

2025 State Election Priorities

The Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT) the State's Youth Affairs Peak Body for young Tasmanians aged 12-25 calls on all candidates and political parties to take more decisive and meaningful action to support the engagement and participation of young people in our State.

Young Tasmanians have told us that they are proud to be Tasmanian but are often worried and frustrated with state's current direction. Many feel their voices are undervalued compared to older Tasmanians and they want to have their concerns and ideas taken seriously.

Tasmania can't afford to take its young people for granted. To build a future that reflects their aspirations and responds to their needs, Tasmania must actively engage young people from diverse backgrounds and regions in shaping the State's path forward.

Appoint a Minister for youth

Young people aged 12-25 years are navigating a world profoundly different from previous generations and the pathway to adulthood is now longer and more complicated than ever before.

Issues and priorities for young Tasmanians are vastly different from those of children under the age of 12. Job market barriers, evolving social norms, rapidly rising housing costs, and cost of living pressures all directly affect the pathway to stable employment, tertiary education, financial stability and self-sufficiency. These issues require a targeted response and different strategic policy directions across multiple system and sectors.

YNOT is calling for a dedicated Minister for Youth in Cabinet to focus on and prioritise issues affecting young people aged 12-25 years.

A Minister for Youth will have responsibility for a whole of government approach that is inclusive of all young people in Tasmania. It will ensure key priorities for young Tasmanians are at the forefront of government thinking and allow for effective oversight of youth policy, initiatives and outcomes.

Strengthen youth engagement in public policy and decision making

Young people are aware that many of the challenges they face are public policy issues and are becoming increasingly frustrated at being excluded from decision making processes that impact their life. Young Tasmanians have valuable insights and solutions to offer and are calling for meaningful engagement with policy makers to ensure public policy is relevant, inclusive and responsive to their needs.

YNOT is calling for a whole of government Child and Youth Empowerment Strategy to strengthen youth engagement in public policy and decision making.

Co-designed with children and young people, this unified evidence informed framework will foster a shared understanding of youth participation, strengthen cross-sector collaboration, and enhance opportunities for young people to influence decisions that shape their futures.

End youth homelessness

Child and youth homelessness in Tasmania has reached unprecedented levels, severely impacting young people's health, safety, education, employment, and social participation. Current policy responses are failing to deliver meaningful change.

The only effective way to end child and youth homelessness is to ensure a pathway for all young Tasmanians to be securely housed, supported by a sustainable, coordinated and robust service system.

YNOT is calling for the development of a comprehensive plan to end youth homelessness and adequately invest in the resources required to achieve this goal.

Young people experiencing homelessness need more than just a bed, they need care, wraparound support, and housing solutions tailored to their unique and often complex needs.

Build a sustainable community services industry that supports ALL Tasmanians

YNOT supports the Community Services Industry Network's campaign for the next government to build a sustainable community services industry that supports all Tasmanians now and in the future.

We are seeking commitments from all political leaders to appropriately resource Tasmania's community services system under a fairer funding model so we can collectively support Tasmanians, retain our staff who deserve secure employment, and to have the certainty to make longer-term decisions that deliver better value for money.

YNOT is calling for an incoming government to:

1. Fast-track the implementation of five-year funding contracts across the industry.
2. Implement funding review processes, at least six months before the end date of a contract.
3. Commit to an indexation figure that reflects the true cost of doing business.
4. Provide a commitment to reset the relationship with the community services industry through a Partnership Agreement with the Tasmanian Coalition of Community Services Peaks and the Tasmanian Government, based on respect and collaboration.