

**TITLE:      Benchmarks that have been revised**

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**PURPOSE:**

The Tasmania *Together* Progress Board has endorsed the following revisions to Tasmania *Together*.

**Comments are requested by 25 July 2008.**

- Please return any comments to: [secretariat@tasmaniatogether.tas.gov.au](mailto:secretariat@tasmaniatogether.tas.gov.au). Queries can be directed to the email address above, or Paul Sayer on 6233 3760.

**BACKGROUND:**

When Tasmania *Together* was updated in 2006, a number of benchmarks were included with a note that the baseline and/ or targets would be set in 2007 and 2008.

Further amendments have been made due to changed data sources or problems that were found in the wording of indicators.

A complete report on these benchmarks can be found at: [www.ttbenchmarks.com.au](http://www.ttbenchmarks.com.au).

**REVISED BENCHMARKS:**

**Benchmark 1.1.7 Transport accessibility**

**Comment/Rationale:** Access to affordable and reliable transport is important for accessing employment, services and recreation. Reporting against this benchmark will include young persons, older persons and persons with a disability.

**Source:** General Social Survey (GSS) ABS

**Old number:** 1.3.1

**Baseline:**      2002 87.5%

**New data:**     2006 88.1%

**New Targets:**      2010 90%  
                          2015 93%  
                          2020 95%

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**Benchmark 1.1.8 Proportion of retired Tasmanians who rely on government pensions or allowances as main source of income**

**Comment/Rationale:** Retirement planning by Tasmania's ageing population will help achieve financial independence

**Source:** Retirement and Retirement Intentions Survey, Australian Bureau of Statistics (6238.0)

**Old number:** new benchmark

**New Baseline:** 2004-05 67.9%

The old baseline was measured at the beginning of retirement. In the ABS survey, respondents are asked to recall what their main source of income at retirement was, regardless of whether their retirement commenced during the survey year or thirty years ago. The new baseline relates only to the respondents primary source of income in the year of the survey, giving a more accurate picture of the proportion of retirees relying on government pensions during that year.

**New Targets:**

2010	1% below national average
2015	1% below national average
2020	1% below national average

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**Benchmark 3.2.1 Proportion of persons (15-74) who are considered to be functionally literate**

**Comment/Rationale:** Functional literacy is important for self-development and effective engagement in community life.

**Source:** Aspects of Literacy, Australian Bureau of Statistics (4233.0)

**Old number:** new benchmark

**Baseline:** 1996

Prose literacy:	51.7%
Document literacy:	46.8%
<del>Quantitative literacy:</del>	<del>47.5%</del>

**New data:** 2006

Prose literacy:	51.7%
Document literacy:	46.8%

**New Targets:** for both prose literacy and document literacy

2010	53.5%
2015	56%
2020	58.5%

**Further Changes:**

Quantitative literacy is being deleted from the benchmark. Data is no longer available. Quantitative literacy has been replaced with Numeracy in the ABS survey – the data is not comparable.

Future reporting about this benchmark will a note explaining that new data will not be published until 2017 or 2018. Aspirational targets have been set for 2010 and 2015 but they will only be measured if a new data source is found.

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**Benchmark 5.1.1 Supportive living for older persons and people with a disability**

**Comment/Rationale:** Support should be available for older Tasmanians and people with a disability who wish to remain living at home.

**Source:** Survey of Disability, Aging and Carers, ABS (new data Sep 2009)

**Old number:** new

**Baseline:** 2003 persons with disability: 62.2%  
persons aged 60+: 65.9%

**New Targets:**

	disabled	aged 60+
2010	67%	72%
2015	72%	78%
2020	77%	84%

**Amendment to the Indicator:**

The indicator wording is amended to:

Older persons and people with a disability living in households whose need for assistance is fully met.

The ABS has advised that the survey question is about the proportion of Tasmanians with a *disability or aged over 60* living in households with a need for assistance that is fully met. 'Need for assistance' covers the following activities:

- for those with a disability: self-care, mobility, communication, cognition or emotion, health care
- for all persons (regardless of disability): paperwork, transport, housework, property maintenance or meal preparation.

**Benchmark 5.5.3 Participation of young people in community groups**

**Comment/Rationale:** If the proportion of young people who participate in community groups increases, it should reflect a greater input into the community and into decision-making processes.

**Source:** General Social Survey, ABS

**Old number:** 8.2.1

**New Baseline:** 2006 62.0%

**New Targets:** 2010 68%  
2015 74%  
2020 80%

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**Benchmark 8.1.1 Proportion of people who think there are opportunities to have a real say on important issues**

**Comment/Rationale:** People need to believe that they can have a say in decision-making processes before effective participation will occur.

