

Media Release



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LESS FUNDING FOR ROADS, MORE FOR ACTIVE TRANSPORT

It's back to school for Tasmanian families. For many parents they made it to school on their bikes, but sadly these days it's rare for students to be able to ride their bikes to and from school.

In fact, 48% of Tasmanian students do not walk or cycle to or from school.

With rising childhood obesity and the school-run causing congestion and pollution, it's important for families to choose active transport, like walking, cycling and public transport, as a way of getting to and from school and work.

"We are urging the Tasmanian Government to embrace active transport as part of the policy cure for the challenges of chronic disease, climate change, congestion and pollution," said Heart Foundation CEO Graeme Lynch.

"Twenty two per cent of Tasmanian children are overweight and 64% of Tasmanian adults are either overweight or obese, both above the national average.

"We need to make these healthier transport choices the easier choices by re-fitting our communities to promote physical activity - not obesity."

"A major concern for parents allowing their children to ride their bikes to school is traffic safety.

"In poor economic times, we are calling for the Tasmanian Government to invest more in active living infrastructure in the next Tasmanian Budget by transferring 5% of the infrastructure budget from roads to sustainable transport infrastructure.

"These funds will go towards building infrastructure that supports active living such as connected and safe walking and cycling routes, traffic calming measures and more convenient public transport.

"People who live in neighborhoods that make it easier for people to walk or cycle to shops, schools, parks, services and public transport are more likely to be active.

"Disturbingly 72% of Tasmanian adults do not get enough physical activity which makes it really important the kids of today don't grow up to be inactive adults."

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