



## TASMANIAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE SCHOOL ORGANISATIONS INC.

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# MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Engagement, Confidence & Choice

Natham Reynolds, President of the Tasmanian Association of State School Organisations Inc. (TASSO) believes that the Department of Education (DoE) and the State Government missed the most important part of instilling confidence and decreasing anxiety before state school students return to classrooms,

There was opportunity for round-table discussions with all stakeholders in state education. Questions could have been asked, solutions presented, answers formulated and a plan developed. A plan that all stakeholders could have been confident in, related to and all driving the same message. Now what we have are questions that cannot be answered, new plans and guidelines presented frequently.

As recently, as February 7<sup>th</sup> alterations were made to the DoE's *COVID-19 frequently asked questions for parents and carers*. This is at a minimum the fourth alteration to the document in the past 19 days. The questions remain the but the answers change.

The Department of Education Child and Student Wellbeing Strategy 2018-2021 states that,

Families are respected and recognised for the vital role they play in the ongoing wellbeing of their children. Collaborating, connecting and authentically engaging with parents, care givers and families is critical to positively impacting learner wellbeing.

Decades of international, national and local research claim that student learning and wellbeing is positively impacted when schools and government departments genuinely work in partnership with families and communities, yet this has been basically ignored.

According to results from TASSO's recent surveys and contacts to our organisation, families are finding it difficult and frustrating to find consistent information that is not contradictory. They are calling for clear and honest information to be delivered through our schools and that information should be the same at all schools.

Families are calling for a choice in where their children receive their education, at home or in the classroom. From TASSO's recent survey we know that out of the 658 respondents, 75% would like the option for full online learning.

### **For further comment contact**

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