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### **ABBOTT GOVERNMENT'S FIRST YEAR FAILS TASMANIA**

The Abbott Government's first anniversary has come and gone and there is little for Tasmanians to celebrate.

We already know that the Government's cruel and unfair Budget will hurt Tasmanians. Cuts to health and education in the Budget mean \$1.6 billion will be taken away from Tasmanian hospitals and schools over the next 10 years.

Liberal Senators in Tasmania justify these cuts by saying that our children will inherit rising government debt if we don't act. Not only are these claims confusing, given it was the Abbott Government who doubled the budget deficit after taking government, they are also without context.

Australia's net debt is 12.1% of GDP, compared to the average of 74.7% for other advanced economies around the world. Our deficit is 1.2% of GDP, compared to the 4.9% average of advanced economies. Spending is not out of control, in fact 2009-13 was the lowest four-year period of real spending growth in 23 years.

Sadly, the inheritance that will hurt our children and grandchildren won't be government debt, it will be the long-term impact of the Abbott Government's Budget. The \$1 billion cuts to schools in Tasmania will make it harder for our kids to get a quality education and if they're able to go to university they will face much higher fees.

According to independent modelling, someone wanting to study nursing could face a debt of nearly \$100,000 to become a registered nurse because of the Abbott Government's proposed changes. The GP tax and the \$800 million cut to Tasmanian hospitals will also impact upon the health of future generations.

Tasmanians got another nasty surprise on the eve of the Abbott Government's first anniversary when they found out about the Prime Minister's deal with the Palmer United Party to repeal the Minerals Resource Rent Tax (MRRT).

The deal to repeal the MRRT will mean the previous Labor Government's increase in the rate of compulsory superannuation to 12% will now be delayed until July 2025.

The cost of this delay will mean a 25 year old earning a typical wage of \$55,000 will have about \$9,500 less in their retirement savings by 2025. The delay will also mean that national contributions to superannuation will be \$128 billion lower by 2025.

The only people who will benefit from the repeal are Australia's nine biggest mining companies who will get a massive tax cut. This is just another example of how out of touch the Abbott Government is with ordinary Tasmanians, which is hardly surprising when the Treasurer, who has helped make many of these decisions, thinks that 'poor people don't drive'.

The people of Tasmania deserve better and I will continue to hold this Government to account to ensure the best outcomes for our great state.

**This article was originally published by the Kingborough Chronicle on Tuesday, 16 September 2014.**