

# Push to abolish youth wages

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YOUNG workers may get a pay rise but their work hours will be cut if the Labor Party gets its way.

Australian Young Labor Tasmanian president Stuart Benson successfully moved a motion at the party's Hobart conference yesterday to follow New Zealand in abolishing youth wages.

Arguing they are discriminatory, Mr Benson said: "There is no evidence that any slight increase to the wages of young people changes the prospect of their employment chances".

Fellow youth delegate Henry Pill said young workers faced the same cost of living expenses as everyone else but were paid less.

Meanwhile, the party agreed to consider capping the number of hours a young person can work so it does not interfere with studying.

A motion from New Town branch member and Denison Labor MHR Duncan Kerr called on the State Government to ensure the rights of children are protected by implementing law reforms.

Mr Kerr said as a minimum, new child employment laws should cover:

- The minimum age for the performance of certain types of work.
- Minimising conflicts between work arrangements and schooling.
- Limiting working hours.
- Employer obligations, including appropriate supervision.