

### Investment in peaks welcome but funding gap remains for YNOT

The Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT) welcomes the election commitment from the Tasmanian Liberals to invest in peak organisations, however, the organisation will still be facing a significant gap between rising costs and funding provided to deliver outcomes.

The Tasmanian Liberals commitment for Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) funded peaks is to provide an additional \$20,000 per annum from 2018-19 with indexation at 2.25% applied annually to part of the grant funding from 2019-2020.

YNOT Chair, Lisa Amerikanos, said, "YNOT welcomes indexation applied to our grant funding as it is something we have advocated for a number of years. However, looking at the information available so far, this will be applied to less than half of our grant funding. We will continue to be challenged by total rising costs to meet our Key Performance Indicators.

"No increase in our grant has been made for the past 7 years. This leaves a significant gap in our funding to meet basic operational costs. The additional \$20,000 top-up announced today will provide a small amount of relief and is the best offer on the table so far."

YNOT is the peak body for the 87,000 young people in Tasmania and the wider youth sector, which includes over 70 members, and through its regional networks, over 300 sector workers working in all areas of youth welfare across Tasmania.

YNOT serves an important function in the community through research, policy, advocacy, consultation, coordination, capacity building and information dissemination.

YNOT Acting CEO, Tegan Pearce, said, "Our work is highly valued by members; however, we will need to consider ongoing changes to our operations, having already made considerable cost cutting measures. YNOT welcomes the recognition of peaks in the announcement today, but the commitment shows more understanding is needed of the costs to deliver outcomes.

"We have been working with all political parties to address our concerns and achieve equitable funding and will continue to be open to negotiations to ensure we can continue to deliver outcomes for the Tasmanian youth sector and young people."

*Tasmanian Labor has committed to applying indexation for peaks funded by DPAC.  
Tasmanian Greens have committed to funding indexation at 3% for community sector organisations.*

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