

SECURING TASMANIA'S FUTURE

Tasmanian
Liberals



Mr Duncan Spender
Chief Executive Officer
Multicultural Council of Tasmania (MCOT)
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Dear Mr Spender

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Multicultural Council of Tasmania (MCOT) questionnaire for the 2021 State Election.

I am pleased to respond on behalf of all Liberal Members and Candidates.

Firstly, I wish to thank you and the Multicultural Council of Tasmania for providing key advice to my team on the impacts of COVID-19 for our migrant and multicultural communities, including temporary visa holders, during a challenging time over the past 12 months.

I also acknowledge MCOT for their report on how Tasmania's culturally and ethnically diverse communities were responding to the pandemic. One particular issue highlighted in the survey was the particularly severe financial hardships faced by our temporary visa holders, and that is why as part of our COVID-19 assistance, we announced a \$3 million support package specifically for temporary visa holders.

In further acknowledging your vital role in supporting Tasmania's diverse communities at that time, MCOT also received \$50 000 to assist in coordinating communications and support to temporary visa holders during the pandemic.

As we look to rebuilding a stronger Tasmania, a re-elected majority Liberal Government will secure Tasmania's future by continuing to support our migrants, refugees, and temporary visa holders, who are a vital part of our education system, our economy and our community, through a focus on increasing skills and employment opportunities.

In response to your specific questionnaire, please see the Tasmanian Liberals responses below.

\$50,000 to support community language schools — including support for volunteers, not-for-profit associations and for getting access to venues — so that the rich and diverse language skills within our Tasmanian community are maintained as an asset for Tasmania’s future.

A re-elected majority Liberal Government will provide \$40 000 for the Interpreting Scholarship Program, in partnership with Interpreting Scholarship Program with National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI). We will continue to support our vital volunteers through our support for Volunteering Tasmania and the work they do to ensure organisations have the skills they need to provide community services.

\$100,000 for culture and language awareness training in our emergency services — to ensure great service from our emergency services to culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) Tasmanians, and ensure that CALD Tasmanians are able to assist emergency services in their important work for all Tasmanians.

Organisations such as the Australian Red Cross are currently funded to offer training for all public servants, to ensure all Tasmanians can be supported in times of emergency.

\$150,000 for dedicated multicultural gathering spaces in Hobart, Launceston and the North West.

A re-elected majority Liberal Government will provide \$250 000 to establish a Northern Multicultural Hub to operate a similar model to the Moonah Multicultural Hub (with funding of \$50 000 for two years towards operation of the Hub).

\$150,000 to tap into experience and qualifications obtained outside Tasmania through: support for employers to try out CALD Tasmanians via internships and work experience; a conference on the productivity impact of employing CALD Tasmanians; and a review of State Government occupational licensing.

As part of our plan of *Delivering Local Jobs for Local People*, a re-elected majority Liberal Government will invest \$190 000 to support the Migrant Resource Centres in the south and north to build and extend their existing migrant and multicultural employment job readiness programs.

Our Jobs Tasmania Local Networks will also strengthen the links to job opportunities to ensure more Tasmanians can live and work in the place they call home.

We will provide \$10.6 million to establish four new jobs hubs in regional communities around Tasmania and expand the coverage of the Northern Employment and Business Hub. Each new hub will be governed by a local board, which will support coordination with government, local schools, TasTAFE and vocational training, existing community networks, the non-government and local government sectors and the local community.

The Hubs will also be supported by a new dedicated Jobs Tasmania unit in the Department of State Growth, to deliver common overhead supports, workforce analysis and data mapping. Each Jobs Hub will have a workforce development coordinator, support staff and we will work with local government and industry to determine the best place for each Hub.

The Tasmanian Liberals want to ensure young Tasmanians can get the training, apprenticeships and jobs for their future, here in Tasmania. We will also invest an additional \$98.5 million into our public training provider TasTAFE over the next four years, including: -

- 100 extra TasTAFE teachers to train more young Tasmanians;
- \$45 million for critical facility and equipment upgrades, new buildings and new student accommodation; and
- \$16 million to increase access for rural and regional students.

This is in addition to \$20.5 million of initiatives already underway, announced as part of our response to the PESRAC recommendations which will be the springboard for us to get more Tasmanians skilled-up and in to work.

This includes:

- \$2 million for job seekers to get new tools for a job, help them buy safety equipment or get a white card;
- \$6.5 million Tasmanian Employer Bonus to help give the long term unemployed given a chance to succeed;
- Extension of TAFE's successful Skill Up campaign to give the unemployed and young Tasmanian's skills for a new industry or to enter the workforce;
- Regional jobs shows, an online worker portal, and Job Matching Services our package will help Tasmanians get skilled up, get in to work and participate in their community;
- As well, the \$21 million JobTrainer Fund is a joint Tasmanian and Australian Government initiative which is providing nearly 7000 fee free training places for Tasmanian job seekers, young people and school leavers, to gain the skills they need to secure their future.

\$100,000 in emergency relief for temporary visa holders ineligible for JobSeeker who have suffered significant income loss in Tasmania since the COVID-19 crisis.

As part of our COVID-19 assistance, we announced a \$3 million support package specifically for temporary visa holders.

A re-elected Majority Liberal Government will invest \$100 000 for Migrant Resource Tasmania to trial a Small Business Enterprise Loans program for new enterprises within migrant and multicultural communities, to help establish new start up enterprises.

\$100,000 towards anti-racism campaigning — extending to townships with seasonal workforces, and including messaging countering the attitudes of perpetrators.

A re-elected Majority Liberal Government will work with the Commonwealth to examine models for a National Anti-Racism Framework and areas for intergovernmental cooperation and collaboration

Participation is a key component to supporting our health and wellbeing, and through participation we also encourage all Tasmanians to celebrate our diversity and to strengthen the bonds which keep us together as a state.

Harmony Day is an important celebration of multicultural harmony and social cohesion, widely celebrated across the general community, local governments and schools.

As part of our investment into Tasmania's multicultural communities, we will provide \$60,000 over two years, to MCOT to deliver Tasmania's annual state-wide Harmony Week event program and support the festival program.

This is on top of ongoing current peak funding for MCOT as our peak organisation for multicultural communities, to continue welcoming communities and new arrivals, to link them with opportunities and services within their local community, and our continuing support of the operations of the Multicultural Hub, operated by MCOT, where people from all diverse communities and cultures can meet, work, share and learn in a safe and supportive environment.

Thank you again for writing to me, and for MCOT's continued work as Tasmania's multicultural peak body to represent the interests of all multicultural people throughout Tasmania.

For more information, our positive plan to Secure Tasmania's Future can be found at [Election Policies | Tasmanian Liberals](#).

Yours sincerely



Peter Gutwein MP
Premier