



PREMIER OF TASMANIA

18 April 2024

Hon Jo Palmer MLC
Minister for Education
Minister for Disability Services
By Email: jo.palmer@dpac.tas.gov.au

Dear Minister

Tasmanians have placed their trust in our government to make Tasmania the best place to live, work and raise a family.

Together, we have a responsibility to focus our efforts on what matters to all Tasmanians as we continue to create opportunities and tackle any challenges that lie ahead.

Under the past ten years of Liberal Government with sensible, strategic budget management, Tasmania has gone from economic laggard to economic leader. We have built a strong foundation for sustained economic and job growth for our State.

Keeping our economy strong and creating even more jobs must be at the core of all decisions that we make. Together, we will also tackle the cost of living, deliver the health system Tasmanians deserve, support more Tasmanians into their own home and improve our education system to give our young people the best chance at life.

We must also continue to take Tasmania forward by growing our population, building confidence, supporting new industries, and attracting investment.

During the election, we outlined our 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future. It's a plan that takes action on issues affecting Tasmanians now, like the cost of living, health and housing. It is also a Plan that will not be compromised.

While this letter outlines your priorities for the First 100 Days, as a government, we remain steadfast in our commitment to deliver every element of our 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future, and I have every confidence that you will work tirelessly to achieve that.

As Minister for Education and Minister for Disability Services, the first priority is to deliver our 100 Day Plan, including:

- Extending remote teacher incentives for hard-to-staff schools that find it difficult to attract and retain high-quality education staff, including settling in payments on commencement of employment, and additional payments for every year of service up to year 6.

- Working with the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing, commence the work to deliver new scholarship programs for education and care qualifications, including 200 Scholarships of \$15,000 (Diploma and CERT III), 20 additional scholarships for speech pathologists and psychologists to secure employment for a minimum of three years, and retention incentives for ECEC staff in rural and isolated areas.
- Introducing legislation to amend the University of Tasmania Act 1992 to require that the land at Sandy Bay currently held by the University of Tasmania, and gifted to the University in 1951 for education, cannot be sold except with the explicit support of both Houses, preventing UTAS from unilaterally disposing it.
- Working with the Minister responsible for Crown land, undertake a comprehensive property audit to identify government land that can be utilised for the expansion of Early Childhood and Care services, including Outside-of-School-Hours-Care and vacation care.

A key commitment of our government is also to restore quarterly reporting. At the conclusion of the 100-Day Plan and public reporting of its delivery, regular quarterly plans will be published so that Tasmanians can clearly see their government getting on with the job of delivering for Tasmanians.

Listening to the voices of Tasmanians and working with your colleagues to ensure we put Tasmanians first in every action we take will be essential to delivering positive and meaningful outcomes for the State.

Leadership and collaboration with local and federal government representatives are vitally important to ensure Tasmania's interests are always represented, and the opportunities and benefits for Tasmanians are maximised.

To hold Government and serve as a Member of the Cabinet is both a privilege and a responsibility. As Ministers, we must uphold the highest standards in public office and act with integrity, both personally and professionally, at all times. I expect every decision and action taken by a Minister to be in the best interests of all Tasmanians and without any personal or political interest.

I expect that all Ministers adhere to the principles outlined in the Motion for Respect report of August 2022 and commit to a positive and respectful workplace culture.

I refer you to the attached documents which are relevant to your role as a Minister. I urge you to familiarise yourself with these documents and your obligations and responsibilities contained therein:

1. Conflict of Interest Declaration Form
2. Code of Conduct for Ministers;
3. Code of Conduct for Ministers – Guidance notes;
4. Code of Conduct for Ministers – Receipt and Giving of Gifts Policy; and
5. Tasmanian Government Lobbying Code of Conduct.

The Code of Conduct for Ministers and associated documents requires each Minister to disclose to me any actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest between their personal interests and their official duties. I would be grateful if you could provide your urgent advice in relation to your Ministerial portfolios listed by completing and returning to me the attached declaration form (Attachment 1).

Please also be aware that the *Parliamentary (Disclosure of Interests) Act 1996* requires that all persons who become a Member to lodge a disclosure of interests annual return with the Clerk on or before 1 October each year.

In addition, the relevant agencies in your portfolios will contact your office in due course about the process for delegating your functions and powers under Section 24 of the *Right to Information Act 2009* to officers in agencies.

Importantly, I also expect all Ministers to share in our responsibility to deliver the changes needed to safeguard our children and young people and to deliver the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry with empathy and commitment.

As Premier, I intend to meet with you regularly to discuss your progress in delivering on the key priorities outlined in this letter.

I look forward to your continued success as a Minister as we work to implement our 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future and do what matters for all Tasmanians.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. Rockliff', written over a circular stamp.

Jeremy Rockliff MP
Premier