Dietitians Australia

Affordable, nutritious food not sweet enough for an election commitment in Tasmania?

Dietitians Australia is calling on the incoming Tasmanian Government to consider just how sweet it would be to invest in community-based food and nutrition solutions and the preventive healthcare workforce to empower healthier, more nourished Tasmanians.

It follows the announcement from the current Liberal Government to commit to a $12 million investment to build the world's largest chocolate fountain to bolster the State's tourism economy.

"Dietitians enjoy chocolate just like everyone else, including it is a discretionary food as part of a balanced, nutritious diet," Dietitians Australia President Tara Diversi said.

"But we emphasise the need for balance, and this announcement comes at a time when the latest data shows that up to 1 in 2 Tasmanian households have been reporting experiences of food insecurity.

"The current health status of the Tasmanian population includes a lower life expectancy than other areas of Australia and higher rates of chronic health conditions and mental illness.

"What is the plan to ensure all Tasmanians have affordable access to nutritious food? Where is the investment commitment in allied and preventive health services?

"In Tasmania, we have some of the lowest numbers of dietitians in the public health sector per capita in the country.

“Growing the dietetic workforce in Tasmania, particularly in the community setting will ensure that food and nutrition activities will be robust and efficient throughout the state and that Tasmanians can access a dietitian through community health practices.

“It is critical that nutrition and dietetic services are increased in Tasmania to support all Tasmanians to have access to quality, healthy and safe foods and be empowered to make healthier choices in support of their physical and mental health and wellbeing.

“Dietitians Australia looks forward to supporting the incoming Tasmanian Government, to achieve this vision.

For media enquiries and interviews, contact our Media Manager Amy Phillips on 0409 661 920.

Note to Editors: Dietitians Australia is the leading voice in nutrition and dietetics, representing dietitians nationally and advocating for healthier communities. Accredited Practising Dietitian (APD) is the only national credential recognised by the Australian Government as the quality standard for nutrition and dietetics services in Australia.