

David O'BYRNE

Independent for Franklin

Adrienne Picone, Chief Executive Officer
TasCOSS
Via email: Adrienne@tascoss.org.au

5 March 2024

Dear Adrienne,

Thank you for your letter of February 28 and the attached document setting out the TasCOSS State Election Priorities.

I am running as an independent and, if re-elected, hope to use my influence and experience to ensure that the next State Government is guided by good policy and a commitment to improve the quality of life for all Tasmanians. This must include decisive action to deal with poverty, homelessness and inequality.

While I am now an independent my values have not changed. I have a long history of defending the interests of the most vulnerable in our community and am passionate about the role Government can and should play in tackling the structural barriers and social conditions which entrench poverty, disadvantage and exclusion. The outlook and values of TasCOSS are very much aligned with my own perspectives. In this election my key priorities are the cost of living, housing and homelessness, health care and reinvesting in Tasmania's public transport system to make it accessible and affordable. These issues require a multi-dimensional approach involving more responsive State Government agencies and departments, greater public investment, reform and renewal of Government Business Enterprises (GBEs) to ensure a focus on the public good and partnership between the State and key stakeholders. Economic growth strategies must be sustainable and inclusive, and leave no Tasmanians behind.

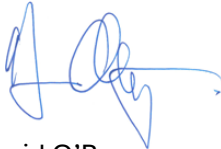
I see TasCOSS as the pre-eminent source of policy advice on the employment, education, income support, caring and social needs of disadvantaged people in Tasmania, and believe the priorities you have identified are the most important in the current circumstances. I am particularly supportive of the recommended measures to end no-grounds evictions and review the Residential Tenancies Act, to provide indexed and minimum energy relief payments of \$250 per annum, to move to a percentage based electricity concession payment, to increase and overhaul funding for emergency food relief and school lunch programs, to offer free public transport for students, seniors, concession card holders and people on low incomes, to extend the public transport network to areas of disadvantage, and to provide greater certainty in community services investment in line with the TasCOSS funding and indexation suggestions.

I should add that over the last eighteen months I have recommended two key housing initiatives – the re-establishment of a State Housing Commission with significant additional

public housing investment and the introduction of a short-stay accommodation levy with revenues directed to homelessness and crisis accommodation services. These measures, combined with tighter regulation of the short-stay market, are necessary to offset market failure in the private housing sector which has driven dramatic increases in rents, housing prices, social housing waitlists and homelessness.

If I have the privilege of being re-elected I look forward to working with TasCOSS to ensure your voice and priorities are heard in the next State Parliament.

Kind regards,



David O'Byrne

Visit davidobyrne.net to learn more

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Authorised by David O'Byrne, 1/17 Bligh St, Rosny Park TAS.



