



Education Policy

SFF Tasmania views high quality education as the cornerstone and foundation of our society and its future. With over 50% of adults in Tasmania considered functionally illiterate, access to comprehensive, inclusive and affordable education is not only a human right and a central tenet to quality of life, it is the roadmap to our state's social and economic growth and to environmental awareness, understanding and appreciation.

Tasmanians need to meet the new century's challenges of globalisation with openness and resilience. Critical thinking, continual skill renewal and operational flexibility are essential keys to future career and workplace decision making. Effective and relevant training and management practices will be paramount.

The education of our young people must include an understanding of the connectedness with the natural environment as a central focus, an understanding and enjoyment of it and the knowledge to care for it through evidence-based, informed management. An understanding of how our basic human needs are met, especially how food is grown by farmers working responsibly within the unique Tasmanian environment should be engendered.

Education should be seen as a life-long continuum, being flexible to the ever-changing demands of the ever-changing world in which Tasmania must effectively take its place through the strength of a well-educated people.

If elected, SFF Tasmania will use their vote in parliament to recommend:

- That all Tasmanians, especially the young and disadvantaged, have access to high quality education in both government and non-government education systems and through effective pathway planning students can be prepared with the necessary and relevant skills to tackle the jobs, careers and industries of the future.
- That local community should have input to schools and education initiatives and a recognition that indigenous and non-indigenous, multi-cultural perspectives and values are essential in creating a collective understanding and sense of connectedness with empathetic, future-focused learners.
- That all sectors of education, both government and non-government, are valued, relevant and necessary to provide for the economy and social fabric of Tasmania's future and that resourcing of government education is adequate, funded on a needs basis without additional parental levy contribution, for full participation and retention of students.
- That government education is available to all, is of the highest standard by educational sector and recognises students' individual and unique learning needs, ensuring not only basic standards of literacy and numeracy, but



challenging students to achieve high levels of excellence in academic, technical and vocational fields.

- To ensure school nurses and dental services are available to all students in all educational settings to treat existing health needs and to educate students regarding sound future health practices.
- To promote and foster life-long lifestyle choices of physical activity and sound dietary habits through the monitoring of food provided by school canteens, as well as promoting school cooking and food garden programs and teaching students where their food comes from.
- To ensure adequate staffing levels of educational psychologists, social workers, occupational therapists, speech pathologists, teachers of the deaf and learning support teachers within schools to address the needs of at-risk students and strengthen inclusion within learning environments.
- To ensure that not only teacher numbers are adequate, but that opportunities are promoted and incentivised for up-skilling of already experienced teachers and a strong mentoring culture is in place for beginning teachers so that true, strong learning communities are fostered.
- To work with key stakeholders, Tasmanian Institute of Teaching, Tasmanian Qualifications Authority and Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership, to ensure the highest standards of teaching, educational leadership, accessibility and relevance of the curriculum.