

Growing Number of Women on Government Boards

Parliamentary Secretary to Premier Heather Butler said today the number of women on Tasmanian Government Boards and Committees has continued to increase and now ranked well with other States.

Ms Butler said women made up 37 per cent of the membership of government boards and committees in Tasmania and she expected that percentage to increase next year.

"There has been a 12 per cent increase under Tasmanian Labor Governments over the past decade and we want to see that continue," Ms Butler said.

"It is important we get the gender balance right and we are committed to increasing the representation of women on government boards and committees."

Ms Butler was one of the first women appointed to the TT Line Board in 1999 and held the position for six years before entering Parliament.

Ms Butler said of the total number of positions there were 505 women compared to 871 men.

Earlier this year Tasmania hosted a national workshop with the Australian Government Office for Women to look at strategies to increase women's representation on boards.

"A National Strategic Action Plan is now being developed to help boost the numbers," Ms Butler said.

Ms Butler said that of the States and Territories the ACT had the highest number of women represented with 48 per cent followed by South Australia (45 per cent), Victoria (40 per cent), Tasmania and New South Wales (37 per cent), Queensland (36 per cent) and Western Australia and the Northern Territory (34 cent).

Ms Butler encouraged women to join the Women's Register through Women Tasmania's website www.women.tas.gov.au