
MEDIA RELEASE: 8 JUNE 2010

TASMANIA *TOGETHER* – COMMENTS INVITED FOR PROPOSED BENCHMARKS

The Tasmania *Together* Progress Board today released for public comment a number of new and revised benchmarks for the State's Plan, Tasmania *Together* 2020.

“The new benchmarks reveal that Tasmania has just over one third the number of public dentists available per 100,000 people compared to the national value. Additionally, the proportion of Tasmanian babies with a low birth weight has risen above the national proportion”, said Michael Lynch, Deputy Chair of the Tasmania *Together* Progress Board.

“This is not ideal and it is the Progress Board's objective to encourage government, businesses and community groups to make informed decisions and work together to turn these trends around.

“These benchmarks should spark questions such as ‘What can be done to increase the level of access to public dentists for Tasmanians to bring us to par with the rest of the nation?’ ‘Why has the proportion of Tasmanian babies of low birth weight increased?’”

Mr Lynch said it is important that the community has the opportunity to provide its view on the usefulness of these important indicators and the appropriateness of the targets.

Nine benchmarks have been released for public comment spanning a range of social, economic and environmental areas, including:

- Childhood health;
- Access to medical and dental care;
- Apprenticeship and traineeship commencements;
- Community usage of public education facilities;
- Economic contribution of selected Arts industries;
- Impact of works on heritage values; and
- Tasmanian river health.

The proposed additions and revisions are aimed at improving the range and quality of information reported by the Progress Board. The Progress Board invites members of the community to provide comment on the draft benchmarks, which can be found on the Tasmanian *Together* website at www.tasmaniatgether.tas.gov.au.

Comments can be provided to contact@tasmaniatgether.com.au by 25 June 2010.

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