



# TASMANIAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE SCHOOL ORGANISATIONS INC.

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## MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, August 20, 2020

### Minister Rockliff deserves an “A”.

The peak body representing and advocating for families of students in public education, the Tasmanian Association of State School Organisations (TASSO), is today rejoicing at the news of the increase to the Student Assistant Scheme (STAS) threshold for eligibility.

TASSO’s long advocacy through meetings and written proposals over several years to bring the STAS threshold in line with other state concessions available to low-income families, who have a Commonwealth Health Care Card, have come to fruition today, with the Minister’s announcement.

Minister Rockliff deserves an “A” following today’s announcement regarding STAS. This decision adds value to his previous actions to waive and subsequently reimburse school fees for 2020, and the wiping of debt created by non-payment of previous years’ levies.

According to Mr. Nigel Jones, TASSO President, the provision of extra funding for school excursions are another praiseworthy decision. He said, “Excursions linked to the Australian Curriculum are an extremely important part of student learning and can have a positive influence on wellbeing. This year has been a difficult year for students and educators because of the pandemic, so what a wonderful relaxing educational experience for Tasmanian state school students, - exploring and learning about the many wonders of our beautiful nature and heritage to end the year.”

All of these initiatives are fantastic during COVID-19, however it will be important that school excursion funding and action on levies should have more lasting application because they benefit the whole community of Tasmania. Future progress would ensure that all public schools can offer similar educational programs, regardless of location and the socio-economic diversity of the community the school serves.

**For further comment contact**

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