

I, Jo Palmer, as Minister for Education, issue the following Ministerial Statement of Expectations 2026-2027 – Tasmanian Assessment, Standards and Certification Board in accordance with section 13 of the *Tasmanian Assessment, Standards and Certification Act 2003*.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jo Palmer'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Jo' written in a stylized, looped manner.

Hon Jo Palmer MP
Minister for Education

Date: 24 December 2025

Ministerial Statement of Expectations 2026-27 – Tasmanian Assessment, Standards and Certification

The purpose of this Ministerial Statement of Expectations is to detail key policy expectations for the Tasmanian Assessment, Standards and Certification Board and organisation (TASC) in exercising its powers and functions under the *Tasmanian Assessment, Standards and Certification Act 2003* (the Act).

As per section 13 of the Act, a Ministerial Statement of Expectations is not to –

- (a) prevent the Board from performing a function that it is required to perform or from otherwise complying with any Act; or
- (b) extend the functions or powers of the Board; or
- (c) seek to direct the Board in relation to a decision made under the Act regarding an individual case.

The expectations apply for the period 1 July 2026 – 30 June 2027 and cover:

1. Implementation of the new regulatory framework
2. Organisational values and culture
3. Collaboration
4. Stakeholder voice
5. Policy framework
6. Keep the Minister informed
7. Government education policies and priorities

Please refer to Ministerial Instruction 17, which outlines the education regulator Performance Framework Schedule. The next Ministerial Statement of Expectations will be issued before 31 December 2026, for the period of 1 July 2027 until 30 June 2028.

Expectation 1: Implementation of regulatory framework

TASC is to continue to work effectively to implement the regulatory framework with the support of the Director Education Regulation.

TASC is to participate in the working group to support the implementation of the new board(s) and adaption of operational practices accordingly to support more efficient, effective and cohesive ways of working across education regulation.

TASC is to engage collaboratively with the Department for Education and Young People's (DECYP) review of the legislative framework for education regulation in line with Terms of Reference approved by the Minister. DECYP is expected to engage with TASC in development of the Terms of Reference and across the life of the Review.

Expectation 2: Organisational values and culture

Each education regulator is to be ethical in its operations and dealings and act with the highest standards of probity. Each Board and organisation, and any committee established, are to act within the principles outlined in the *Education Act 2016* and in Ministerial Instruction 16.

TASC should ensure its governance structures, including Charters and Terms of Reference, are contemporary and reflective of the regulatory framework.

TASC is to ensure that leadership establishes a program, including systems and processes, that fosters a values-based culture to support the safety and wellbeing of its staff.

Expectation 3: Collaboration

Each education regulator is to coordinate and collaborate with relevant bodies to achieve regulatory outcomes and shared objectives as outlined in s4(1)(g) of the *Education Act 2016*. The wider community will include all education sectors, including DECYP. A culture of collaboration between the Board, their organisation, amongst the education regulators, and stakeholders is expected.

Units for collaboration within DECYP include, but are not limited to, Government Relations and Strategic Legislation, and Finance and Business Services. Collaboration should also not be limited to any particular initiative or priority listed in this document.

Expectation 4: Stakeholder voice

TASC should provide opportunities for stakeholder voice to be incorporated in policy where appropriate through consultation. This includes the establishment of mechanisms such as committees or student advisory groups to capture student voice in the design and delivery of its regulatory approaches (where appropriate).

Expectation 5: Policy framework

TASC should assess current policies and guidelines required to fulfil its functions under the Act and make amendments as necessary. If a relevant policy or guideline has not been developed TASC should initiate this.

When preparing these guidelines, or making significant amendment, TASC is to consult with relevant stakeholders.

Expectation 6: Keep the Minister informed

TASC is to:

- keep the Minister informed in relation to significant regulatory performance, operational or policy issues that arise; and
- provide timely responses to assist the Minister to respond to parliamentary questions and Ministerial inquiries; and
- engage with the Advisory Council for Education on cross sectoral strategic policy functions as requested.

Expectation 7: Government education policies and priorities

In the performance of its functions and exercise of its powers, TASC is to have regard to and consider implications of relevant Government education policy, priorities, and commitments.

These initiatives include, by are not limited to:

Education TOGETHER and Independent Review of Education Implementation

Education TOGETHER: Transforming learning through collaboration is a five-year strategy education strategy to improve learner outcomes, better support workforce, and ensure resources and services are easier to navigate and access.

The strategy will bring together DECYP's commitments relating to the Independent Review of Education in Tasmania, the Better and Fairer Schools Agreement, and Closing the Gap, and will reflect inputs from staff, children, young people, and their families through surveys, workshops, school visits and conversations. TASC is expected to implement any relevant recommendations included in the strategy.

This will include implementation of the Independent Review of Education recommendation 1 in which is a critical partner along with DECYP, Catholic and Independent education sector representatives, and VET providers.

Review into Examination Process Initiative

Following the release of the examination process review, TASC is expected to prioritise implementation of the recommendations in consultation with the Minister. TASC is expected to provide progress updates to the Minister on the implementation of recommendations, including any barriers to implementation.

Once commenced TASC is to engage collaboratively with the Department for Education and Young People's (DECYP) review of the *Tasmanian Assessment, Standards and Certification Act 2003* and associated *Fee Regulations 2025* in line with Terms of Reference approved by the Minister. Subject to further advice, the scope of the review is anticipated to be contained to the payment issues for examinations. DECYP is expected to engage with TASC in development of the Terms of Reference and across the life of the Review.

Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework

The Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework began in 2024. The Framework is established by the *Child and Youth Safe Organisations Act 2023* and aims to promote the safety and wellbeing of children and young people from all forms of harm in institutional settings. TASC is required to comply with the Framework.

Commission of Inquiry Response

The Tasmanian Government published its response to the Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings on 1 December 2023. TASC is expected to consider the Commission of Inquiry recommendations in line with its functions.

Lifting Literacy Framework

The Tasmanian Government has released the Lifting Literacy Framework. The goal is 'Lifting Literacy so that all Tasmanians can benefit from the social and economic benefits of literacy'. TASC is to consider strategies for supporting the teacher workforce to improve literacy teaching in Tasmania.

Budget Repair

DECYP will assist with communicating required savings targets for 2026-27 and beyond for the education regulators. It is expected that TASC will work collaboratively with DECYP and will contribute to developing strategies in response to the Government's Budget Efficiency Dividend and the forward estimates.

Reporting and Attainment

In late 2025 in line with the *Tasmanian Assessment, Standards and Certification Act 2003* I imposed an additional function on TASC. I expect DECYP and TASC to work collaboratively to improve Tasmania's reporting of educational attainment by developing and publishing annual aggregated attainment data (numbers and estimated proportions) by young people at individual age cohorts of at least 18, 19, 20, and 21, disaggregated by attainment in Tasmania of:

- the Tasmanian Certificate of Education;
- the Tasmanian Certificate of Educational Achievement;
- Vocational Education and Training (VET) Certificate II level or above;
- VET Certificate III level or above;
- either TCE, TCEA or VET Certificate II level or above; and
- either TCE, TCEA or VET Certificate III level above.