



PREMIER OF TASMANIA

18 April 2024

Hon Guy Barnett MP
Attorney-General
Minister for Justice
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing
Minister for Veterans' Affairs
By Email: guy.barnett@dpac.tas.gov.au :

Dear Attorney-General *Guy*

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 Attorney-General, Minister for Justice, Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing, and Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the first priority is to deliver our 100 Day Plan, including:

- Immediately begin recruitment of an additional 78 full-time paramedics in line with immediate demand pressures, including 24 paramedics in Greater Hobart, 12 in Launceston, six each in

Cygnet and Snug, three in Smithton, and 27 community paramedics attached to 13 district hospital regions across the State.

- Beginning planning for the building of four new ambulance stations at Legana, Snug, Cygnet and King Island.
- Beginning service planning for the new four-bed Mother and Baby Unit in the new Launceston Health Hub.
- Establishing the new tele-health support and Statewide phone service for parents, operated by Tresillian Family Care.
- Immediately begin the recruitment of an additional 44 new full-time doctors and 25 new nurses to staff the expanded Royal Hobart Hospital Emergency Department, 24/7, seven days a week.
- Beginning recruitment of 10 State-employed GPs for a new GP Rapid Response team to ensure that when Tasmanians need a GP, they can see a GP.
- Initiating the incentive to attract up to 40 new GPs to rural and regional Tasmania for five years, by picking up the HECs tab up to \$100,000.
- Developing the guidelines for new multi-year flexible grant funding to help GP practices with their viability and sustainability.
- Continuing to deliver on our commitment to ban ramping and ensure paramedics can get back on the road saving lives, including consultation with unions.
- Beginning negotiations for an equity share into the new Private Hospital in Launceston.
- Beginning planning for upgrading 13 district and rural hospitals with the installation of virtual infrastructure over the next 12 months, to provide an immediate and vital link for hospitals to access the specialist expertise of our major hospitals, and so Tasmanians can see a hospital specialist without the need to travel into cities.
- Immediately begin work on establishing a new Public Diagnostic Breast Care Centre in Hobart. The \$15 million service will increase capacity, reduce waiting times and financial impact and will accept referrals from GPs. The Centre will be ready for operation in 2025.
- Delivering a package of incentives to encourage more nurses and midwives to move to Tasmania, or back to Tasmania with relocation allowances of up to \$15,000 if they are employed in the Tasmanian Health Service (THS) for three years or more and encourage graduate nurses to remain in their home State with \$10,000 scholarships for nurses who remain employed in the THS for three years or more.
- Providing \$6 million to secure the new purpose-built home for the Royal Flying Doctors Service, ensuring the new base can get underway as soon as possible to support aero-medical services for Tasmanians.

- Negotiating the new oral health services in regional areas in partnership with the Royal Flying Doctor Service, including for the East Coast, Huon, Central Highlands and West Coast.
- Commencing work on the introduction of legislation into the Parliament to deliver a Stability Clause that requires a Member to forfeit their seat if they were elected a member of one party, then choose to become an independent or join another Party during the term of Parliament. Legislation will be introduced in 2024 after consultation with legal, Parliamentary and constitutional experts.
- Introducing legislation to establish an independent judicial oversight body to manage judicial complaints and support a consistent, contemporary and accountable judicial system to enhance public confidence in the courts.
- Introducing legislation to protect frontline workers from serious assault or bodily harm. Presumptive sentencing sets a minimum sentence for assault on frontline workers that must be applied by Court unless it is unjust to do so. Frontline workers would include nurses, orderlies, paramedics, doctors, correctional and child safety workers, transport, hospitality and retail workers.
- Introducing legislation to amend section 196 of the Electoral Act to remove the prohibition on the use of names and images of candidates in advertising.

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



Jeremy Rockliff MP
Premier