Welcome to the first **TASC Update** for 2026.

As we begin the new year, I hope the break has provided time to rest and recharge, and that school communities are feeling positive about the opportunities ahead for senior secondary students across Tasmania.

Last week, TASC hosted the annual *Outstanding Achievement Awards* at Government House, recognising the academic and VET achievements of students who completed their senior secondary studies in 2025. It was a pleasure to meet the award recipients and hear about their future aspirations. I thank the school staff, families, guests and dignitaries who attended to celebrate these achievements. Particular thanks to Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker, AC, Governor of Tasmania who presented the awards, and the Minister for Education, the Honourable Jo Palmer MLC for her address to the students.

A full list of the 2025 Outstanding Achievement Award recipients is available on the TASC website.

While Term 1 is only just underway, preparations are already progressing for the 2026 external assessment period. Setting Examiners and Critics play a critical role in developing high-quality written examinations, and I thank those who have already applied. With applications closing soon, I encourage interested individuals to apply via the [TASC Employment](#) page.

Term 1 also provides valuable opportunities for both new and experienced TLOs to connect and learn through the in-person TLO training sessions being held across the state. Further details are included in this update.

This year, TASC will also be hosting **regional student forums**, providing an exciting opportunity for students to engage directly with us, share their experiences, and contribute their perspectives. We look forward to hearing from students across the state and strengthening our understanding of what, from their perspective, supports effective senior secondary learning.

I look forward to working with you throughout the year. Feedback and engagement from schools are vital in shaping our support and ensuring our regulatory approach remains responsive to the evolving needs of Tasmanian schools. I encourage you to share your insights and suggestions with us.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or would like to discuss how we can continue to support senior secondary learners in 2026.

Ali Savage, Deputy Director

✍ *SCHOOL SUPPORT*

Using Generative AI

During 2025, providers requested more guidance in how generative AI technologies (AI) should be used in courses. While teachers are best placed to guide their students about AI, TASC want to remind teachers – particularly those with a folio or inquiry as part of their course – of some key components to talk about with their students:

- Be open about the fact that AI is evolving quickly and no one has all the answers, including teachers.

- Be clear with your students about how you use AI yourself and model how AI can be used ethically as part of your explicit teacher instruction time in your classroom.

- Clearly outline how AI should and should not be used in your course.

- If AI is allowed in specific cases in your course, clearly outline how AI should be acknowledged and/or referenced and the referencing style that is appropriate for your course.

- Explicitly show your students how to regularly save their draft versions of the development phases as they construct their folio, especially regarding 'version history' trails.

- Have clearly documented dates (at least 3) for student drafts to be submitted to you during the folio period development phase and ensure drafts are uploaded through either your school's Learning Management System (LMS, e.g.: Canvas) or you have an electronic record of them to save centrally.

- Consider how you could get student feedback on how they are using AI in their folio/inquiry.

(adapted from an article in *Teacher Magazine*, 24 November 2025: [https://www.teachermagazine.com/au_en/articles/how-students-want-teachers-to-support-them-in-using-ai?utm_source=CM)](https://www.teachermagazine.com/au_en/articles/how-students-want-teachers-to-support-them-in-using-ai?utm_source=CM)

TASC welcomes the opportunity to have more discussions with teachers around the topic of generative AI. Please look out for information later in the year about some proposed TASC-organised workshops for teachers of courses with folios.

Course advice and adjustments - for students

Sometimes students have second thoughts about their courses for study and may be looking to make course adjustments early in the term. To ensure they are on track for their TCE and other pathway plans, don't forget about the useful TASC Support - Course Advising Process information sheet that provides course advice when speaking with students and their parents.

In-person TLO Training Workshops in Term 1 2026

As part of the annual TASC School Registration process and being a TASC provider school, principals agree to release TLOs to attend regional in-person TLO training workshops. The sessions are designed for **ALL TLOs** (those new to the role AND those experienced) and will:

- cover TLO role-specific advice, role expectations and the support that is available

- provide information about how to prepare for the key areas of work that TASC requires and due dates each term

- provide an overview of the refreshment of the *TASC Standards for Providers* and discuss the quality assurance processes for this year and beyond

- enable connection with other TLOs and learn from those who are experienced in the role.

