



Nick McKim MP
Greens Leader
Member for Franklin
Tasmanian Greens

7 March 2014

Benedict Bartl
Policy Officer
Community Legal Centres Tasmania

Dear Mr Bartl,

I am responding to the Community Legal Centres Tasmania's 2014 State Election Questionnaire, on behalf of the Greens MPs and endorsed candidates.

At the outset, I wish to state the Greens support the vital role and work undertaken by the range of Community Legal entities operating across Tasmania. We recognise that funding for these organisations is currently under threat where they rely on partial or full funding from the Federal Government, and we will work hard to protect that resourcing.

Will you commit to implementing the recommendations of the Tasmanian Law Reform Institute and introduce draft legislation to enact a Charter of Human Rights?

Yes. The Greens have consistently campaigned for a Tasmanian Charter of Human Rights, and we will continue to do so after the 15th March election.

Will you commit to implementing the recommendations of the DHHS 'A Continuum of Care' review?

What measures does your party see as important in reducing youth offending and re offending as well as reducing the number of young people held in detention?

The Greens are committed to early intervention, assistance, and diversion programs to keep our young people out of detention facilities, and certainly to avoid falling into the destructive re-offending and being incarcerated cycle.

We will review the DHHS "A Continuum of Care" review recommendations, in collaboration with advocacy and youth organisations to ensure their targeted and effective implementation.

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Will you commit to providing sufficient recurrent funding to allow EDO Tasmania to continue to operate for the term of your government?

Yes. We will be making further announcements regarding this.

Will you commit to providing at least the same level of State funding, to legal assistance services¹ for the term of your government, that current service agreements provide for?

If you are unable to commit the same level of funding, what areas of legal assistance funding are at risk?

Yes, We will be making further announcements regarding this.

Will you continue to invite community legal centres to apply for a grant of money from the Solicitors' Guarantee Fund?

Yes.

Will your party commit to amending Housing Tasmania's policy so that tenants are only evicted after being informed in writing of details concerning their alleged breach and provided with an internal right of review.

The Greens will undertake to consult with relevant stakeholders including the not-for-profit legal organisations, and the Tenancy Union, regarding any necessary changes to housing Tasmania's policy.

Will you commit to undertaking the review of the Family Violence Act 2004 (Tas), and drafting, funding and implementing any recommended amendments to the Act?

We support and commit to undertake the review of the *Family Violence Act 2004*. In principle we would support implementing the review's recommendations, however until the review has been conducted, and publicly consulted, it is pre-emptive to commit to specific courses of action beforehand..

Will you commit to providing appropriate levels of ongoing funding to establish gender specific perpetrator programs?

The Greens support the development, in collaboration with stakeholders, of gender specific perpetrator programs, and are committed to these being adequately resourced.

We have also released our *Empowering Tasmania's Women and Girls* election commitment, which I have attached. And which prioritises funding programs to tackle violence against women and children in our communities. These preventative programs are also necessary to complement and strengthen gender specific perpetrator programs.

Thank you for this opportunity to contribute to your assessment of 2014 election policy commitment on behalf of the eight legal centre the Community Legal Centre represents.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick McKim". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nick McKim MP
Greens Leader