

Leading the nation in education

Building a Tasmania we
can all be proud of



Change
for a brighter
future

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The Plan to invest in education

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The fact that, despite our unacceptably high unemployment rate, Tasmanian businesses need to import skilled labour highlights the desperate need to improve education and training levels in our state.

As prominent economist Saul Eslake has noted, Tasmania's most persistent economic problem is the fact that the State's productivity is around 10 percent below the national average, resulting in lower skills, lower wages and lower living standards.

(Saul Eslake, "Tasmania – Quo Vadis?", presentation to University of Third Age 20th Anniversary, 7 April 2010)

Leading the nation in education

Underpinning our Plan for a Brighter Future is a determined commitment to prioritise education, invest in our children, and improve student outcomes. A majority Liberal Government will have, at its heart, a fundamental commitment to raising educational standards in Tasmania and working with and supporting our education professionals to do so.

Our goal is that by the end of the first six years of a majority Liberal Government, Tasmania will be at or above the national standard in every single NAPLAN measurement, and meet national benchmarks in reading, writing, maths and science.

We owe it to the next generation to equip them with the skills they will require to participate in a modern economy, reach their personal potential and be able to determine their own futures. In doing so, we will bolster the Tasmanian economy, improve productivity and address the State's shortage of skilled labour.

Tasmania's current education standards are simply unacceptable.

Our year 11/12 retention rate is just 67 per cent*, compared to the national target of 90 per cent by 2015. We have the lowest year 12 (or equivalent) completion rate of any state in Australia. Currently, only 43 per cent of young Tasmanians complete year 12**. Worse still, only 32 per cent of students attained their Tasmanian Certificate of Education in 2012, down from 37 per cent in the previous year[^]. And, shamefully, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, half of the Tasmanian population is functionally illiterate^{^^}.

Gonski education reforms

The Liberals support the fundamental intent of the national Gonski education reforms which are about supporting all students regardless of whether they attend government or non-government schools.

We support the additional State investment of \$83 million under Gonski, and we have a plan to further invest in schools for the education benefit of all Tasmanian families.

* Australian Bureau of Statistics 2013.

** Report on Government Services 2013.

[^] Tasmanian Qualifications Authority Annual Report 2012.

^{^^} ABS Statistics – 2006 Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey State and Territory Tables, cat. no. 4228.0.55.004.