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Tasmania *Together* Releases 2008 Progress Report

Tasmanians are feeling safer at home and in public places, participate more in cultural activities and post-secondary education and training, and are having less injuries in the workplace.

At the same time, we are experiencing increased housing stress, our young people are at greater risk of injury or fatal accidents, type 2 diabetes and obesity are on the increase, and Tasmania continues to be the worst performing state for school retention rates.

These are just some of the highlights of the biennial report to Parliament on the State's progress by the independent Tasmania *Together* Progress Board.

Chair of the Board, Mr Bob Campbell, today released the 2008 Tasmania *Together* Progress Report. The report provides an up-to-date snapshot of progress on how Tasmania is going in terms of achieving the goals and benchmarks in Tasmania *Together*, the State's plan for 2020.

Mr Campbell said the 2008 Progress Report painted a positive but challenging picture for Tasmania.

"Tasmania *Together* measures our progress across a range of social, economic and environmental indicators – we let the community know how we are going," he said.

"Of the 171 measures of progress we looked at this year, just over half (56%) had either achieved or were progressing towards their 2010 target."

"Just under half (44%) were making no progress or moving away from the 2010 targets set by the Board."

"It's a mixed result and while Tasmanians can be proud of our progress in some areas but more work needs to be done in others."

"It would appear we are enjoying the fruits of strong economic growth but in some areas such as the health and well-being of younger Tasmanians more needs to be done," said Mr Campbell.

Highlights of the 2008 Progress Report include:

- Increases in the number of people who feel safe at home and in public places, decreases in workplace injuries and continuing reductions in avoidable mortality;

- A significant reduction in households relying on government support, fewer long-term unemployed, and strong growth in the proportion of Tasmanians participating in post-secondary education and training;
- Type 2 diabetes and obesity continue to rise as does the level of housing stress. Tasmania continues to be the worst performing State for school retention rates from grade 10 to 12, and we are not achieving numeracy and literacy targets;
- Increased community usage of school facilities, improved access to the internet, and increased participation in cultural activities.
- There has been an increase in the proportion of Tasmanians living in socially disadvantaged areas and an increase in the number of 15-19 year olds not employed or in education.
- Workforce participation is on the rise while there has been a decrease in the level of underemployment. Exports and mineral exploration have both increased, as have visitor numbers and expenditure.
- The number of major visitor centres with Aboriginal interpretation and the amount of land owned or managed by the Aboriginal community has not increased.
- On the environment front, there has been an increase in the proportion of the State that is protected, air quality breaches have declined, and the use of 1080 continues to decline.
- Water quality continues to be a problem with no decline in boiled water alerts and a lack of progress in establishing Marine Protected Areas.

Mr Campbell said the 2008 Progress Report is a first on a number of fronts.

“It is our first report on progress since Tasmania *Together* was revised and approved by Parliament, in 2006.”

“It is also the first time the Board has assessed Tasmania’s progress based on the 2010 targets rather than the 2005 targets, which shows how far we are into the community’s 20 year plan.”

“And it is the first time we have based the progress report on the new Online Benchmark Reports. The web-based system allows the Board to report to the community with the most up-to-date data and commentary.”

Mr Campbell said it was up to all levels of government, business and community groups, and the broad community to work towards the community’s vision spell out in Tasmania Together.

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“I keep emphasising, Tasmania *Together* is not a government plan, it is the community’s vision for 2020 and the Board encourages everyone to make a contribution.”

Copies of the 2008 Progress Report can be found at www.tasmaniatogether.tas.gov.au and Online Benchmark Reports can be found at www.ttbenchmarks.com.au

Copies can also be provided on request by contacting the Tasmania *Together* Progress Board by phoning 62 335958.

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