Dates:

- **SOUTH: Thursday 19 February,** 9.30am – 12.00pm at the Professional Learning Institute (PLI), 9 Timsbury Road, Glenorchy

- **NORTHWEST: Thursday 26 February,** 1.00pm – 3.30pm at Ulverstone Secondary College, 38 Leven Street, Ulverstone

- **NORTH: Friday 27 February,** 9.30am – 12.00pm at Newstead College, 30 Cypress Street, Newstead.

All TLOs are strongly encouraged to attend and take advantage of this professional learning and networking opportunity. Please speak with your principal / leadership team about being available on the day of the session in your region.

📝**To register**, please complete the In-person TLO training workshop - February 2026 – Registration form

TASC will provide more information upon registration. *If you are unable to attend, please still fill in the registration form* so we can get your contact details and feedback about the TLO role.

**NOTE: *Relief costs are not eligible for reimbursement for these meetings.*

Teachers New to TASC - workshops in Term 1

The *Teachers New to TASC* workshops are designed for those who have recently commenced teaching TASC-accredited courses for Years 11 and 12, such as beginning teachers, teachers who have arrived in Tasmania from other states, or teachers who have moved from secondary to senior secondary teaching. TLOs are more than welcome to accompany any new teachers at your school who attend these sessions.

Dates:

- **SOUTH: Thursday 19 February,** 1.00 – 3.00pm at the Professional Learning Institute (PLI), 9 Timsbury Road, Glenorchy

- **NORTHWEST: Thursday 26 February,** 10.00 – 12.00pm at Ulverstone Secondary College, 38 Leven Street, Ulverstone

- **NORTH: Friday 27 February,** 1.00 – 3.00pm at Newstead College, 30 Cypress Street, Newstead

📝**To register**, please complete Teachers New to TASC Seminars - Registration

We will be in contact in Term 1 with those registered to provide more information.

Partnering with TASC

TASC is the independent education regulator in Tasmania, and one of our key roles is to support schools deliver high quality education outcomes for students.

TASC are keen to be proactive about continuing to improve. To assist in this, we encourage schools and TLOs to provide constructive feedback through the various avenues available. This can be done via:

- **Your sector's Principals' Reference Group (PRG) representative/s:** The PRG is an advisory group that helps TASC to support Tasmanian senior secondary students. PRG members provide advice based on their expertise, regional insights, and sector-specific perspectives. Principals are welcome to reach out to a member from their sector if they would like to suggest a topic for discussion by the PRG. To see the current membership of the PRG, please visit the PRG tab on the TASC 'Governance' webpage.

- **TRACS tasks:** TRACS is the system used by TASC to manage student assessment and certification data and to support the management of Tasmanian senior secondary school results. For schools, TRACS streamlines the management of student information and results through a portal. It is easy to use and simplifies the process for school registration, scope submission, correspondence and management of student data. TRACS is available via your school's TRACS - Portal

- **TASC-accredited courses feedback form**: Students, teachers and interested stakeholders can provide us with feedback *at any time* through our TASC Accredited Senior Secondary Courses Feedback Form. Feedback will be reviewed regularly, with relevant points referred to DECYP's Curriculum team as well as TASC's Accreditation Advisory Panel (AAP) for consideration as part of the scheduled course review process.

- Contact the Deputy Director if escalation of a matter is required at deputydirector@tasc.tas.gov.au

🗂️ *DATA, RESULTING AND CERTIFICATION*

School Preliminary Results Report – Reminder

Your school's Preliminary Attainment Data Report (sent to schools in December) is available in TRACS and is accessible by those TRACS users that are assigned the role of Principal, Principal's Delegate or TLO.

The report is an Excel spreadsheet format. For help accessing your school's report, use the step-by-step TRACS Help guide at *How to access your students' results*.

The information available in this report includes:

- TCE and ATAR Summary (including the TCEA)
- TASC Course Results
- Nationally or Interstate Assessed Languages (NIAL) Results (formerly CCAFL Results)
- TASC Recognised Results
- VET Unit Results
- VET Qualifications.

