers are not at work, in training or at university. Too many young Tasmanians don't know what opportunities are available to them beyond school, or how to access them.

Labor will fundamentally reform in-school career education to connect today's learners with tomorrow's jobs.

We will do this by ensuring that career awareness programs are embedded in our school system and that it is fundamental in the day-to-day work of schools. We will create new jobs for career educators in schools and colleges, working with local industry to ensure career programs are regionally relevant, and supporting non-government programs to provide intensive support.

GETTING THE BASICS RIGHT WITH SCHOOL UPGRADES

Neglected Schools Fund - At the last election, the Liberals made announcements worth tens of millions of dollars for brand new schools such as Brighton, Sorell and Legana.

They haven't delivered a single one of them.

Even worse, they've neglected the schools that are running right now, with actual students, that have leaky roofs, inadequate heating and cramped and dated facilities.

Some schools have been on the high priority list for seven years, but have missed out because the Liberals have made schools a political football.

A Labor Government will immediately establish a \$50 million Neglected Schools Fund to urgently repair and upgrade the schools that have been ignored for too long and we'll properly fund the Sorell School redevelopment, injecting a further \$15 million, so the Sorell community gets the school they deserve.

Solar Schools Fund - A Labor Government will also create a \$5 million Solar Schools Fund to encourage state schools to install solar panels and reduce their power costs. Schools will be able to retain their savings instead of having to return this money to the Department, which is the current Liberal policy. We estimate that by installing solar panels, each school could save around \$22,000 per year, which they can reinvest into student programs and equipment.



*Working **For** Tasmanians*

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