

President Report

As we reflect on the past 12 months, it is essential to acknowledge the challenges and milestones that Tasmanian Association of State School Organisations (TASSO) has encountered. We have undergone a rebuild, generating energy around laying a strong foundation and shifting focus to empowering our members. This was a key direction from the feedback received from members and stakeholders during our strategic planning with consultant Michelle Swallow.

In the past year, TASSO has placed a renewed emphasis on determining membership and has recognised the vital role played by School Association Committees. With this in mind, we have developed a new vision statement: "Every school has an effective School Association Committee." Our mission is to strengthen and support School Association Committees, recognising them as the core of our organisation's focus.

To guide our efforts, TASSO has formulated a new strategic plan that encompasses key goals centred around quality governance, stakeholder management, TASSO promotion, and advocacy. This plan provides us with a flexible framework to shape our initiatives based on the needs of our members while establishing a solid foundation for TASSO's future.

As we move forward, our major advocacy points for the next 12 months revolve around student behaviour, staffing challenges, infrastructure, and state school funding. These areas demand our attention, and we will advocate for meaningful changes to address them effectively. Specifically, we will focus on addressing student behaviour issues, tackling teacher shortages, and ensuring access to specialist services, advocating for improved infrastructure, and fighting for adequate funding for state schools.

TASSO recognises the importance collaboration and building strong partnerships. Over the past year, we have worked diligently to strengthen our connections with partners and affiliated organisations. Through these alliances, we have had the privilege of meeting remarkable individuals who share our commitment to improving outcomes for students in state schools. Going forward, we aim to foster even stronger bonds, encouraging united collaboration on shared programs and goals to achieve greater outcomes for our member School Association Committees and the students they are supporting.

In conclusion, I extend my deepest gratitude to the volunteers who dedicate their time to serve on the TASSO Board. Your commitment to ensuring the best possible outcomes in state school education is truly commendable. I also want to express my appreciation to the school association committee volunteers for their unwavering support and dedication to their schools. TASSO looks forward to working alongside you as we continue to strive for excellence in education.

Lastly, I would like to thank our Office Manager for her unwavering commitment and relentless efforts in fulfilling our vision. Your hard work often goes unnoticed, but it forms the foundation of the entire TASSO structure, and we are grateful for your contributions.

TASSO firmly believes that investing resources, time, and care into our schools and children will bring long-term benefits to our communities. The support we provide today will prove to be invaluable in shaping a brighter future. Together, let us continue to work to achieve our common goals and ensure that every school has an effective School Association Committee.

Thank you. Natham Reynolds

Meet the Board



Natham Reynolds
President



Curtis Knox Vice President



Kirk Wagner Treasurer



Krissy McCance Secretary



Daniel Wickham Northern Delegate



Rebecca Churchill Southern Delegate



Nigel JonesRetired from TASSO at 2022
AGM



Jessica Bennett Moved to Operations Manager Nov 2022

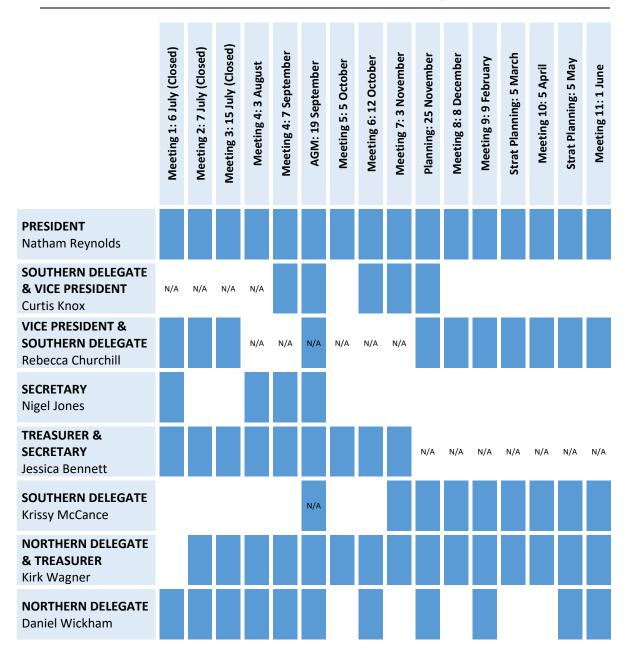
Strategic Plan 2023 - 2026

VISION: Every school has an effective School Association Committee

MISSION: Strengthen and support School Association Committees

Key Strategic Goals			
Quality Governance	Stakeholder Management	Promotion of TASSO	Advocacy
 Undertake training Succession Planning Annual Performance Roles and responsibilities Review Governance Policies Contemporary HR & WHS practices 	 Stakeholder Management Plan Build capacity of SACs Develop a training module for Principals Governance Training for SACs Communications Strategy Build relationships with national bodies and Politicians Network strategically 	 Meet with SACs and Principals Rebrand Showcase the work of SACs Update the website Develop and distribute newsletters 	 Develop Policy Statement Documents. E.g. Federal funding model Develop a Media Strategy Influence key stakeholders Develop relationships with National Associations

