



# TASMANIAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE SCHOOL ORGANISATIONS INC.

Office: 15 Rowitta Road Lindisfarne phone: 03 6243 7718  
PO Box 183 Lindisfarne TAS 7015 email: [eo@tasso.org.au](mailto:eo@tasso.org.au)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 17<sup>th</sup> 2017

## Supporting Student Learning & Wellbeing

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*TASSO welcomes Minister Rockliff's announcement.*

**The Tasmanian Association of State School Organisations (TASSO)** welcomes the announcement by the Minister for Education and Training, Jeremy Rockliff, around supporting student learning and wellbeing, we see this as a great starting point when it comes to helping our students reach their full potential.

Lisa Gillard, Vice President, says that, - "For our kids to have optimum opportunities to achieve their full potential through learning, it is well recognized that both physical and mental health need to be catered for. Our schools need to be safe places for our kids to learn and we need to be taking preventive measures. The increase in funding announced by the Minister on Monday May 15<sup>th</sup> to Speak Up Stay ChatTy so that they can continue their program in schools is to be applauded. Asking teaching staff, school communities and families to assist students in crisis or those heading to it, without professionally trained and readily available support staff is detrimental to everyone."

We as an organisation have been lobbying for years around the need for more professional, qualified support staff such as psychologists, social workers, speech pathologists and now nurses in our schools. Resolutions from members at Annual General Meetings and Conferences in 2010, 2011 & 2015 resulted in a promise of 12 school psychologists, now with this new announcement of an additional 14.8 FTE, our question "Is this in addition to all that has been promised in the past?"

For further comment:

Lisa Gillard – Vice President – 0437 868 466

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