

Additional Questions from Young People

1. Do we truly have full transparency around political donations at state and federal levels? There is a lot of distrust around politicians as we believe that many of you are just trying to 'line your pockets' and ensure the corporations that support you have their needs met.

No we don't have full transparency as I think the 'one nation' scandal and the influence on the gambling industry had on the state election showed us. Labor is committed federally to implementing an ICAC (Independent Commission Against Corruption) as well as further exploring at donation laws. Both major parties have agreed to no longer receive donations from non-Australian companies/individuals which is a start but there are ways around this. It also leads to deals being made in order to secure funding, as elections are becoming increasingly more expensive. I think rules around campaign expenditure would go some way in reducing the influence of political donations and level the playing field substantially. I also believe in a register of all donations should be made public in order to gain full transparency. It is strange that public sector workers and unions are subject to rules that clearly prevent political influence yet our political parties are not.

2. Homelessness and the housing crisis is a huge issue within Tasmania. What do you plan on doing about it?

Homelessness is a problem created from many fronts, so a multilevel policy intervention is required. Firstly Labor will invest \$650 Million into affordable housing, meaning around 1000 new builds in Tasmania in the first term of government. This will go some way in reducing demand, lowering cost. Labor will also increase access to affordable housing through a range of means including affordable access scheme for rental and increasing rental assistance for those on benefits. Secondly Labor will implement taxation laws that reduce benefits for owning multiple houses, this will be done by stopping negative gearing of properties and also reducing the amount people can invest privately including the effects of Air BNB and other private rental options. Thirdly Labor sees housing as required infrastructure and as so will treat it as such, moving it from a welfare portfolio and placing squarely into the Infrastructure and development portfolio. Identifying Housing as integral to growth, sustainability and wellbeing and treating as such will promote housing, not as a benefit or as an option, but as something integral to our nations growth. Personally housing is a key platform for me, as a mental health clinician I know that without the basics of shelter every other element of ones life becomes unstable, contributing to much worse outcomes for people including education, employment and health. We should be doing much more in this area.

3. Where do you and your party stand on the decriminalisation of drugs, legalisation of marijuana for personal use, and pill testing at festivals?

Tasmanian Labor has a state platform of legalising possession of small quantities of illicit substances for personal use. Drug addiction should be seen as a health issue not as a criminal issue and years of experience should show us that this is the case, as illicit drug addiction has grown whilst Policing has exponentially increased with limited impact. I feel that drug use has many dangers, especially from a mental health perspective, which are often not reported or spoken of and these links are clear. So we need to be careful how we develop policy around illicit drug use, because despite popular belief most illicit drugs are very dangerous for ones wellbeing. But criminalising and charging people is not

the best course of action around this, and also doesn't change legal illicit substance use either, such as alcohol, tobacco, and medications prescribed. So in short I support the decriminalisation of possession of small quantities of illicit substances for personal use, an increase in funding from a health and health promotion perspective to treat and teach people of the risks and support reduction, as well as exploring pill testing at festivals and how this would be beneficial to the public, similar to the 'groove in the moo' trial recently in the ACT.

4. China has stopped taking our recyclables. What does the future of recycling in Australia look like? Do we need to look into alternative measures instead of single use plastic?

Relying on developing countries to sort out our waste problems is always fraught with danger as we have recently seen. The ethics around sending plastic waste to China and India in particular have been shown to be unsound and contributing to further pollution. The problem is our addiction to plastics in general and the explosion of their use in the last 20 years. I feel a ban on single use plastics is heading in the right direction, but I think that in order for change to be made we need to be talking with the producers and major supermarkets around reducing their use and supporting them in exploring alternatives. This probably takes a two-fold approach, firstly promote and support environmentally sound practices, whilst charging/taxing those whom are not willing to change. In a capitalist society profit speaks, so we need to make single use plastics unmarketable and uneconomic.

5. Do you see Australia one day using nuclear power to produce cheap and reliable energy? Are there other alternatives other than fossil fuels that will be major pollutants and will become more expensive as the reserves begin to dry-up?

I am anti-nuclear and will never support an increase in nuclear power in Australia. We have all seen what happens when things go wrong with nuclear and there is no coming back from those sorts of disasters, and those promoting nuclear become silent when you ask them whether they would have a reactor next door. I think in the 21st century there are multiple safe and sustainable options available to us as a country that we should be exploring including wind, solar, hydro, and wave technology. There are also new technologies being explored that with government support can become viable. Labor is committed to decreasing pollution whilst increasing reliance on sustainable energy. We don't have a lot of time and whilst the conservative parties are speaking of past technologies the future is passing them by, we need to move on this sooner rather than later.