Please note this data is <u>preliminary</u> data based on students' results as of 16 December 2025. An updated copy of the report will also be shared with schools at the end of March. The final attainment figures will be verified with schools and be available in the second half of 2026.

If you have questions regarding the Preliminary Attainment Data Report, please contact TASC via a 'General Administration' TRACS query.

Paper-based TCE Everyday Adult Standards Tests

Schools continue to be able to access paper-based tests for the TCE Everyday Adult Standards – *Reading, Writing and Communication (in English)* and *Mathematics* in 2026, though it is preferable to register for online testing opportunities.

📝**Reminder:** Year 11 students **cannot undertake** paper-based tests before Term 4.

2026 School and Student Enrolment Data

TRACS will be populated with 2026 enrolments following the system rollover on **Wednesday 1 April**.

Catholic and Independent Schools: Student and class data templates are being distributed via TRACS this week and will be available by Friday 6 February. Please check your TRACS tasks and get in touch if you need any assistance (in the TRACS task or results@tasc.tas.gov.au).

DECYP Schools: Manage student and enrolment data in EduPoint.

Completed enrolment spreadsheets are due back to TASC by **Friday 6 March**.

2026 Online TCE Everyday Adult Standards Testing Windows

The first 2026 online testing windows for the TCE Everyday Adult Standards – *Reading, Writing and Communication (in English)* and *Mathematics tests* are provided below. We encourage TLOs to include these dates in their calendars now and work with their school to ensure registrations are done by the due date.

Term 1 testing window

- 25 – 26 February (Writing test)
- 25 February – 13 March***** (Numeracy and Reading tests)*.*

📅 **Note: Testing will <u>not</u> be available Monday 2 and 9 March (due to public holidays in WA and Tasmania).*

Registrations close **Thursday 12 February**.

A reminder that the Term 1 testing window is only available for Year 12 students and former students. Year 11 students cannot sit this round of tests and will need to wait until the second half of the year to register.

Please note, TASC are currently reviewing how Everyday Adult Standards tests are delivered to schools and this may result in changes to test availability and how tests are administered. Future test dates and

windows for 2026 will be communicated in upcoming *TASC Updates*. Updates on this review will be provided to schools in due course.

A reminder to schools that students who are looking to demonstrate the *Reading, Writing and Communication (in English)* Standard must sit **both** the Reading and Writing tests in the same window to be eligible to receive recognition of the Standard. It is at the school's discretion to schedule when students sit each test component of this Standard, meaning students can sit these on different days, but noting that the writing component is only available for a shorter period of time.

The online *Use of Computers and the Internet (ICT)* Everyday Adult Standard safety net test is available for registration to complete on demand at any time it is required (with a 3-month waiting period between tests).

Contact TASC at results@tasc.tas.gov.au if you have questions or need assistance.

Teacher Access to Student/Class 2025 Results Information – Reminder

The best way for teachers to access last year's (2025) student results is by using the class links located under the Class Enrolment dashboard on the TRACS homepage. Teachers can also view their students' individual course results by accessing the 'Results' tab of a student's profile in TRACS.

To access the TRACS portal use: https://tracs.tasc.tas.gov.au

Login details:

- *DECYP teachers:* use your current DECYP email address credentials. (The username is your DECYP email address.)
- *Non-DECYP (Catholic and Independent teachers):* use the unique TRACS username you used to enter your internal results into TRACS.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

Quality Assurance – changes in process

Please be aware that TASC Quality Assurance processes and the Quality Assurance webpage have been under review and there will be changes in processes this year. Further information will be provided to schools in the next *TASC Update*, as well as in the first TLO Forum of the year which will be held as an in-person workshop.

TASC **strongly advises** schools to send their TLO representative (or a proxy) to this event so they receive all relevant information on upcoming changes.

Desktop Audits – changes in 2026

Please note that due to the changes in Quality Assurance processes, there will be **NO desktop audits** for *Student Directed Inquiry* (Level 3) SDI315117, *Work Readiness* (Level 2) WRK215117, and *Project Implementation* (Level 2) PRJ205118. **This is for this year only.** Audit processes are being reviewed, and TASC will provide further updates as the year progresses.

For more information, please visit the QA Focus for the Year - TASC webpage.

