

TASMANIA TOGETHER 10 YEAR REVIEW

Colony 47 would like to submit the following comments and observations in relation to the Tasmania Together goals, standards and benchmarks.

Goal / Standard / Benchmark	Comment
1.1.1 The cost of food, electricity, housing, transport and health as a percentage of income for low-income earners	<p>This continues to be a high concern.</p> <p>The target for this benchmark is a reduction from 65% in 2005 to 62.5% in 2010.</p> <p>Anecdotal evidence strongly indicates that this target has not been met, and that families are worse off with the steady increase in housing and electricity costs. The cost of health care has also increased dramatically with very few bulk billing doctors. This has resulted in people with a concession card having to make a gap payment in some instances. For those who do not have a concession card the payment gap is increasing as doctors continue to increase their fees while the medicare scheduled benefit has not increased to reflect this.</p>
1.1.3 Proportion of persons living in households that could not obtain \$2000 within a week for something important	<p>This continues to be problematic due to the increasing cost of rental property.</p>
1.1.4 Housing stress experienced by low income earners in Tasmania within the private rental market	<p>Evidence indicates that this is becoming more of a concern and is an area of high priority for Colony 47.</p>
1.1.6 Public housing waiting times for priority applicants	<p>This remains an issue of concern.</p>
1.1.7 Transport accessibility	<p>This benchmark remains an issue of high concern. Access to public transport needs to be improved. For example:</p> <p>Midway Point is 20 minutes out of Hobart and lacks any effective public transport system. There is one bus on a Saturday and no public transport on a Sunday. The local shopping precinct of Sorell is not easily accessible to residents without a car. There should be buses available between the smaller towns surrounding Sorell that travel to and from Sorell regularly so people have ready access to essential services that are not available in their local area, such as the supermarket and library etc. The youth of these areas, including Carlton, Dodges Ferry, and Forcett should have access to a decent public transport system to afford them the same opportunity as urban youth to access recreational activities such as the pool, the movies etc.</p> <p>More transport, such as community transport, is required for people with mental health to assist them in getting out.</p>

2.1 Support safe and responsible behaviour and ensure that community facilities and spaces, transport systems, workplaces and private homes are, and are perceived to be, safe environments.	This continues to be an area of high concern in the northern suburbs. Within this standard benchmarks 2.1.5 (reported level of family violence) and 2.1.6 (proportion of adult offenders convicted again within two years) remain of high concern.
2.2.2 Children on care and protection orders	This benchmark is a high concern. The target of 6.1 per 1000 for 2010 remains unchanged from 2005. The target for 2015 should be revised to a higher percentage reduction in order to acknowledge the lack of change between 2005 and 2010. This benchmark should also measure the increase in the quality of life for children who are on orders. Another target that should be measured is the timeframe in which comprehensive assessments are carried out by DCYFS.
3.3.1 Retention from year 10 to year 12	This is an issue of concern. This benchmark should: Include reference to the number of students actually completing year 12, not merely remaining in school until they reach year 12; and Measure attendance rates and retention rates for primary school children.
3.4.1 Proportion of Tasmanians with high level skills / qualifications (Certificate B+)	The State Government's funding policies with regards to Productivity Places Program (for existing workers) and access to user choice funding to employers are having a positive effect on the numbers of Tasmanians entering qualifications at a Certificate III level or higher (this includes the identified Skills Shortage qualifications).
3.4.2 Participation in post-secondary education and training	This remains an issue of concern.
3.4.3 Number of Tasmanians commencing apprenticeships and traineeships	One area that could be addressed to increase trainee and apprentice participation is to allow casual employees who work 20 hours or more per week the opportunity to be signed into a training contract. This would assist the hospitality sector in particular as they have a high percentage of casual employees who are unskilled.
4.1 Improve Tasmanians' health through promotion and support of healthy lifestyle choices.	Greater funding for weekend recreational programs is needed. ReLink operates on weekdays only.
4.2 Improve self-assessed physical and mental wellbeing	The World Health Organisation Quality of Life assessment is a useful tool to use here.
4.3 Reduce levels of risk taking and addictive behaviour	It is suggested that there be an extra benchmark included in this standard that measures the prevalence of high risk alcohol use.
4.4 Improve the health and wellbeing of the Tasmanian community through the delivery of coordinated and timely services	It is suggested that an extra benchmark be included within this standard that measures the number of suicides reported.
4.4.2 Public hospital waiting times for elective	Anecdotal evidence clearly suggests that the target of 29 days in 2010 is not being met

