



TASMANIAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE SCHOOL ORGANISATIONS INC.

ABN: 28 261 465 779

Office: 15 Rowitta Road Lindisfarne phone: 03 6243 7718

PO Box 183 Lindisfarne TAS 7015 email: manager@TASSO.org.au

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 26th, 2021

Together We Can Improve Student's Literacy.

The Tasmanian Association of State School Organisations Inc. (TASSO) welcomes steps announced by the Honourable Jeremy Rockliff Minister for Education and Training to improve the literacy levels of Tasmanian students.

“Decades of international and national research supports the benefits of genuine family engagement by schools and vice-a-versa. It is proven that when the adults in a child or youth's life work in partnership the outcomes are enhanced. The community in conjunction with schools can and does have a positive impact on student learning and wellbeing. Literacy underpins so much of what is learnt at school and is a vital life skill.” said TASSO President Jared Dickason.

This is the perfect opportunity for trained educators, teachers, to work with the first educators, families and carers, and share knowledge and a consistent approach to helping children improve their literacy skills.

Many parents contact TASSO with concerns about their child's reading and that they do not know how to help. For some parents and carers it can be daunting or confronting when the first home reader arrives home with a child and being expected without instruction to know what to do. Some parents have approached their child's school seeking assistance with the task of home reading only to leave none the wiser as some schools do not have adequate resources to help parents nor do they show in their actions the importance of forging an authentic partnership with families and school communities. Early identification and communication between everyone involved in the education of a child can prevent future problems and negative experiences most importantly allow the child to learn that they and their schooling is important to those who are important to them. A student progress report twice a year and a parent teacher interview do not achieve intervention when it is needed most nor assist the child's learning.

TASSO have and continue to advocate for the improvements in educational outcomes and cost savings that can be made by having genuine relationships between family – school –

community. “This whole of community approach...” stated in Minister Rockliff’s media release of March 25th, 2021, is true recognition of the important role that everyone has in the education of young Tasmanians. It is desirable that resources will be deployed to assist families and communities, just like they are being provided to teachers, to ensure all literacy targets are met.

Schools – Families – Communities working together in building programs and strategies, two-way communication and the sharing of knowledge by all, will ensure that the targets set will have the greatest chance of being achieved. More importantly, Tasmanian students will have the best chance of being engaged and successful life long learners.



For further comment contact

Jared Dickason
TASSO President
0423 053 955