

Media Release

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Tasmanians deserve pay parity

Unions Tasmania Secretary, Simon Cocker today refuted claims that the Tasmanian economy could not afford for Tasmanian workers to receive pay parity with their mainland counterparts.

Unions today called on employers and the State Government to take action to improve the pay of Tasmanian workers. Recently released ABS data showed that Tasmania's fulltime earnings had fallen to 94% of the Australian average after being 96% at the start of the decade. (ABS data "Employee Earnings, Benefits & Trade Union Membership")

The data showed that the average Tasmanian wage for full time workers who were union members was \$1001 per week and for non-union members it was \$949 per week, \$171.75 less than the Australian average.

Secretary of Unions Tasmania, Simon Cocker said:

"In the last two years Tasmanian wages have slipped behind their mainland counterparts by up to 2%. If we are going to meet the target we all agreed to in Tasmania Together the Government needs to show leadership on this and move ahead with pay parity for public servants in this state."

"Tasmania has been through the lean times and made the sacrifices to allow the state to grow. Now, with the economy growing and high employment, it is entirely reasonable for Tasmanian workers to get something in return."

"If we want good government and good public services then we want the best public servants we can get. The only way to get that is to be prepared to pay for it."

"Tasmanians don't deserve a second class public service. They deserve the very best and hardworking public servants deserve a fair day's pay for a fair day's work. Why should the definition of that vary significantly from state to state?"

Commenting on TCCI statements that the government had let the "rabbit out of the box" on pay parity Mr Cocker said:

"This is a tired old debate that we've already had and the Government adopted a very clear position. Pay parity is a target of the Government's own strategic revue. It is a Tasmania Together target."

"Human resources staff are having difficulty recruiting skilled employees for the wages that are on offer at the moment. That's not just a public service issue. That's a state wide issue." said Mr Cocker.

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