

## Media Release

Tuesday 1 July 2025

### **Election Should Not Silence Families: TASSO Urges Reinstatement of Bullying and Discrimination Inquiry**

The Tasmanian Association of State School Organisations (TASSO) is calling on all political parties and candidates to commit to reinstating the Inquiry into Discrimination and Bullying in Schools, which was cut short by the early calling of the 2025 state election.

The Parliamentary Committee, established in 2024, provided a vital opportunity for students, families, and carers to have their experiences formally acknowledged, many for the first time.

“The impact of calling an early election on the committee exploring bullying and discrimination in our schools is devastating,” John Allan, TASSO President stated.

“Hundreds of Tasmanians shared stories of harm, trauma, and systemic failure, hoping to contribute to lasting, positive change in our schools” Mr Allan continued.

“Students and families re-lived their experience expecting to have their voices heard, that change was possible.”

The premature end of the Inquiry, without the release of a final report, has left many feeling unheard, and dismissed. It has also denied the broader community the opportunity to fully understand the scale and impact of bullying and discrimination across Tasmanian schools.

“The work of the committee to date must be shared and continued,” Mr Allan said. “We owe it to every student, every family, and every staff member who came forward in good faith, often at great emotional cost.”

TASSO is urging all parties contesting the 2025 election to prioritise this unfinished work.

“This isn’t just about finishing a process,” Mr Allan said. “It’s about trust. And most of all, it’s about ensuring that our schools are safe, respectful places for our kids.”

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