



2006 ELECTION INITIATIVE

Friday 3 March 2006.

This 2006 election initiative is to address the chronic under-resourcing currently facing our over-stressed child protection sector. *The Greens are pledging \$6 million to improve the capability of our child protection sector.*

This is a component of the Greens' forthcoming **Health Policy** which will be released in full at a later date.

Child Protection Initiatives

With the introduction of the Safe at Home Legislation and compulsory notification of suspected child abuse there has been a significant increase in the number of cases reported to authorities, the Labor Government's response to this has been totally inadequate.

For the past couple of years there has been a unacceptable waiting time between reporting of cases and their allocation to case managers, the Greens are determined to ensure that child protection services are capable of responding without undue delay and that case managers have workloads that allow them to properly manage those that they are responsible for.

These staff must have appropriate administrative support and safe workplaces as they are working with clients who are often in a unpredictable emotional state.

- The Greens will inject an additional \$6,000,000 to improve the capability of the child protection services in Tasmania in the 2006/07 financial year.**
- The allocation will employ more staff for assessment, case management, youth workers, out of home care and administrative support as well as upgrading and improving the safety of workplaces.
- The Greens will rely upon the advice of Child Protection Workers, Police and other stakeholders to determine the most effective distribution of the allocation.
- The Greens do not accept that 6-800 cases of reported child abuse awaiting allocation is acceptable, we will work with stakeholders to set targets and then find the resources to achieve those targets.
- The provision of a properly resourced Child Protection and Referral Service is treated as an investment not a cost.

For more details call the Tasmanian Greens on 6233 8300