



Ms A. Picone
CEO
TasCOSS

9 July 2025

RE: TasCOSS's 2025 Tasmanian Election Priorities

Dear Adrienne

Thank you for your email of 1 July 2025 and enclosed correspondence outlining the 2025 Tasmanian Election Priorities for TasCOSS.

As you are aware, I am seeking re-election as an Independent for Franklin at the upcoming State Election. If successful, I will continue working constructively with the State Government to create positive change within our local community through brave, bold leadership.

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. Community service organisations are part of the fabric of our local community. They add value to the lives of so many different people and act as a vital safety net to prevent people from falling through the cracks and requiring crisis intervention. I fought hard to secure increased funding for neighbourhood houses over the last year and you can count on my support moving forward.

The cost-of-living crisis together with the housing shortage will continue to result in more people within our community seeking support through organisations overseen by TasCOSS. It is essential that community service organisations are adequately resourced to ensure that they can continue meeting the diverse and ever-expanding needs of our community.

I am supportive of sustainable funding for community service organisations together with additional funding for essential services where necessary. I am committed to addressing the housing shortage in Tasmania and am supportive of improved regulation for short-stay accommodation and an increase in the level of social housing in Tasmania. I would also support a review of the *Residential Tenancy Act 1997* to ensure that it provides adequate protection for renters in Tasmania. Reducing the household energy costs will provide meaningful assistance to Tasmanian families and I am supportive of initiatives that will help achieve this.



Improving the lives of youth and young people in Tasmania is a key priority for me. It is important that we maintain momentum for the *Change for Children Strategy* through adequate resourcing and delivery of evidence-based reforms, particularly in light of an increase in youth offending that has recently been experienced. I am also supportive of embedding the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in the *Youth Justice Act 1997*. Closing the digital divide and keeping Tasmanians healthy are also important initiatives which I support.

I trust this adequately sets out my position on the above matters. I look forward to further discussing these issues with you at our meeting on 16 July 2025. Please do not hesitate to contact me in the interim if you have any questions or concerns.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'DO', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

David O'Byrne
Independent for Franklin