2022/23 Board Meeting Dates



Sub-Committees:

Finance: Natham Reynolds, Kirk Wagner, Jessica Bennett (Operations Manager) and Balance Bookkeeping representative

National School Reform: Natham Reynolds, Jessica Bennett (Operations Manager), Phillip Spratt (by invitation), David Badcock (by invitation) and Mel Stone (by invitation)

Working with Stakeholders

TASSO has continued to strengthen its relationships with Department for Children and Young People (DECYP), working with a variety of departments to offer the voice of families in policy development and programs, with the continued aim to grow and strengthen family engagement and advocate for the issues of our members.

We are excited that we have started to work with the DECYP and the Tasmanian Principals Association to develop a learning module for Principals and Chairs with the view to enhance understanding of the role of the School Association Committee and help grow the committee purpose. The module is in its infancy stages, with delivery in 2024.

TASSO is developing a pilot program of clustering School Association Committees together in regions with the purpose of creating networks, mentorship and increasing development of the committees.

Working with other stakeholders with the common goal of a student focused whole education.

TASSO would like to thank all we have worked and collaborated with over the last 12 months.

DECYP

Inclusion Advisory Committee

The role of members is to help the education sectors in Tasmania to promote inclusive education practice. Committee members are to share the views of the organisation or group they represent, rather than personal views and opinions.

Principal Team

TASSO have been building relationship this year with the Principal Wellbeing leads and the Principal Leadership teams.

Reporting and Communicating with Families

Representing families on the Steering Committee as changes are made to the way schools report learning progress to families.

SAC Team

TASSO work in collaboration with the team to achieve best practice outcomes for school association committees.

Safeguarding Children and Young People

To learn, offer insight from a parent's perspective, offer suggestions & possible solutions

Secretary & Deputy Secretary meetings

Providing insight and

Year 9-12 Team

TASSO meet quarterly with the Year 9-12 Team. The team share updates and information that TASSO share with SAC to share with their families.

Policy discussion has included:

- High School Intake Areas
- Out-of-Area Enrolments Procedure
- Reporting and Communicating with Families Policy and Procedure
- Student Behaviour Management Policy and Procedure
- Supporting Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity in Schools Procedure
- Working with External Providers Procedure

Other Stakeholder Engagement

Australian Council of State School Organisations (ACSSO)

TASSO hold a membership with ACSSO. We restarted our membership this financial year. The Board believe and support the importance of a national voice for state school education.

AEU

To offer insight from a family's perspective, offer suggestions & possible solutions to alleviate concerns families may have.

Burnie Works – Every Day Counts

A collective impact place-based initiative that is working in the Burnie region to improve attendance at school.

Healthy Kids Coalition

The coalition brings together a variety of like-minded organisations to share and collaborate on projects.

The Coalition includes (which TASSO has involvement with individually):

- School Lunch Program Advisory Committee

Supporting school communities to promote and provide a school food service that is nutritious, affordable, safe and where possible, locally sourced and prepared by the school.

Move Well Fat Well

A Tasmanian government initiative supporting and promoting physical activity and healthy eating in students.

Government Meetings

During the 2022/23 we met regularly with the Shadow Minister for Education Josh Willie and Minister Jaensch's advisors. Maintaining a strong relationship with the State Government provides an opportunity to discuss a variety of educational issues, sharing the voice of families with those developing the educational policies that effect students in state schools.

National Networking meetings

The Operations Manager has began meeting with counterparts in other national bodies to network and discuss national issues.

Tasmanian Assessment, Standards & Certification (TASC)

TASC is responsible for the development of appropriate standards, the accreditation of courses, and the assessment and certification of student achievement in senior secondary schooling across all educational sectors in Tasmania. TASSO meets quarterly to provide insight from a parent's perspective and share knowledge with our members.

