



# Jeremy Rockliff

Liberal Member for **Braddon**  
Premier of **Tasmania**



12 July 2025

Ms Jessica Bennett  
Operations Manager  
Tasmanian Association of State School Organisations  
Via email: [manager@tasso.org.au](mailto:manager@tasso.org.au)

Dear Ms Bennett

Thank you for your correspondence to both myself and our Minister for Education, Jo Palmer on 1 July 2025 on behalf of the Tasmanian Association of State School Organisations (TASSO) Board.

I have pleasure in providing response to your specific questions on behalf of all Liberal candidates.

**1. Will you and your party ensure that the Inquiry into Discrimination and Bullying in Tasmanian schools is reinstated and concluded with a final report?**

There is absolutely no place for bullying or discrimination in our schools, and our Government was fully engaged with the Inquiry during the hearings phase.

We support the Inquiry being re-established and completed.

**2. Will you and your party commit to embedding family engagement with learning as a foundation of Tasmanian education?**

The importance of family engagement was highlighted in the Final Report from the Independent Review of Education in Tasmania. We have accepted the recommendation from the Review to 'Harness the power of family and community knowledge through engagement to improve student outcomes'.

TASSO will be a key stakeholder in delivering on this recommendation under a re-elected Liberal Government.

**3. Will you and your party pledge to increasing allied health services in government schools?**

Since 2014, the Tasmanian Liberal Government has employed more than 1,975 additional full time equivalent staff across the education portfolio, including the following allied health worker categories:

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- 107.01 FTE Professional Support Staff, including school psychologists, social workers and speech pathologists; and
- 56.35 FTE School Nurses.

A re-elected Liberal Government will continue to deliver more psychologists and speech therapists through our \$500,000 scholarship program. Ten scholarships have already been awarded and another 10 are on track to be awarded by the end of 2025.

In addition, the reforms we have signed up to as part of the Better and Fairer Schools Agreement which includes the objective of Wellbeing for Learning and Engagement. Under our new agreement we have committed to implement additional supports to meet student wellbeing needs for learning, including the strengthening of wellbeing support teams in schools and greater access to mental health supports.

#### **4. Will you and your party reform school capital works allocations for Tasmanian state schools?**

The Tasmanian Liberal Government has already reformed the way capital works funding is allocated to schools, as confirmed in 2024 through the Parliamentary Accounts Committee's Follow-Up of Auditor-General Report: Capital Works Programming and Management.

This Review found that 'the Department for Education, Children and Young People is now using a more objective, data-driven approach in identifying Priority 1 capital projects, relying on asset condition data, enrolment capacity data, and predictive modelling. This marks an improvement over previous practices, which relied more heavily on school-level advocacy.

The Department's annual priority ranking process provides an important and transparent triaging mechanism for capital investment decisions.

The 15 schools selected for Building Blitz funding were recommended as priority one projects by the Department for Education, Children and Young People in 2024 through this process.

#### **5. Will you and your party commit to evaluating Year 11 and 12 education?**

The Independent Review of Education in Tasmania confirmed that we need to rethink how we recognise and report on educational success for Tasmanian learners as well as consider senior secondary curriculum offerings and delivery.

The Minister for Education released the Final Report in early 2025 and announced that the Government accepted 13 of the 14 recommendations and accepted one in principle. Work has commenced on implementation and will include consideration of year 11 and 12 education offerings and delivery.

#### **6. Will you and your party commit to delivering free, reliable school bus transport for all Tasmanian state school students?**

We have committed to continue half-price bus fares for another 12 months under a re-elected Tasmanian Liberal Government, providing cost-of-living relief to families, commuters, students and regional communities.

We also provide free bus travel for full-time students who meet one of the following three eligibility types:

- Concession card holders (or dependents of concession card holders)
- Home Area School – if their house and school are both in a rural area and they are attending their local intake area school and there is only a fare charging bus service available.
- Under a care and Protection Order.

Unfortunately, we find ourselves in an election that Tasmanians did not want or need. However, I wanted to share our commitment to the community services sector with you, as a member of the Coalition of Community Services Peaks.

A re-elected Tasmanian Liberal Government will always support a well-resourced, sustainable community sector, which in turn can support our communities in every corner of the State.

We acknowledge that certainty, sustainability and reducing administrative burden are your priorities, and we share them.

That is why we are undertaking significant reforms to community services, which began in 2024 with the implementation of a four-year indexation commitment for community services organisations.

To further support long-term confidence, a re-elected Liberal Government will review the level of indexation for community service organisations to provide ongoing certainty before the conclusion of current indexation commitments in 2027-28.

Together, we have begun the journey to implement longer-term funding agreements and an outcomes framework, providing more stability and certainty for community services organisations.

We have agreed with TasCOSS to stage this comprehensive work, and stage one has begun. The next stage of this project will focus on transitioning organisations with recurrent, ongoing funding agreements to longer-term agreements.

We will accelerate completion of this work in consultation with the sector and organisations, who I know want this work to be expedited, and will be directing the Department of Premier and Cabinet to undertake this work as a priority.

A re-elected Liberal Government will also commit to reviewing the community budget submission process to provide funding certainty earlier in the budget cycle, although longer-term contracts should help address this issue.

We can also commit to working to streamline multi-deed arrangements across government. We understand and appreciate that multi-deed arrangements are time-consuming and add a layer of red tape that is an added administrative burden for the sector.

The Tasmanian Liberal Government has a strong history of working in partnership with the community services sector, including to develop the Community Services Industry Plan 2021-2031.

We are committed to continuing our partnership with the sector and considering recommendations from the Community Services Industry Plan Governance Review, which has been interrupted by this election.

A re-elected Tasmanian Liberal Government will work with TasCOSS and the Tasmanian Coalition of Community Services Peaks to consider the recommendations from the Governance Review and establish a shared vision for Government and the community services industry working together.

To address the costs of doing business and increased complexity, a re-elected Liberal Government will invest \$150,000 to develop sustainability solutions that reduce operational costs and risks for community services organisations, including exploring potential shared services models.

This funding was included in the 2025-26 Budget and we reaffirm that support today.

Under a re-elected Liberal Government's new State-owned TasInsure, community services organisations will be able to access affordable insurance covering business, public liability, workers' compensation and events, saving more on operating and project costs and reducing under-insurance risks for the sector.

We've got more to do.

But we can't finish the job without a majority Liberal Government.

It's the only way we can keep Tasmania moving forward with certainty, stability, and efficiency.

Yours sincerely



**Jeremy Rockliff MP**  
Premier