



TASSO NEWS

Issue 3: November 2017

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Conflict Prevention and Resolution

Unfortunately, sometimes disagreements happen, not only in our personal lives but also in our schools, committees, and associations. It's important to remember that as a community, we come from a wide range of backgrounds, life experiences and biases, and this impacts how we interact with those around us. Disagreements can happen when there are differences of opinion, these can usually be resolved with discussion between those involved. Sometimes a disagreement can escalate causing discomfort and concern for those involved, this can happen at any time.

To minimise the risk of conflict within a School Association Committee try to:

- Identify how you would like to be treated.
- Consider what you would class as unacceptable behaviour.
- Think about body language, and how this is important when talking to others.
- Think about what respect means to you and how it is shown.

By working through this process with your School Association Committee, you are on the way to developing a code of behaviour and meeting norms, that set a standard for behaviour that everyone feels comfortable and happy with.

If conflict does happen:

- Pause and, breathe before deciding on your next step,
- Give yourself time to process the situation. Stop and write down what happened in detail -stick to the facts. This acts as a record and is an excellent way to process what happened.
- Work out what would be the most appropriate way of dealing with issue.
- Communicate your opinion clearly without being aggressive.
- Focus on the issue, don't make it personal.
- Listen to the other person's point of view without interrupting.
- Focus on working towards a common goal.
- Remember not to just focus on what you disagree with but also what you agree on.

It's important to remember that we are all here to make our schools a better place and to do this we need, build positive relationships in our committees. Everyone's opinions and experiences can be useful and working together with mutual respect and understanding I believe we can achieve great things.



-Lisa Gillard, TASSO President

MEET THE COMMITTEE

Ellie Woolnough-Southern Delegate

Ellie joined TASSO in August 2017. She is a Tasmanian, married for 25 years, and currently her three children each attend a different public school. She brings to the committee a grassroots



perspective on children, parents, schools and families. She is the President of Swansea Primary School Association Committee, and a member of both Triabunna District School Association and New Town High School Association. She believes that parent involvement has a truly positive effect on children's learning, and that a parent's role is to be an active partner in their children's learning throughout their whole life. As a strong advocate of quality public education, she also sees that parent support for teachers, school staff and Principals builds stronger schools and more respectful students. Whilst on the TASSO committee she aims to build her skills and networks, maintain involvement in current educational issues and empower parents.

FAQ

Q. How will changes to Out-of-Area Enrolment Procedure impact my school?

A. This depends on your school. Our advice is that you and your School Association Committee carefully read the "Model Out-of-Area Enrolment Procedure", the "Secretary's Instruction No 2 For Enrolment from Outside Intake Area" and check your home area maps using the link below. That should give you all the information you need to make an informed decision.



<https://drive.google.com/file/d/OB0Uqd4PORGzrZVhybGgyMGp3UUU/view>

Q. When does the "Model Out-of-Area Enrolment Procedure" come into effect?

A. 1st of January 2018.

Q. Will there be any more Education Act Forums in 2017?

A. Not at this stage. TASSO has decided to put a halt to presenting the Education Act Forums until 2018 when the rest of the procedures and instructions will be released and we can provide all of the information and templates.

Now a question for you!

Q. How is your School Association Committee going adopting the new model constitution? Let us know your story at info@tasso.org.au so we can use your experience to help others. All respondents' information and school will remain confidential.

TASSO & FRIENDS EVENTS



Where: Devonport Community House, 10 Morris Avenue

Day: Fridays, for six weeks

When: 16th February - 23rd March 2018

Time: 9.30am - 2.30pm

RSVP: by 22nd December to

familyfoodpatch@chatas.com.au



Each term, one school may host a session for their full school staff, with a follow up information session for parents. TAG will select an interested school from each region in turn. To express interest, email tasgifted@gmail.com with you school and contact details, the number of staff who will be attending the session and some preferred dates. For more information see the TAG Website.

