

1000th Companion Card Holder Welcomed to Program

The State Government has issued the 1000th Tasmanian Companion Card as part of a program to help make events and activities more accessible and affordable for people with disabilities.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier Heather Butler MP today presented the 1000th card to Mr Brodie Saville at an event to celebrate the milestone at Redbanks Fish and Field in Nugent.

“The Tasmanian Government’s Companion Card is for people who, due to their disability, require lifelong attendant care to participate at most community venues, events and activities,” Ms Butler said.

“Companion Card holders receive a ticket for their companion carer at no extra charge from participating businesses, making it more affordable for them to enjoy events like the movies, football games and the theatre.

“Redbanks Fish and Field is the latest Tasmanian business to join the program and offers a range of outdoor activities to Companion Card holders.”

“It’s exciting that the number of Tasmanians benefiting from this program has reached 1000 since its introduction to the State in 2006.

“I expect the Companion Card program to continue to grow and I encourage people to enquire about this program if they think they may be eligible.”

The latest Tasmanian to join the program, Mr Saville and his companion carer Mr Geoff Watts, joined Ms Butler for a tour of Redbanks’ facilities.

“I’m excited to be a Companion Card holder because I will now be able to afford to go to more of my favourite activities and venues,” Mr Saville said.

“I love watching football but it can get quite expensive when I have to pay for my carer’s ticket as well as my own so I don’t go as often as I would like to.”

Mr Saville said each week he visits the swimming pool because it is good exercise.

“Since I’ve been swimming twice a week I’ve noticed great improvements to my health. But it is very expensive for me because I have to pay for my carer to attend with me.”

“The Companion Card program will make a real difference to my life by saving me a lot of money to do the things regular people like to do.”

Ms Butler said reciprocal arrangements with other states entitled Tasmanian cardholders to use their cards with more than 2 000 participating organisations around Australia.

More information on the Companion Card is available at www.companioncard.org.au

People who are deaf, hard of hearing or who have complex communication needs can call the National Relay Service on 13 36 77, the Speech-to-Speech Relay Service on 1800 555 727 or the Disability Bureau TTY (telephone typewriter) on 1800 654 524.