

Dr Lisa Gershwin

Independent candidate for Clark 2021

Voice for *Mental Health & Disabilities*

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Our mental health, disability, and housing systems are broken!

About Me:

- I'm on the autism spectrum, I've suffered from depression, and been homeless in Launceston and Hobart. I understand, and I will fight for you!

The Problem:

- 38% of Tasmanians have been diagnosed with a chronic mental health condition, and that figure has been steadily growing since 2010.
- The waiting list for appointments and procedures in the Greater Hobart region is woefully more than 2 years!
- Suicide rates in Tasmania are the second highest in the nation, and are on the rise.
- Hobart is the most unaffordable capital city in Australia for buying and renting homes.

As an Independent candidate and concerned citizen, I call on the

Government to take action. They MUST:

- Facilitate scrutiny of all new legislation and policies by people with relevant lived experience, to actively work toward a fairer Tasmania.
- Stop being obstructive and start being helpful to people accessing care, e.g. engage frustrated victims of these systems to create a user-friendly portal and helpline for services.
- Urgently explore options to reduce waiting lists by adding another 200 mental health practitioners to Tasmania's capacity, including short-term and long-term strategies.
- Explore mental health options that take pressure off hospital emergency departments, such as the UMHCC model, launched in South Australia.

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Dr Lisa Gershwin's positions on...

Mental Health & Disabilities

The Tasmanian mental health and disability systems are broken. The waiting times for assessments and procedures are woeful: in many cases, years. Funding must be re-prioritised from corporate subsidies to provide support that actually works for clients and staff.

Education & Training

Too many people are denied further education post Year 12, simply because they cannot afford it and are hesitant to incur debt. Further study and training should be made accessible to all Tasmanians, regardless of age and income.

Jobs

A good hard look needs to be taken of the jobs future in Tasmania. We need to get real and start facilitating jobs that will build community and be around in 10 years' time. Meaningful employment creates stability and security, which improves mental health and wellbeing. Extractive and polluting industries are not part of a healthy Tasmania.

Environment

Changing climate is creating more frequent fires, floods, storms, and drought. We urgently deserve an effective, timely, decisive plan from State Government!

Transport

Traffic gridlock in the city and major thoroughfares like the Brooker Highway and Southern Outlet have become shocking and unhealthy. The government must immediately begin investing in options for decentralising traffic, such as improving the public transport system, Park & Ride and carpool incentives.

Housing

Hobart has been named the least affordable capital city in Australia! Too many Tasmanians are struggling with even finding a place to live. The Government must urgently adopt best practice from other jurisdictions, including co-housing, aging in place, and long-term rental security.

Economic Fairness

Tasmanian governments have continued to give enormous subsidies (cash grants and exemptions) to businesses and industries that can well afford to pay their own bills. It is good to get local businesses up and running, and it is good to lure businesses to the state, but once a business becomes profitable, these subsidies must be capped and the money urgently redistributed to community services.



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