<https://www.tasgifted.com/>

If you would like to speak to, or have a TASSO Representative come to your School Association Committee meeting. Please feel free to contact us.

OFFICE BEARERS

President: Lisa Gillard
Senior Vice President: Jared Dickason
Junior Vice President: Nigel Jones
Treasurer: Gary Morse
Secretary: Lindie Read
Northern Delegate: Lyn Williams
Northern Delegate: Ben Cunningham
Northern Delegate: Peter Kearney
North-West Delegate: Phillip Spratt
North-West Delegate: Amina Keygan
North-West Delegate: Chis Lynch
Southern Delegate: Ellie Woolnough
Southern Delegate: Vacant
Southern Delegate: Vacant

If you are interested in filling one of these vacancies feel free to contact us for more information.



Our staff went to the launch of the 2017 Southern Cross Television Tasmanian Volunteering Awards: L-R Bonnie Tuttle (Deputy CEO Volunteering TAS), Alison Lai (CEO Volunteering TAS), and Debra McOrist-Mitchell (Operations Manager TASSO). See more at <http://www.volunteeringtas.org.au/2018-tasmanian-volunteering-awards/>

TASSO HISTORY

This month 70 years ago TASSO (then The Tas. Council of Parents' Associations) completed their first AGM. The meeting went for just over 8 hours (with a 2 hour break), and at the end of the meeting it was minuted that "the conference dispersed with general feelings of goodwill and

desire to work together for the good of the young folk and the schools they attend" 50 years ago, in September 1967, at the AGM TASSO (Then The Tasmanian Council of State School Parents and Friends Association) carried a motion that sex education be taught in all state Primary and High Schools, after a motion brought to conference by Nixon Street Primary School. Thus introducing Tas. P&F Policy for sex ed. in all state schools for the first time in the organisations history.

CONTACT US

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All submissions to TASSO News to be made no later than the 25th of each month

NOTICE FROM METRO

Important information

From 1 January 2018 student bus fares are changing

The Standard student fare will be \$1.80
A discounted fair of 20% is available using electronic ticketing or by purchasing a 10-ride ticket. Free ticketing is also available for select students.

For more info go to:

<https://www.metrotas.com.au/fares/student-fares/>

Advertisement

NILS Tasmania
can help parents
with school costs.

“I only wanted to get her set up with a computer for the new school year - she contacted NILS and got a no interest loan for a new laptop”

Visit www.nilstasmania.org.au
or call 1300 301 650 to get started.



NILS is a No Interest Loan Program that is supported by the state government.

You can get a loan of up to \$1200 for a computer, text books, school uniforms or the cost of a school trip and you can pay it back at just \$37 a fortnight.

- There are no fees or charges.
- All you need is a Health Care Card or Pension Card.





MEDIA RELEASE

TASMANIAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE SCHOOL ORGANISATIONS INC.

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PO Box 183 Lindisfarne TAS 7015 email: info@tasso.org.au

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 2nd 2017

Needs-Based Funding for Tasmanian Students

Proposed new funding model for Tasmanian Students with disability, Support Staff and Support Schools.

The Tasmanian Association of State School Organisations Inc. (TASSO) congratulates the Minister for Education and Training Jeremy Rockliff for adopting a recommendation of the Ministerial Inclusion Advisory Panel.

TASSO welcomed the establishment of the Panel and are grateful to have played a part in the formulation of recommendations presented to the Minister, which are now forming the basis for a positive change. "A new model will see positive outcomes for students with disabilities and additional needs and Support Schools and staff." said TASSO President Lisa Gillard.

Lisa Gillard said, - "It is pleasing to see the new model move away from the current IQ based funding model, something that TASSO has called for over the past decade." TASSO would also like to acknowledge the Minister's announcement in his media release of November 1 2017 "... to extensively consult with parents of students with disability in Tasmanian Government schools..."

For further comment

Lisa Gillard

President

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