

Dear Jessica,

Thank you for your email, as well as for your efforts in an area that is critically important to the future of Tasmania. I apologise for the delay in replying.

I am happy to give my full support to TASSO's election priorities. I offer the following statement:

*A strong education is vital in ensuring that children have the best possible chance of leading happy, healthy and fulfilling lives. However, educational outcomes in Tasmania currently fall well short of the national average. Fixing this requires additional investment in our school system, but it also requires us to understand and address the many other reasons why our schools underperform. As an independent candidate, I therefore give my full support to the six election priorities outlined by the Tasmanian Association of State School Organisations.*

Please let me know if you need anything else from me. If elected, I look forward to working with you further.

Kind regards,  
Steven Phipps