surgery	with reports of people: Waiting nearly 12 months for significant surgery (which although elective is required to reduce significant levels of pain and increase daily quality of life); Being informed by the hospital that the waiting time will probably be another 12 months; and Having to wait for 6 months even for an appointment to see a RHH specialist.
4.4.3 Proportion of persons with a serious mental illness whose needs are met by the Tasmanian Mental Health Service	Day support is needed for people with mental illness on the eastern shore. This need is being addressed on the western shore, but there are 1400 clients on the eastern shore whose needs need to be addressed. There is currently a proposal to commence an ICCD Clubhouse on the eastern shore through Mental Health Services.
4.4.5 Number of General Practitioners per 100,000 people	It is suggested that this benchmark should also measure: The number of doctors specialising in mental health; and The number and location of bulk billing practices.
5.1 Tasmania has inclusive and supportive communities	It is suggested that an extra benchmark be included within this standard that measures the percentage of refugees who chose to remain in Tasmania two years after initial settlement.
5.1.5 Percentage of Tasmanians who are satisfied with their opportunities to socialise with others outside their household	There is a big gap and need in this area in relation to mental health. There needs to be increased opportunity for people to get out and socialise.
5.5.1 Percentage of 15 to 19 year-olds not employed or in education	This remains an issue of high concern.
5.5.3 Participation of young people in community groups	This remains an issue of high concern.
5.6.3 Teacher training in discrimination	This should be extended beyond teachers to include the measurement of the numbers of staff / volunteers in the workplace who undertake discrimination training.
7.1.1 Percentage of teaching staff who have received professional development specifically related to their role as teachers of indigenous studies	This should include a measurement of the percentage of staff in schools, TAFE and University who have been provided with instruction in Aboriginal culture and history. Colony 47 runs cultural training for all staff.
8.3.3 Percentage of Tasmanians who are satisfied that the State Government both listens to and acts on the wishes of the community	Excellent work is being done by Mental Health Services within the NGOs.
8.4.3 People who feel comfortable contacting someone in government for information	Centrelink has been problematic for people with mental health although this is beginning to improve.
9.1.1 Workforce participation rate	It is suggested that this benchmark should also measure:

	<p>The percentage of people employed in government jobs versus non-government jobs; and</p> <p>The spread of jobs throughout key industry groups as there is a potential need to diversify employment opportunities.</p>
9.1.3 Proportion of employees in secure employment	This is an issue of high concern.
9.1.4 Tasmanian average weekly earnings as a proportion of national average weekly earnings	This needs to be worked on within the community sector.
9.2.1 Proportion of employees with family and community commitments who have flexible work arrangements	Colony 47 promotes this within their current EBA.
9.2.2 Families using flexible working hours to manage child care	Colony 47 promotes this within their current EBA.
10 Thriving and innovative industries driven by a high level of business confidence	<p>This goal should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include a standard that will increase food security strategies that result in sustainable food production and supply in Tasmania; Measure the number of renewable infrastructure initiatives supported by government and industry; Measure the number of government strategies that support local industry and innovators to generate employment and renewable solutions to reduce carbon footprint; Measure the level of innovation investment made in the renewable market by government annually; and Measure the level of local government investment to support communities reduce their carbon footprint.
10.7.2 Food production value added	Foodbank is a great initiative here.
11.2 Value and protect old-growth forests and to phase out clear-felling in these forests	This standard should include the reduction of native forest logging by 2020 and the establishment of forestry protection strategies and infrastructure that sustains biodiversity, water catchments and carbon storage.
12.4 Mitigate the effects of greenhouse gases and, where possible, reduce their emissions	<p>This standard should include a benchmark that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stipulates the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 15% by 2020; and Generates best practice benchmarks for greenhouse gas reduction.