

2024 CONSULTATION

Key findings from School Association Committee Chairs

The purpose of this consultation was undertaken to inform our focus and key areas of TASSOs work for 2025 and beyond.

Engagement Overview

- Survey period: November 2024 – January 2025
- Respondents: 29 Chairs of School Association Committees
- Schools represented: From 192 schools across Tasmania
- Geographic spread: Broad representation across urban, regional, and remote areas
- Consultation tool: Distributed survey with qualitative and quantitative questions



KEY FINDINGS



FUNDRAISING IMPACT

- \$160,887 was donated by committees to schools in 2024.
- Average contribution: \$10,055 per school.
- Funded items included: Student awards, camps, excursions, breakfast clubs, chaplaincy programs, technology, playgrounds, library refurbishments, school events, murals.



GRANTS

- 70% of respondents did not apply for grants in 2024.
- 10% submitted unsuccessful applications.
- 10% were successful, receiving small grants (\$2,000 – \$3,000).



COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Meeting Frequency:

- 27.5% met twice per term (8 times/year).
- 27.5% met once per term (4 times/year).
- Others met 3 – 7 times annually.
- Meeting Locations: Mostly held on school sites (libraries, staff rooms, classrooms).



COMMITTEE AND VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

- Committee Sizes: Ranged from 4 to 15 members, most commonly 8–12.
- Volunteer Involvement: Ranged from none to over 30, with fundraising events supported by wider school communities.
- Subcommittees: Many had Parents & Friends or fundraising subcommittees; some noted challenges in forming or sustaining these.



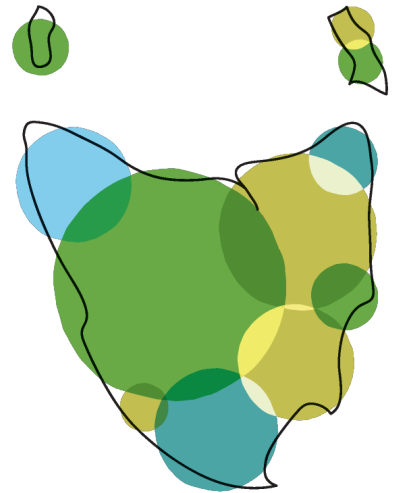
Perceptions of TASSO

Valued roles identified:

- Guidance on governance, roles, and legislative obligations.
- Training, advocacy, information sharing.
- Resource and template provision.
- Networking opportunities and updates.

Suggestions for improvement:

- Maintain strong communication and regular updates.
- More support for difficult topics.
- Improved continuity tools for high-turnover committees.
- More flexible/localised cluster meetings.



KEY FINDINGS



DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (DECYP) VALUES

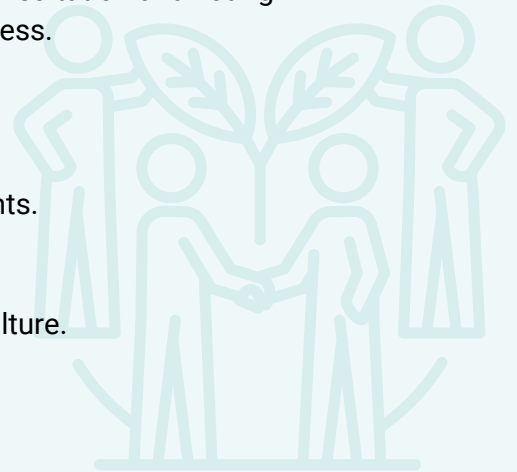
When asked about DECYPs Values and the decision making in School Associations adopting these values for their school community, there were mixed experiences in how this transitioned:

- Some committees adopted the values via consultation and voting.
- Others felt rushed or excluded from the process.

STORIES OF IMPACT

Examples of positive community engagement included:

- Large community events like "Winter Fest" and trivia nights.
- Successful fundraising drives and partnerships.
- Leadership in campaigning for school improvements.
- Reviving post-COVID programs and enhancing school culture.



WHY CHAIRS PARTICIPATE

Committee Chairs shared strong motivations for involvement:

- Supporting their child's school and education.
- Building community and connection.
- Having a say in decision-making.
- Contributing leadership and continuity where parent numbers are low.

This report provided an evidence base to guide TASSO's ongoing support for school associations across Tasmania, prioritising practical tools, meaningful engagement, advocacy, and capacity-building.

OUR 2025 ENGAGEMENT OFFERINGS | Alignment with what we heard

Based on the insights gathered through the 2024 School Association Committee Chairs consultation, TASSO has strategically planned a year-long calendar of targeted support, education, and networking opportunities for School Association Committees across Tasmania.

In direct response to the feedback received, such as the need for support in onboarding, governance, grant writing, leadership transitions, and community-building, TASSO's 2025 Engagement and Support Calendar included:

- **Information sessions** on topics such as governance, constitutions, Canva skills, and effective community collaboration.
- **Foundational workshops** including Grant Writing and Working Together for Your School Community.
- **Role-specific cluster network sessions** to support incoming Chairs, Treasurers, and Secretaries.
- **In-person and online regional cluster events** to increase accessibility and peer networking.
- **Ongoing communication** through eNews, direct outreach, and our Call & Connect campaign to reach every School Association Committee.

These initiatives are designed to build confidence, increase continuity, support leadership transitions, and strengthen volunteer engagement across the state.

By tailoring our support to match the needs School Association Committees have shared with us, TASSO continues to uphold its role as a practical, responsive and representative advocate for Tasmania's public-school communities.

LOOKING AHEAD | 2026 and beyond

TASSO will continue to shape and deliver support that reflects the voices and needs of School Association Committees across Tasmania. Our focus remains on strengthening local leadership, building community capacity, and ensuring equitable support for every School Association.

In 2026, we are planning to:

- **Continue sharing stories:** Share case studies and impact stories that highlight the vital role School Association Committees play in their school communities, bridging funding gaps, creating connections, and delivering local solutions.
- **Champion equity:** Advocate for equal opportunities across all state schools so every child can experience "*Bright Lives. Positive Futures.*" (DECYPs Purpose).
- **Support volunteer engagement:** Launch our new *Volunteer Engagement Resource Guide*; a practical, community-informed tool to build and sustain local involvement.
- **Expand our education offerings**, with continued focus on:
 - Good governance
 - Effective fundraising
 - Clear committee roles
 - Volunteer support
 - Financial and risk management

Each of these offerings reflect our continued commitment to TASSO's purpose: **Parents and School Communities, through School Associations, work together to achieve the best outcomes for children in Tasmanian State Schools.**