



TasmaniaTogether2020

TASMANIA *TOGETHER* PROGRESS BOARD
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TASMANIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE & TASMANIA *TOGETHER* CONFIRM COMMITMENT TO WORK TOGETHER

Progressing social justice issues is the focus of a partnership agreement between the Tasmanian Council of Social Service (TasCOSS) and the Tasmania *Together* Progress Board.

Deputy Chair of the Progress Board, Mr Michael Lynch, and the President of TasCOSS, Mr Alex Huntir signed the partnership agreement at the TasCOSS Fairer Futures conference today.

Mr Lynch said looking after the disadvantaged in the community was important for Tasmania.

“This partnership will focus on developing strategies for a number of Tasmania *Together* benchmarks, in particular those concerning social justice.”

“This includes working towards equality and equity across a range of issues such as income, employment, and education.”

TasCOSS said it would undertake action on Tasmania *Together* benchmarks including increasing living standards, increasing options for education and training and addressing problem gambling.

Mr Alex Huntir, TasCOSS President, said TasCOSS will continue to consult and work with low income and disadvantaged Tasmanians, the community services sector, and both State and Australian Governments to help improve the standard of living for all Tasmanians.

“The agreement sets out how TasCOSS will work with the community to ensure Tasmania has secure and well-paid employment opportunities for the future, well resourced and accessible services and importantly that all Tasmanians can afford food, electricity, housing, transport and health and have extra funds to cover emergencies.”

“Economic security ensures that people can plan for the future and allows them to take advantage of opportunities to realise their dreams.”

“It is the key to eliminating long-term social disadvantage and increasing social inclusion leading to a healthy and harmonious Tasmanian community.”

“The Fairer Futures Conference is one step in working towards a fairer Tasmania, in which we as a community eliminate disadvantage and foster a vibrant and inclusive civil society.”



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Mr Lynch said Tasmanians are making real progress towards achieving Tasmania *Together* goals and benchmarks, but restated the importance for the entire community to work towards achieving the vision.

“The partnerships program is an integral part of the Progress Board’s strategy to increase community engagement with Tasmania *Together*.”

“Tasmania *Together* is a community plan and we want to see the community engaged in achieving our 2020 vision and targets.”

With the revised Tasmania *Together*, there have been some changes to the goals and benchmarks which are reflected in the new agreement.

Under the Partnership Agreement, TasCOSS will be specifically working towards achieving these benchmarks:

Bmk 1.1.1 The cost of food, electricity, housing, transport and health as a percentage of income for low-income earners.

Bmk 1.1.2 Proportion of households where primary source of income is government pensions or allowances.

Bmk 1.1.3 Proportion of persons living in households that could not obtain \$2,000 within a week for something important.

Bmk 1.1.9 Number of Tasmanians who are long-term unemployed.

Bmk 3.4.1 Proportion of Tasmanians with high level skills/ qualifications.

Bmk 3.4.2 Participation in post-secondary education and training.

Bmk 4.3.1 Prevalence of problem gambling.

Bmk 5.2.1 The proportion of Tasmanians residing in socially disadvantaged regional areas.

Bmk 9.1.2 Extent of under-employment.

Bmk 9.1.3 Proportion of employees in secure employment.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION TELEPHONE:

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