No learning designs need to be provided this year. More information will be provided at the in-person TLO training workshop.

Senior Secondary Courses Accredited for 2026 Delivery – REMINDER

All courses accredited from 2026 (with and without amendments) and are available on the TASC website. **Please ensure teachers are NOT using previous versions of courses**. They may need to be reminded to refresh their caches, or access courses via the:

- Courses - TASC webpage
- Courses accredited from 2026 page – courses are arranged in lists according to whether there have been any amendments
- Search function on the TASC website – current courses are the first listing, and each course is labelled with 'Year'.

Feedback on courses

You can provide us with feedback *at any time* through our TASC Accredited Senior Secondary Courses Feedback Form. Feedback will be reviewed regularly, with relevant points referred to DECYP's Curriculum team as well as TASC's Accreditation Advisory Panel (AAP) for consideration as part of the scheduled course review process.

TASC Senior Secondary Accredited Courses Feedback

More information:

- Requests for amendments to TASC-accredited courses are undertaken by *DECYP* Curriculum, Teaching and Attainment (formerly Senior Secondary Provision).
- TASC considers and reviews requests for amendment in alignment with the Senior Secondary Accreditation Framework.
- TASC accredits senior secondary courses and publishes them on the TASC website.
- Support resources for the delivery of senior secondary courses and programs is available through the Years 9-12 website.
- Senior secondary course accreditation information is available at Course Accreditation on the TASC website, with the process for accreditation outlined in the Senior Secondary Accreditation Framework.

Recognised Formal Learning

We are pleased to confirm that TASC has recognised a new Applied Capability Qualification – *Social and Emotional Skills for Life and Work*. This is now part of a suite of Applied Capability Qualifications offered by DECYP.

For more information, see the TASC Recognised Formal Learning webpage.

Registering your School with TASC in 2026 – Reminder

School registration for 2026 **closes Monday 16 February** and must be done via TRACS.

- **Schools and other education providers that intend to deliver TASC-accredited courses and require TASC to issue formal qualifications must register with TASC each year.**
- Only Principal/Principal Delegate TRACS' users can complete the school registration process.
- The How to register your school – TRACS Help guide will help step you through the process.
- For more information, please **see Step 1** of the TASC School Registration webpage.

Contact TLO@tasc.tas.gov.au if you have questions or need assistance.

Submitting your TASC School Scope in 2026

Schools can now submit their 2026 school scope via TRACS, with submissions closing **Friday 27 February**.

- The school scope is a list of the TASC-accredited courses intended to be delivered at each senior secondary school this year.
- TLO, School Administrator, Principal/Principal Delegate TRACS' users can submit the school scope.
- The *How to submit your school's scope* guide is available to help step you through the process.
- For more information, **see Step 2** of the school registration page.

Contact results@tasc.tas.gov.au if you have questions or need assistance.

Applications for Pre-Year 11 Enrolments Open – Reminder

A reminder that all Applications for pre-Year 11 enrolments in TASC-accredited courses close **Friday 27 February**.

- Schools must apply to TASC for approval to formally deliver any TASC-accredited course to pre-Year 11 students.
- Submit the application, signed by the principal, using the 'Pre-Year 11 Enrolment Application' Task type in TRACS.
- See the Pre-Year 11 enrolments in TASC-accredited courses page for instructions on how to apply.

📋 *EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT*

2026 Course Documents and External Assessment Specifications

Access the latest version of the course documents for this year from the TASC courses page.

External Assessment Specifications (EAS) updates

Current External Assessment Specifications (EAS) are available on the relevant course pages. TASC is finalising stakeholder consultation on proposed amendments to External Assessment Specifications for courses with approved amendments and in response to stakeholder feedback. Any approved amendments will be published as soon as they are finalised and advised through *TASC Updates*.

Externally Assessed Folio Submission Dates

2026 TASC External Assessment Dates: Folio, Practical, Presentation, Oral and Display are now available on the Externally assessed folios page.

Change of process for due dates to teachers:

From 2026, TASC is no longer publishing a "due date to teacher" for externally assessed folios. Only a due date to TASC will be published. Schools are responsible for setting and managing their own internal due dates to teachers to allow sufficient time for review, verification, and submission to TASC.

