

MEDIA RELEASE | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | May 8 2014

Commission of Audit recommendations will lead to long term social issues in Tasmania

Colony 47 believes many of the recommendations of the long awaited Commission of Audit, if implemented, would further disadvantage the most vulnerable in the Tasmanian community.

Colony 47 CEO Therese Taylor said the hard line economic view of the Commission strips away the safety nets in place for people which leads to long term social issues that can work against economic growth, and it is economic growth that is needed in Tasmania to offer people jobs and hope.

“The Treasurer has repeatedly told us that spending in the areas of social policy is not sustainable, I ask if we can afford *not* to spend in these areas. At what cost will it be to lower our commitment to the basic wage, to force young people to move away and potentially decrease health and education opportunities,” said Ms Taylor.

This year, Australia ranked first amongst OECD nations for lifestyle and Australia is currently ranked 12 in the OECD countries on economic outlook for 2014, however, in support for our unemployed, we are ranked 39 of 40 nations.

“The employed and educated in Australia have an unbeatable quality of life, but those on income support are the most disadvantaged group not just in Australia but in the OECD,” said Ms Taylor.

The Commission of Audit recommendations are set to drive more people into the underclass and the long term social issues created will become of serious concern, especially in Tasmania.

In his election speech the Prime Minister said his government ‘would not leave anyone behind’ but proposes cuts to pensions, including Age Pension, Disability Support Pension, Carer Payment and Parenting Payment will have significant and immediate impacts.

Colony 47 will continue to advocate for Tasmanian people and families facing long-term unemployment, those with mental health issues, Tasmanians in housing distress, youth that are disengaged from their education and young people at risk.

Throughout Colony 47 programs our clients are becoming increasingly anxious about next week’s Federal budget announcements.

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Colony 47 is a Tasmanian non-denominational not for profit organisation. Colony 47 focuses on five key areas to improve the lives of disadvantaged Tasmanians. Our programs work across housing and homelessness, mental health, early intervention, education and employment and community development. Our mission is to create a fairer community and eliminate disadvantage. Learn more about our important work by visiting www.colony47.com.au