Tasmanian Principal Association

The TPA focuses on support, professional learning and advocacy for Tasmanian government school leaders. TASSO liaises with TPA as necessary.

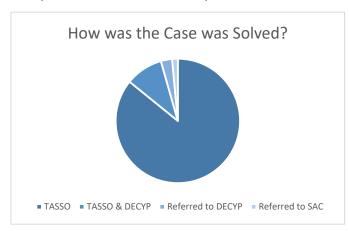
Volunteer Tas – Youth Volunteer Army

A program that fosters volunteering in youth. An app-based program that celebrates volunteer hours through school recognition. The participants can generate a CV for use when applying for employment.

TASSO Operations / KPIs

Please note: The way we collect contact data has changed this year. Instead of reporting individual contact points we have moved to opening cases. The amount of time for each case varies, some are quite simple others more complex requiring collaboration with DECYP. Individual cases are referred back to School Association Committees where appropriate or to the relevant department within DECEP.

We opened 203 cases between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023.



Major contact themes were ABN's, annual general meetings, audits, banking and committee meetings. The functions and running of School Association Committee meetings were also a strong focus. Monitoring these trends are helping to shape our resource development and online training offered to members in 2023/24.

11 cases remained open at the end of June 2023.

We were in direct contact with 82 School Association Committees through cases enquiries.

We met with 16 School Associations in face-to-face meetings.

- 5 in the North-West,
- 5 in the North and
- 6 in the South

We delivered 3 online forums to members.

- Youth Volunteer Army Presentation 4 School Associations present
- AGM Presentation and Q&A 11 School Associations represented at the online event; the presentation was circulated to an additional 6 School Associations.
- Safeguarding Children and Young People Presentation and Q&A 16 School Associations represented, with a further 6 receiving the presentation after the event.

Communications

Newsletters

We published 6 newsletters for all School Associations. Newsletters were released...

14 July 2022

19 October 2022

9 February 2023

18 March 2023

1 May 2023

With additional targeted information newsletters to High Schools and regions with information relating to programs, grant opportunities, and services offered by DECYP.

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

Surveys

This year we sent out 2 surveys. Data collected gave us a better understanding resources School Association Committees use and need. The response led to TASSO providing an online training opportunity surrounding AGM's. We're continue to advocate for an online storage facility for committees to maintain continuity.

TASSO Resources Survey 2022

We asked our members how they felt our resources for their School Association Committees. Responses raised areas of focus for the next 12 months.

The ability for association committees to have a means for storing electronic files was raised again, a means to provide continuity of materials and historical access. DECYP are currently working on a plan for School Association Microsoft Teams licence for each committee.

Within responses there was an undertone of uncertainty on roles and responsibilities of committee members. TASSO is starting the work to create a resource aimed at the chairperson and the principal. The training would be completed together and designed to help establish the purpose of the committee, and what is or isn't a committee matter. We will expand on this resource by offering online training to chairs (and other office bearers) and meeting with committees face to face to help establish good ways of working.

With the development of clusters of School Association Committees in the region, we will create a support network for committees to share resources and ideas. The clusters will also provide a way to share resources, define good ways of working and offer training.

A number of respondents spoke of raising the profile of the committee in the school. They spoke of the difficultly of being perceived as a fundraising group. TASSO are committed to creating a resource for committees to use to lift the profile of their committee. Using the voice of committee members to describe and promote parents joining their School Association Committees.

Strategic directions of TASSO Survey

Facilitated by Michelle Swallow as part of TASSO's strategic planning process.

Analysis of the survey results formed the base of our strategic plan the main recommendations are below.

Recommendations

From these findings it was recommended that the TASSO Board consider the below areas for strategic activity, and have built them in to the new strategic plan:

- Communication
- Promotion of what you do / Visibility of TASSO and its activities
- Governance training for SACs
- Advocacy on identified issues:
 - o Behaviour Management
 - Staffing
 - Recruitment and retention
 - Workload
 - Mental health
 - Leadership
 - Funding for specialist services
 - Resourcing
 - Funding
 - Equipment and infrastructure
 - Staff
- Regular contact with SACs
- Promoting and showcasing SACs that have good practices in place
- Building knowledge across the system
- Providing resources
 - Templates / calendars
- Stakeholder Management / Collaboration

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the palawa people as the traditional custodians of this land in lutruwita, Tasmania. We value their wisdom and contributions to education. We commit to learning from them and creating an inclusive education system that respects their culture. Together, we aim to foster understanding, reconciliation, and equality for all.