Important: Please note that practical external assessments may be scheduled on any date within the relevant range listed in the above schedule and these dates are not negotiable.

Further information is available on the [Externally Assessed Folios page](#).

Applications for Nationally or Interstate Assessed Language (NIAL) Courses

Applications to enrol in a [Nationally or Interstate Assessed Language (NIAL) course](#) close **on Friday 20 March**.

These courses are designed for learners who are background speakers of a language or who have extensively studied the language as a second language (learners must have at least 200 hours of instruction in the language). These courses are not taught in the school, so individual students will need to conduct their own preparation with the assistance of their school.

Schools who have student who wish to study for one of these exams need to complete an application through TRACS on the student's behalf, using the 'Nationally & Interstate Assessed Languages (NIAL) Administration' task type. If you have any queries, please address them to Jordan at tasc.assessment.team@tasc.tas.gov.au.

Student Requests to Inspect Written Exam Material

Round 1 inspections of 2025 written exam materials are complete, and students have been advised of the outcome via email.

Applications for Round 2 inspections of written exam materials have closed. Unlike first-round inspections, second-round inspections are held at schools.

TASC will send schools information about the process and the materials they will require to host inspections **by Friday 6 February**. Schools will need to return completed second-round inspection materials to TASC **by COB Friday 20 February**.

2025 Student Results Queries

Students with queries about their 2025 results should check the TASC [FAQs - Student Results](#) and/or in the [2025 Student Results Newsletter](#).

If schools receive any queries from students about their results that cannot be addressed by the school or by referring to material published by TASC, please direct them to complete the online [Results Query](#) form. This online query submission process includes providing identification to ensure results information is only provided to the student. It also enables our Assessment Team to fully investigate each query and respond appropriately.

⬇ *POSITIONS AVAILABLE*

Applications Open – 2026 Setting Examiner and Critic Positions

Every year, TASC welcomes applications from new and experienced applicants for Setting Examiner and Critic positions. Setting Examiners and Critics play a vital role in the development of fair, reliable and consistent external assessments for students.

Further information, including advice on the *two steps* required to apply, is available on TASC's [Employment](#) page. Positions are appointed on a rolling basis to meet exam development timeframes.

Applications close **Friday 13 February**.

Important:

- To avoid any perceived conflict of interest, you cannot write or critique an exam if you will be teaching, tutoring, or undertaking ongoing relief teaching for that course in the same year.

- TASC sessional roles *are in addition* to other employment commitments. Applicants must be available to be contacted as needed throughout the exam development process, including during term breaks and holiday periods to ensure exam development timeframes are met.

Need help?

For assistance completing or updating your application, please refer to the [How to guide for the TASC Sessional Employment Register](#), or contact the TASC Assessment Team on 6165 6000.

Image: Over a teal background, a white heading reads 'Key Dates'. In the left corner, a person uses a pen to circle a calendar date.

Employment
- **Setting Examiner applications (second round) close** Friday 13 February.
- **Exam critic applications close** Friday 13 February.

Quality Assurance
- **2026 school registration with TASC closes** Monday 16 February.
- **Applications for pre-Year 11 enrolments in TASC-accredited courses close** Friday 27 February.

Resulting, Certification and External Assessment
- **TASC school scope submissions close** Friday 27 February.
- **Applications for Nationally or Interstate Assessed Language (NIAL) courses close** Friday 20 March.
- **Applications for copies of written exam material close** Friday 24 April.
- **Course movements for entry into Level 3 and 4 courses close** on Friday 31 July.
- **Course movements for ALL courses close** on Monday 31 August.
- **Internal rating submissions open** Monday 19 October.
- **Level 3 and 4 internal ratings due to TASC** by Friday 6 November.
- **Level 3 and 4 internal ratings verification period:** Monday 9 – Friday 13 November.
- **2026 written exam period:** Monday 9 – Thursday 19 November.
- **Level 1, 2 and Preliminary internal ratings due to TASC** by Friday 20 November.
- **Level 1, 2 and Preliminary internal ratings verification period:** Monday 23 – Friday 27 November.

Note: Refer to the [TASC Key Dates calendar](#) to view upcoming due dates and events. More dates will be added over the coming weeks.