



MEDIA RELEASE

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Beacon welcomes the Tasmanian Government's commitment to get serious about youth employment

The Beacon Foundation is committed to helping create a brighter future for young Tasmanians by creating meaningful pathways to work for young people in our State.

Beacon CEO, Scott Harris, says the Government's proposed Youth Jobs Strategy will be crucial for thousands of young Tasmanians.

"We welcome the Tasmanian Government getting serious and creating a Youth Jobs Strategy," Mr Harris said.

"Beacon has been working with young people right around the country for over 35 years, helping to give them real life experience and encouraging them to live up to their potential.

"We're hopeful that the Government will see the Youth Jobs Strategy as an opportunity to bring together a range of community groups, industry, business, government departments and local government to embrace young Tasmanians and give them all the support they need to have a great career and really contribute to their local communities.

"Our submission, which we're releasing today, and which has the support of organisations such as YNOT, the TCCI, Destination Southern Tasmania, the THA and Hydro Tasmania, raises a number of key issues that the Government needs to take into account."

The submission focuses on five key areas:

- **A Need for a Holistic Approach:** Beacon emphasizes the importance of taking a comprehensive approach to youth employment, one that

considers the multifaceted needs of young people, and incorporates local insights and input.

- **Enhancing Career Readiness:** Beacon is emphasising the importance of investing in initiatives that nurture early career awareness, aspiration, and motivation among students.
- **The Vital Role of Intermediaries:** Beacon Foundation is emphasising the crucial role intermediaries play in bridging the gap between education and the workforce, fostering meaningful connections between industry, schools, and students.
- **Defining 'Job-Ready' Collaboratively:** Beacon Foundation calls for an inclusive discussion and definition of the term 'job-ready,' encouraging all stakeholders to work together in creating a shared understanding that serves the interests of the community.
- **Recognition of Skills and Expertise:** Beacon Foundation highlights the importance of recognising the skills and expertise required by organisations working with young people, with a focus on tailored programs and support to address the complex challenges faced by young Tasmanians.

“We know from experience that the more interactions young Tasmanians have with business and industry throughout their time at school the more likely they are to go on to get a job or to go on to get the training, skills or further education they need to become the workforce of the future.

“Beacon provides the know-how, resources and expertise to not only help make these connections, but also to make sure they deliver the right outcomes for students, schools and the Government.

“It’s great to see the Government getting serious about this issue and we look forward to sharing the insights we have learned over the past 35 years or so to help the Government work with us to create a brighter future for all young Tasmanians.”

The Youth Network of Tasmania has worked closely with the Tasmanian Government and our members to ensure the views and experiences of young Tasmanians from diverse backgrounds are imbedded in the Strategy.

YNOT CEO, Tania Hunt said “The State Government should be commended for its commitment to engaging young Tasmanians in the development of the Strategy as this will be integral to its success. However, this commitment needs to extend to the implementation and evaluation of the Strategy”.



“During YNOT consultations young Tasmanians have shared their views on how they can be better supported to transition from education to work or further study. Early career awareness in secondary school and access to work experience opportunities featured heavily in discussions and has been a consistent theme across the State.

“Intermediaries play an important role in providing specialised career support and guidance to young people and connecting industry with schools and students. The role of career support must be delivered by specialised career-based professionals with the requisite skills and expertise to prepare young people for the world of work,” Ms Hunt said.

TCCI CEO, Michael Bailey said that from an industry perspective there are two key elements for a successful Youth Jobs Strategy.

“Firstly, we support Beacon’s call for a proper definition of what ‘job ready’ actually means,” Mr Bailey said.

“It’s vital that the government talks to a range of groups like Beacon and YNOT, as well as businesses and industry groups to make sure we can really prepare young Tasmanians properly.

“Secondly, we need to make sure businesses that are participating in work-readiness programs or who are considering taking on young Tasmanians as employees have all the tools they need to create the best work environment possible.”

Mr Harris and Mr Bailey said that the Government should consider developing a taskforce with broad representation from across the community to help guide the development of the Strategy and to assist with its implementation.