

President's Report

'A school is a reflection of your future community'

As I sit here tonight, reflecting on the past 12 months. It is easy to look at the challenges and issues that TASSO have faced. Yes, we have made mistakes, but with mistakes comes learning. I believe that not owning your weaknesses prevents you from getting stronger and for that I hold great hope that TASSO is heading into the right direction.

I would like to thank the outgoing President Jared Dickason for his commitment to TASSO and his endeavours of improving the State Schools over the last 7 years while Southern Delegate, Treasurer, Vice-President, and President. Admittedly, stepping in as the acting president and then filling the casual president position was daunting, and not an ideal position for TASSO. With no induction or training, with only 6 months experience as a southern delegate and bit over 2 months as a vice president. I was worried that I would let the organisation down and not do the position the justice it deserves.

At no fault to anyone, the timing was not great, as within days there was the public release of the Independent Inquiry into the Tasmanian Department of Education's Responses to Child Sexual Abuse along with the 21 recommendations, followed by a serious incident at a school, the tragedy at a North-West primary school, back to school with COVID and a change of the education minister. All within the first couple of months. I would like to thank Office Manager Debra McOrist-Mitchell for her support and knowledge during this time and the TASSO Board, particularly the Office bearers Rebecca Churchill (VP), Jessica Bennett (Treasurer) and Nigel Jones (Secretary).

During the year TASSO has spent time strengthening its connections with our partners and affiliated organisations such as the Department of Education (DoE), Talented and Gifted (TAG), Tasmanian Principal Association (TPA), Safeguarding Children and Young People, the Australian Education Union Tasmania Branch (AEU), Drug Education Network (DEN), School Food Matters and the Inclusion Advisory Committee. Through these connections we have had the opportunity to meet some amazing people who are working towards improving the outcomes of our students in State Schools. I would like to see TASSO continue to strengthen and grow these bonds, moving to a position where we are united and collaborating on shared programs and goals, making for stronger advocacy partnerships, and achieving greater outcomes for students.

TASSO adopted our new strategic plan in early 2022, which has provided guidance and direction to our Board and Staff, we now find ourselves in the position to build a strong future for the organisation. The plan is flexible enough to allow us shape to our member needs, while giving TASSO a sound platform and vision to continue moving forward. With the adoption of the plan, we are alternating our monthly Board meetings to a focus on Operations and Strategy. We look forward to sharing the results in the future.

I would like to conclude my report by thanking the people who volunteer their time on the TASSO Board, we share the same purpose of ensuring the best possible outcomes in all aspects of state school education. I pay special thanks to the executive committee, who have supported me extensively during my time as president. The whole Board have been amazing, I couldn't have done this job without them.

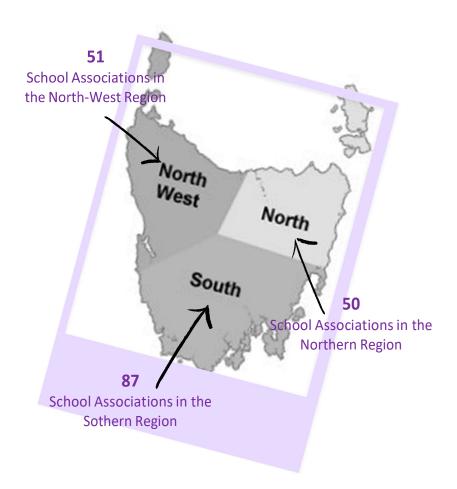
I'd also like to thank all the people who form our school association committees with the sole aim of supporting their schools and their school associations, I look forward to TASSO working alongside you into the future.

Thank you to our staff for your dedication and commitment in fulfilling our vision.

To all the DoE staff who work with us to provide guidance and information to school association committees and families, much of your work goes unnoticed behind the scenes, but is essential to the entire state school structure, thank you.

Finally, TASSO believe investing money, time and care into our schools and children will essentially benefit our communities in the long term. The support you give today, will be more valuable than you will necessarily see.

Natham Reynolds TASSO President



2021 to 2022 - Our Team

TASSO Board

President Natham Reynolds (December 2021 – current)

President Jared Dickason (August 2021 – November 2021)

Vice President Natham Reynolds (August 2021 – December 2021)

Vice President Rebecca Churchill (December 2021 – current)

Secretary Nigel Jones

Treasurer Jessica Bennett

Northern Delegate Dannielle Muffet (August 2021 – May 2022)

Northern Delegate Kirk Wagner

Northern Delegate Daniel Wickham

North-West Delegate Andrew McDougall (August 2021 – May 2022)

Southern Delegate Rebecca Churchill (August 2021 – December 2021)

Southern Delegate Curtis Knox (September 2022 – current)

TASSO would like to thank the Board for all their tireless commitment to the betterment of State School Education. Special thanks to outgoing Board members Dannielle and Andrew during the year and Nigel Jones retiring from TASSO after 12 year of volunteer service!

