
Federal election guidance

Political participation by Tasmanian State Service employees

- Tasmanian State Service employees have the same rights as other members of the community to engage in the political process, except where these activities impact adversely on their ability to perform their official duties to the standard required under the *State Service Act* and/or place them in conflict with the general obligations as Tasmanian State Service employees and officers.
- The State Service Principles articulated in the *State Service Act 2000* assert that the 'State Service is apolitical, performing its functions in an impartial, ethical and professional manner'.
- The State Service Code of Conduct requires agency employees and officers to:
 - behave in a way that upholds the State Service principles
 - behave in a way that does not adversely affect the integrity and good reputation of the State Service
 - maintain confidentiality about dealings and information acquired in the course of employment
 - disclose and take reasonable steps to avoid conflicts of interests in connection with State Service employment, and
 - use Tasmanian Government resources in a proper manner.
- It is important for all State Service employees and officers to consider their responsibilities before making any public commentary. You need to be aware of your responsibilities that limit your ability to participate in discussions, this includes social media and when using state service issued accounts or devices.
- At no time, should Tasmanian State Service employees and officers (other than those formally seconded to Ministerial, parliamentary or electorate offices) engage in activities of a political nature while on duty.

Contesting Elections

Employees and officers wishing to contest the Federal Election should review 'Practices, Procedures and Standards No. 3 – Contesting Federal, State and Local Government Elections' issued by the Director, State Service Management Office in the Department of Premier and Cabinet.