**Source:** General Social Survey, ABS

**Old number:** new, replaced 13.2.4

**New Baseline:** 2006 36.7% (calculated using respondents who think they have opportunities to have a real say on important issues “all the time’ and ‘most of the time’)

**New Targets:** 2010 40%  
2015 45%  
2020 50%

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**Benchmark 8.1.2 Proportion of people participating in a decision-making process.**

**Comment/Rationale:** Participating in the decision-making processes should give people a better understanding of the issues involved and provides an incentive for people to help determine the future of their communities and contribute to realising that future.

**Source:** General Social Survey, ABS

**Old number:** n/ a – new benchmark

**New Baseline:** 2006 47.5%

**New Targets:** 2010 54%  
2015 60%  
2020 67%

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**Benchmark 8.1.4 Involvement in community action to improve or protect local services or activities**

**Comment/Rationale:** Involvement in community action should build stronger, more vibrant communities.

**Source:** General Social Survey, ABS

**Old number:** replaced 12.1.2

**New Baseline:** 2006 28.2%

**New Targets:** 2010 33%  
2015 37%  
2020 40%

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**Benchmark 8.4.3 People who feel comfortable contacting someone in government for information**

**Comment/Rationale:** The ease with which people are able to get information is one indicator of how open and accessible our government is.

**Source:** General Social Survey, ABS

**Old number:** replaced 13.2.4

**New Baseline:** 2006 45.1%

**New Targets:** 2010 48%  
2015 51%  
2020 55%

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**Benchmark 8.4.4 Proportion of people who have difficulty accessing government services**

**Comment/Rationale:** Government services should be accessible for the people they are designed to serve.

**Source:** General Social Survey, ABS

**Old number:** new benchmark

**New Baseline:** 2006 13.7%

**New Targets:** 2010 10%  
2015 6%  
2020 3%

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**Benchmark 9.2.1 Proportion of employees who have flexible work arrangements**

**Comment/Rationale:** Tasmanians should have a good work/ leisure balance.

**Source:** General Social Survey, ABS

**Old number:** 16.1.5

**New Baseline:** 2006 85.7%

**New Targets:** 2010 89%  
2015 92%  
2020 95%

**Amendment to the Indicator:**

The indicator wording is amended to:

“Proportion of employees with family and community commitments who have flexible work arrangements.”

The relevant questions in the General Social Survey have been designed to find out which employees who have family and community commitments also have flexible work conditions. As a result, there is no data that matches the current indicator wording, ie the proportion of all employees.

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**Benchmark 10.4.3 Growth in the number of small businesses**

**Comment/Rationale:** Small business is an important ingredient for economic and employment growth.

**Old number:** 19.3.3

**Source:** The data source has been changed to *Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits* (ABS 8165.0), as the current data source is no longer available.

The new data series is:

June 2003 to June 2006 ( <b>baseline</b> )	1.9% average annual growth
June 2004 to June 2007	2.2% average annual growth

**New Targets:** 2010 Achieve national average  
2015 Maintain  
2020 Maintain

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**Benchmark 12.1.2 Percentage of Tasmania covered by native vegetation**

This indicator has been divided into 2 indicators.

Currently the indicator is:

12.1.2 Percentage of Tasmania covered by native vegetation

(a) to be established in 2007

(b) 2000: 73% (approx)

Targets: (a) No net loss of threatened vegetation communities and no new communities classified as threatened

(b) Tasmania retains more than 75% of its land area covered by sustainably managed native vegetation

The division is based on the current targets. Target (a) becomes indicator 12.1.2 and target (b) becomes indicator 12.1.3. This split was necessary because the two targets are measuring different things – threatened vegetation communities and sustainable management of native vegetation.

Fortunately there is no 12.1.3 in TT, so no clash occurs with another benchmark.

The new indicators will be:

12.1.2 Threatened vegetation communities

Baseline: (a) 2007 0 native Tasmanian vegetation communities were lost

(b) 2007 0 native vegetation communities were added to the existing list of 39 threatened communities

Targets: 2010 0

2015 0

2020 0

12.1.3 Percentage of Tasmania covered by native vegetation

Baseline: 2005 73.5%

Targets: 2005 75%

2010 75%

2015 75%

2020 75%

**Benchmark 12.2.1 Proportion of water measurement sites showing no increase in turbidity**

**Source:** DPIW

**New Baseline:** 2006 100%

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**Benchmark 12.3.2 Proportion of water samples with pesticides exceeding national guidelines**

**Source:** DPIW

**New Baseline:** 2005-06 1.0%

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