Office Staff

Office Manager Debra McOrist-Mitchell

Office Assistant Donita Shadwick

Office Assistant Rebecca Churchill (on leave of absence from the Board)

Communications Tom Preston

<u>Contractors</u>

Cleaning Carol Calvert
Finance Melissa Reid

Balance Bookkeeping Glen Ransley & Sean Foster

TASSO would like to thank Donita and Melissa for their work with TASSO. We wish them all the best with their future endeavours.

Contacts - July 2021 to June 2022

The core objective of TASSO is the provision of support, guidance, and information to all members of school associations, their families and communities and is central in our decision making. It is this work that is the most satisfying, particularly when the outcome is of benefit to student learning and the greater engagement of families within the school. Students at the centre.

The table below depicts the number of phone and email contacts received by staff and volunteer Board members for the previous year, grouped into specific topics*.

	Regions					
Topics	North	N.West	South	Unknown	Total Topic Data	
Behaviour	39	41	49	6	135	13.98%
Education/Curriculum	23	27	18	1	69	7.14%
Enrolment	21	16	19	1	57	5.90%
Governance	53	66	90	1	210	21.74%
TASSO	31	28	42	0	101	10.46%
Transport	4	3	3	0	10	1.04%
Covid	87	73	102	15	277	28.67%
Media	23	4	11	8	46	4.76%
Miscellaneous	22	12	21	6	61	6.31%
Total Regional Data	303	270	355	38	966	
	31.37%	27.95%	36.75%	3.93%	Total Data Points	

 $^{{}^{*}\}text{Clarity}$ is being sought as to what constitutes a point of contact

Regular reviewing of contact data highlights the current issues within School Associations and provides TASSO with the opportunity to current resources and materials to assist other schools.

Working with Stakeholders

TASSO has continued to strengthen its relationships and working in collaboration with likeminded groups, with aim to continue to uphold its mission and values towards State Schools, education and supporting the families and communities.

Members of the Board have served on stakeholder committees, attended a variety of meetings, and continue working with the Department of Education (DoE). The list below depicts the variety and frequency of active involvement by TASSO.

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ORGANISATION	TASSO'S ROLE	ATTENDANT
Australian	To offer insight from a family's perspective, offer	Natham Reynolds
Education Union	suggestions & possible solutions to alleviate	Rebecca Churchill
(AEU) Tas Branch	concerns families may have.	
DoE Child &	The Child and Student Wellbeing Strategy supports	Natham Reynolds
Student Wellbeing	a universal approach to the wellbeing of all	Rebecca Churchill
Unit	learners, recognising that for some learners	
	additional support may be required to ensure they	
	can engage in learning.	
DoE COVID Team	To provide a family & school association	Natham Reynolds
	prospective to the pandemic response.	Rebecca Churchill
DoE Inclusion	The role of members is to help the education	Nigel Jones
Advisory	sectors in Tasmania to promote inclusive education	
Committee	practice. Committee members are to share the	
	views of the organisation or group they represent,	
	rather than personal views and opinions.	
DoE National	To learn, offer insight from a family's perspective,	Natham Reynolds
Assessment	offer suggestions & possible solutions to alleviate	Jessica Bennett
Program – Literacy	concerns some families have, & any other concerns	
and Numeracy	which may arise.	
(NAPLAN)		
DoE Reporting and	Representing Families on the implementation of	Jessica Bennett
Communicating to	new Communicating Learning Progress with	
Families	Families Policy and Procedures Reporting Steering	
	Committee.	
DoE Safeguarding	To learn, offer insight from a parent's perspective,	Natham Reynolds
Children & Young	offer suggestions & possible solutions	
People		
DoE School	Work in collaboration to achieve best practice	Natham Reynolds
Association Team	outcomes for school associations and their committees.	Rebecca Churchill
DoE Secretary	Once per term catch up to bring to each other	Natham Reynolds
	attention current issues and future plans.	

DoE Tasmanian	TASC is responsible for the development of	Ops Manager
Assessment,	appropriate standards, the accreditation of courses,	
Standards &	and the assessment and certification of student	
Certification.	achievement in senior secondary schooling across	
(TASC)	all educational sectors in Tasmania. TASSO provides	
	insight from a parent's perspective	
DoE Years 9 to 12	The purpose of this project is to enable all students	Daniel Wickham
Project	to achieve their potential through Years 9 to 12 and	
	beyond. The project aims to achieve this by making	
	education in Tasmania more meaningful & engaging	
	to students.	
School Food	Supporting school communities to promote and	Jessica Bennett
Matters	provide a school food service that is nutritious,	
	affordable, safe and where possible, locally sourced	
	and prepared by the school.	
Tasmanian		Natham Reynolds
Association of the	71 1 3	Rebecca Churchill
Gifted (TAG)	suspension during Weeks 1 to 5 due to COVID in	
	schools planning, and the re-instatement of the	
	program	
Tasmania Principal	1	Natham Reynolds
Association	and advocacy for Tasmanian government school	
	leaders. TASSO liaises with TPA as necessary.	
Youth Volunteer		Jessica Bennett
Army – Volunteer	app-based program that celebrates volunteer hours	Kirk Wagner
Tasmania	through school recognition. The participants can	
	generate a CV for use when applying for	
	employment.	

