

Will Hodgman MP
Leader of the State Opposition
Friday June 13, 2008

***It's not how much money you spend but how you
spend it***

The State Government must explain when Tasmanians can start to see improved outcomes from its ever-increasing budget spend.

Every year, the State Labor Government trumpets record spending, and every year, some key indicators just keep going backwards.

Elective surgery waiting lists are a classic case in point. The State Budget forecasts a blow-out in waiting lists to 8950 in 2008/09...that is a rise of almost 50% since Labor took office ten years ago.

"It's not about how much money you spend, but how you spend it," Leader of the State Opposition, Will Hodgman, said.

"Every year, the State Government talks about a record investment in health. And every year, the situation when it comes to basic indicators such as waiting lists, just gets worse.

"Tasmanians are getting tired of this government crowing about how much money it is spending, when it is not delivering outcomes.

"It demonstrates poor management from Labor and wasted opportunities."

Other examples of a lack of outcomes expected from the biggest ever budget in Tasmania, include:

- disability services waiting lists are expected to increase or stay the same next year, despite reform and more funding in this area;

- the number of applicants on the public housing waiting list is expected to remain the same as this year's target of 2700, despite \$60 million promised earlier this year;
- despite its supposed re-commitment to drought-proofing Tasmania, no improvements are forecast in the amount of time it takes to process dam works permit approvals;
- the participation rate will remain pitiful;
- the economic growth rate is forecast to remain static, and is then projected to fall; and
- population growth will increase 0.1% to 0.8% and then run at about 0.7% over the forward estimates, which is not good enough.

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