

TAMAR CORDOVER – INDEPENDENT FOR FRANKLIN

- TasCOSS's 2024 Tasmanian State Election Priorities

Digital Inclusion

Tasmania has the second lowest digital literacy skills level in the country making Digital inclusion an important focus across all demographics. I support a doubling of the investment for Digital Ready for Daily Life and generally, increased digital inclusion strategies, including for older Tasmanians, Tasmanians with complex intersectionality and for government school students. It would be an easy choice for any elected government to support online access centres and improved resources for libraries.

Energy

Tasmanian communities require sustainable and affordable energy solutions, including implementing improved frameworks of passive solar design on new builds. Yes I support actions to bring down costs and elevate efficiency. We want controls over monopolistic profiteering, and measures to ensure we meet our climate targets as a state and nation. We must ensure there is community input into wind farms and the marinus link, a continuation of state solar rebates, as well as opportunities for solar incentives for rental accommodations – renters must be included in the transition to affordable alternative energies.

Food Security

Too many Tasmanians are struggling under costs of living pressures and we suffered under profiteering by our major supermarket chains. Food costs increases are despite that significant amounts of edible, food grade produce ends up in landfill. We must address: the food waste issues at all our supermarkets; the duopoly driving up costs of foods; the environmental impact of food and food wrapping waste. There are savings to be had in the systems. I have been part of setting up Breakfast Club Food supports for school, these programs, as well as the School Lunch Program are essential and must be fully funded. We can implement systems to capture food waste, to fine supermarkets that are ignoring food waste issues and from this, fund emergency food relief. There must be legislated minimum dietary standards for food relief as well as accessibility to food relief embedded in our systems. Dignity in our systems is important. People with disabilities, older people, youth and concessions relying on food relief should not be offered unfit foods or nutritionally empty foods.

Industry Sustainability

Our community services industry must be led by suitable Lived Experience candidates and embedded with effective perspectives for change. Longer funding contracts and cooperative measures between organisations must be achieved. The complexities of intersectionality need to be better understood and legislated, trauma-informed engagements implemented, to break down inter-generational disadvantage, isolation and recidivism. The strategic priorities of the Community Services Industry Plan(2021-31) must be considered. Flexible funding of the diverse community sector industry needs must be maintained and expanded, as required by changing community circumstances.

Transport

We require immediate investment in public transport, just to bring us on par with the mainland. Public transport needs to be developed in conjunction with planning decisions around housing, education, and services. Accessible transport must also be embedded in planning and decision making and including integration with accessible house developments, enabling access to services. Right now we have a broken system, insufficient and unreliable for any person. Implementing DSAPT would hold us to the Disability Services Act and would also benefit everyone. To do this we require the appointment of an independent body to ensure compliance with DSAPT and ensuring service providers can and will provide services as noted within DSAPT. This includes providing timetable information in different formats, with wayfinding, accessible bus stops and a reliable, whole of journey transport approach.

I support bus fares for youth and concessions (older people, DSP, SPP) to be free. We also need to expand the remit of Community Transport funding, to provide transport to education, employment and court, for those Tasmanians requiring an accessible alternative to the public bus system

Housing

Government needs to be involved in building affordable, universal-design housing to ensure housing for all. We need an immediate review of the Residential Tenancy Act. We need supported pathways for homeownership - where people can demonstrate affording rents equal to a mortgage + owner costs, we should consider supported pathways to homeownership. This might be government partnerships with banks, private investors, philanthropist or community organisations. Renters have rights – and housing must be addressed as a human right.