

My name is Chris Ellery and I am currently a teacher (full time), elected AEU Rosny College sub branch member Representative and elected Health and safety representative.

The issue of Public Education funding is extremely important to me as the state of the college I am in, and other school and colleges in Tasmania, are being run down. This has seen our heating plant that is over 50 years old be inefficient as it provides cold frigid air in winter and extreme hot air in many spaces in summer. We have no opening windows for fresh air to circulate. We have no natural light source to many of our internal rooms which is vital in creating a healthy classroom environment scientifically proven for student learning.

The college does not have enough efficient and effective storage space for the resources. This has created some very concerning safety issues as spaces that are not fit for storage have been created and used. This has impacted on the health and well being of staff and students who have to access and use these spaces.

Our Elevator is not big enough to facilitate the evacuation of a patient on an ambulance gurney.

We had a student in a wheelchair on our level 4 who could not be evacuated during a fire drill because the elevator is not allowed to be used, leaving her on level 4 in the building. Although there was no fire if there had been this would have put her life and the life of others at risk in trying to evacuate her because there is not access for wheelchair persons from level 4 in the event of a fire.

So yes, I absolutely, 1000% support the full and appropriate funding of the Public education system. It is criminal that it has been allowed to get to the degraded state our public-school building have plummeted to.

In turn has, and is, affecting our students learning because any spare money goes towards trying to repair or maintain old, outdated facilities. The money could have been better used to purchase and provide more effect and update learning resources. This would improve student learning outcomes and their future pathways into further study and employment.

Our college has in excess of 450 students who are at risk of not gaining an education that would see them find meaningful, long-term employment. This would lead to disconnections with societal values and lead to higher rates of crime and bigger unemployment rates that creates a burden on our population and cost of living.

When we consider the disgraceful adult literacy of the state of Tasmania which around 50% and how the completion rate of students at the end of Year 12 in gaining their TCE is about the same percentage, 50%. It is clear that the underfunding of schools and colleges is directly related to the poor adult literacy rate of this state. We need, you need, to do something about this by providing what should have been provided long ago, equity in the funding of public sector education is vital in improving the environment of learning

that supports and encourages student learning, it further allows schools to access and utilise effective and relevant resources to create programs and learning opportunities for students.