

Pembroke By-election Saturday 4 November

Candidates

- Doug Chipman (IND)
- Richard James (IND)
- Hans Willink (IND)
- James Walker (LIB)

Questionnaires were sent to all publicly contactable candidates. Non-contributing candidates did not reply before deadline. Answers to a further five questions put to candidates can be viewed at www.acl.org.au/pembroke

Euthanasia

Euthanasia has been rejected multiple times by Australian jurisdictions, including by Tasmania in 1998, 2009, 2013 and 2017 because it cannot be made safe. **Will you oppose attempts to legalise euthanasia in Tasmania?**

- Yes.
- At this time I do not think there are enough safeguards or measures to protect the individual and be made safe from abuse. I cannot support measures to legalise euthanasia in Tasmania.
- No, after listening to the persuasive arguments provided by Andrew Denton and reviewing current Victorian legislation, I am of the opinion that there can be a model that provides for a dignified ending in cases of extreme and untreatable pain, near end of life, with sufficient safeguards.
- I have no comfort that any proposed model is safe from abuse and an improvement on the existing situation. My journey on this issue has been heavily influenced by a range of matters including caring for a terminally ill parent in my twenties and work in the health and age care sector. While I believe euthanasia advocates are genuine in their motivations I have seen elder abuse and exploitation in my career. I am worried that vulnerable people may make decisions under pressure or not of their own volition. While I have seen firsthand the marvellous work of palliative care professionals those of us holding concerns about euthanasia must also concede that it is not effective in all circumstances.

Poker machines

Poker machines cause a great deal of social harm to vulnerable Tasmanians with over \$15 million being lost on poker machines each month in Tasmania. Problem and moderate-risk gamblers account for around 40% of poker machine loses.

Do you support legislating for \$1 bets?

- Inclined to - need to talk with all stake holders.
- No I don't.
- Yes.
- No – but I do recognise your concerns in relation to the influence of gambling.

What other measures do you support in curtailing losses from at-risk Tasmanians?

- Phased reduction over time in pubs & clubs.
- It is a much bigger problem that limitation on \$1 bets. I believe a better approach is to either to reduce the number of gaming machines in pubs and clubs and/or separate gaming areas from public lounges and eating areas and also limit the hours of operation of gaming areas within pubs and clubs.
- I want poker machines out of Tasmania. They are a cancer on society. That said, I support interim measures including fewer pokies, removal from pubs and clubs, lower intensity machines and mandatory pre-commitment.
- As a Liberal, I believe in freedom of choice. Minimising the harm of gambling, particularly protecting those more susceptible to problem gambling, is also important to me. Tasmania has a strong harm minimisation framework, which includes a Responsible Gambling Mandatory Code of Practice. In addition to this, the Hodgman Liberal Government has committed to reducing the State-wide cap on electronic gaming machines by 150 machines in 2023, and last year introduced a new Community Interest Test, giving local communities the opportunity to have their opinion taken into account when new applications for EGM venues are assessed by the Liquor and Gaming Commission.

Illicit drugs

If elected, Labor policy is to decriminalise small volume use and possession of illicit drugs (State Conference, 2017) **Would you support legislation to enable this?**

- No.
- It seems too wide open to abuse in my opinion. The use and possession of illicit drugs should only be used and administered under strict medical conditions for patients when conventional methods have failed to produce results.
- It actually makes sense and is supported by Police Commissioners around the country. This is why. <http://www.tasmaniantimes.com/index.php/article/decriminalise-the-use-of-small-amounts-of-illicit-drugs->
- No. There is no safe level for illicit drug use.

Abortion

According to a 2013 Galaxy poll, the majority of Tasmanians oppose late term abortions except in cases of severe disability. Despite this, Tasmania's abortion law continues to allow abortion up until birth. **Would you support an amendment to legislation to repeal the provision of late term (post-24 weeks) abortions except when a mother's life is in danger?**

- Yes.
- Not until all circumstances and the mother's state of mind are known. I believe some very young women (teenagers) may be influenced to have a change of mind or experience peer group pressure to term abortions post 24 weeks. I think counselling measures outlining options and the mother's circumstances have to be taken into consideration before an amendment to legislation.
- In principle, yes.
- As on other matters I would consider any proposed legislation very carefully, and consult very closely with my constituents in Pembroke before making any decision about any proposed amendments.

Marriage

Whilst legislation dealing with Marriage is a federal issue, the implications of redefining the current marriage law have consequences that affect Tasmania. **What are your views on same-sex marriage?**

- I think the word "marriage" should retain its traditional meaning.
- I voted no in the Marriage Postal Survey.
- I support it.
- I believe in religious freedom. My personal views on same-sex marriage align with my faith and I am on the public record in support.

If Australia votes Yes in the Marriage Postal Survey will you support faith-based organisations' current right to, if they so choose, only employ or enrol those who share their ethos?

- People should be employed on their capacity to do the job conscientiously.
- I will support faith based organisations to employ or enrol those who share their ethos.
- I'm not sure. Think about it. Surely it's the role of religious schools to enrol anyone in the hope that one day they will come to share that ethos? Isn't that what missionaries do? I do not have a problem with Christian schools employing only Christians to be teachers, but for administrative and ancillary staff, being of another faith shouldn't matter.
- It also follows that my support of religious freedom means that I don't believe there should be changes to current employment rights of faith-based organisations.

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