

# Supporting Tasmanian Teacher Assistants

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The Plan to invest in education

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## Supporting Tasmanian Teacher Assistants

A majority Liberal government will provide \$1.1 million per year to address the current inequity faced by Tasmanian Teacher Assistants and school support staff by making available up to one week of extra paid hours during the school term\*.

The vast majority of Teacher Assistants and school support staff work part time and are currently 'stood down' for six weeks over the Christmas / New Year period.

Providing Teacher Assistants and support staff with the option of taking on up to one week of additional paid employment during the school term will reduce the financial strain on the State's lowest paid educators, many of whom are forced to take on second jobs during school holidays to make ends meet.

One week of extra employment will provide valuable extra support time for teachers and students. The additional allocation of Teacher Assistant hours can be used to work directly with students, assist teachers pre-class as students arrive and prepare resources.

While Education Minister Nick McKim reneged on his party's 2010 Election commitment to reduce stand downs, the Liberals are firm in our commitment to address the current inequity faced by Teacher Assistants, and in the process boost vital student support resources.

This is an important step under our Plan to raise educational standards in Tasmania by supporting our education professionals.