

NETWORK OF LIFE HEALTH CENTRES

Greens State Election 2010 Campaign Launch

Nick McKim MP Greens Leader

Wednesday, 10 March 2010 For Comment: Cath Hughes, Media Advisor, 0419 886 304 mps.tas.greens.org.au

Delivering a Network of Tasmanian Life Health Centres

The Tasmanian Greens know that Tasmania need to invest more in preventative health –Tasmania has the highest rates of chronic disease and cancer in the nation, and we know that every dollar spent on preventative health saves ten dollars or more down the line, as we avoid the chronic consequences of unhealthy living.

The Greens will:

- Double the Health Budget's allocation for health promotion from 1.5% to 3% over five years
- Invest \$30 million over three years to build and staff a network of Tasmanian Life Health Centres, alongside the 30 Child and Family Centres to be constructed around the state
- These Life Health Centres would take walk-ins and referrals, and services would be free. They will house professionals with expertise in chronic disease, nutritionists, counsellors, and therapists, with access to recreational and sporting clubs, as well as tobacco, drug and alcohol programs
- The Greens Life Health Centres will deliver the health promotion message into our communities, with the outreach capacity needed to improve the health of Tasmanians. And they will enable government to identify local health trends – to get on top of problems like Rosebery and St Helens before they happen.

"The Greens believe a healthy environment makes for healthier people and a healthy economy, and we take a longer view than the old parties who only talk about health at election time, and then leave people rotting on waiting lists for year after year." – Greens Leader Nick McKim