

Monday 15 May 2017

In the wake of the Federal Budget, Unions Tasmania and The Australia Institute Tasmania have combined to better understand what Tasmanians want and need from their jobs along with what barriers those who are looking for employment face in entering the labour market.

The Federal Budget failed Tasmania on this key issue. There were no bold job creating infrastructure projects, no clear plan for jobs, and absolute silence on the issue of penalty rate cuts and casualisation – two huge issues for working people.

Analysis of the budget by the Australia Institute shows that should the budget measures be passed, low income Tasmanians will lose out, whilst those on incomes higher than 180,000 will get a tax break.

- Tasmanians earning \$40,000 a year will pay an extra \$200 per year and those on \$60,000 will pay an extra \$300 in an increased Medicare levy;
- Tasmanians with a taxable income of more than \$180,000 per year will receive on average, a tax cut of around \$2,600 each per year

Quotes attributable to Jessica Munday

“The Federal Budget was a complete let down on jobs for Tasmania,” said Jessica Munday, Secretary Unions Tasmania.

“When we talk to people, they talk about whether there are jobs out there at all and, if they are out there, what do they look like? Thousands of Tasmanians stand to get a pay cut because of cuts to penalty rates. Many are struggling with insecure work and jobs being casualised, even in the public service. Cost of living pressures are increasing but workers are struggling to get decent pay rises.”

“We want to start a real conversation with Tasmanians about the jobs they need to live a great life here in Tasmania.”

Quotes attributed to Leanne Minshull

“The federal government have asked some of the lowest paid Australians to do even more ‘lifting’ without addressing the already significant cost of increasing power prices and housing affordability,” said Leanne Minshull, Director The Australian Institute Tasmania.

“We know the official unemployment rate has dropped in Tasmania, but so too has the rate of full time employment. We are collecting data to better inform us of the pressures facing underemployed Tasmanians.”

“The survey is the first step in understanding the main cost of living pressures, working Tasmanians are facing.”

Anyone interested in taking part in the survey can find the link [here](#) or go to www.tai.org.au/tasmania or www.unionstas.com.au

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