MEETING	FREQ	MEETING	FREQ
Australian Council of State School Organisations (ACSSO)		School Lunch Program	2
Australia Education Union (AEU)	6	State Budget	1
Board Meeting (TASSO) - Internal Meetings & Sub Boards	10 32	State & Territory meeting of Organisations	1
- Q&A - Regionals	6 3	Office of the Minister of Education	3
Drug Education Network	1	Talented and Gifted (TAG)	5
Department of Education meetings	41	TasCOSS meetings and briefings	18
Josh Willie	2	Tasmanian Principal Association	7
School Association Committee Meetings	3	Volunteer Tasmania training/sessions	4

Communications

Newsletters

We published 7 newsletters this financial year. Newsletters were released...

5th of August 2021 23rd of February 2022 9th of September 2021 30th of March 2022

27th of October 2021 10th of May 2022

8th of December 2021

Thank you to all members and stakeholders who contributed to our publication.

Surveys

This year we sent out 3 surveys. Data collected gave us a better understanding of views on school associations and around covid and safety.

SURVEY 1 - 21/7/21 - School Association Committees Made Easy

78.26% Easily editable templates for administration, finances, governance, and committee processes and guidelines.

67.39% Learning the difference between what is and isn't a committee matter.

60.87% A committee specific email address which could be handed to the next person in your role.

56.52% More information about the role and function of the school association committee.

55.43% Networking with other school association committees in your area.

42.39% The provision of a dedicated Microsoft Teams licence for your committee.

40% of respondents would like specific training on how to run a SAC meeting

Recommendations made to the Board:

We recommend that an email be sent to all Chairs and Secretaries that includes templates, and roles of office bearer's document. Also include where to find their constitution, and the DoE information for SAC.

This email should be sent out every year post AGM season and updated contact information being received.

The email should include names and emails (potential phone numbers) of the delegates in each region.

We recommend that a sub-board is formed to manage the organisation of regional forums. That topics for the forums be pulled from the list of recommendation given in this survey. We believe that one of the forums should be about learning the difference between what is and isn't a committee matter. The sub-board should comprise of at least one delegate from each

region, and a representative from the office. Formal invitations for regional forum should be improved and contain links to ticketing, they should be available for distribution by delegates no less than 2 weeks prior to the event.

Further investigation into the costing of providing email addresses to SAC should looked at. Our recommendation is that we apply for the additional funding from the DoE or look for a grant to cover the ongoing expenses.

SURVEY 2 - 27/1/22 - School Safety During COVID
Information fed back into the DoE COVID Response Team

SURVEY 3 - 23/2/22 - Returning to School Info - Could you find it?

Returning to School Information

An even distribution of responders statewide.

Finding official information was hit and miss, approximately 40% could not find the answer to their questions.

Of those that contacted the DoE Hotline or the COVID Hotline only a quarter had a positive experience.

The majority of responders, 85%, wanted more information from their school.

Information fed back into the DoE COVID Response Team

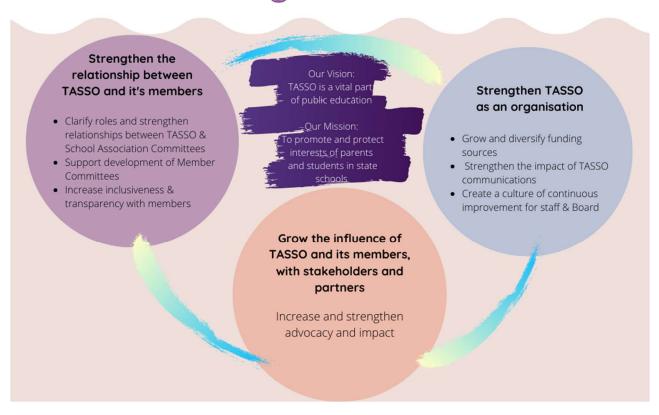
Media

TASSO continued to be a point of contact by media organisations seeking a parent voice. TASSO participated in interviews on ABC radio and were often quoted in local newspapers.

Strategic Planning

The 3-year strategic plan was adopted by the Board in March 2022.

Tasmanian Association of State School Organisations Strategic Plan 2022



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the palawa people as the traditional custodians of the land upon which we meet, here in beautiful lutruwita, Tasmania.

We pay respect to elders past, present and emerging and acknowledge their deep connection to country.

We also express our gratitude that we share this land today, our sorrow for some of the costs of that sharing, and our hope and belief that we move to a place of equity, justice and partnership together.