

I, Jo Palmer, as Minister for Education, issue the following Ministerial Statement of Expectations 2025-2026 – 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 that reads "Jo Palmer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

Hon Jo Palmer MLC
Minister for Education

Date:29/01/25

Ministerial Statement of Expectations 2025-26 – 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 (TASC) Board in exercising its powers and functions under the *Tasmanian Assessment, Standards and Certification Act 2003* (the Act).

The *Education Legislation Amendments (Education Regulation) Act 2022* commenced on 1 July 2023 and amended the Act. This included the requirement for the issue of a Ministerial Statement of Expectations. This is the third annual Ministerial Statement of Expectations.

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 2025 – 30 June 2026 and cover:

- Implementation of the new regulatory framework
- Organisational values and culture
- Collaboration
- Stakeholder voice
- Policy framework
- Keep the Minister informed
- 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 December 2025, for the period of 1 July 2026 until 30 June 2027.

As the work to embed the regulatory framework is still underway, these expectations replicate the 2025/26 expectations with minimal changes, with the exception of one addition to reflect government priorities regarding the Independent Review into the Tasmanian Education System.

Expectation 1: Implementation of regulatory framework

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

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, the staff made available to each Board, and any committee

established, are to act within the principles outlined in the *Education Act 2016* and in Ministerial Instruction 16.

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

The TASC Board 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 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 the Department for Education, Children and Young People (DECYP). A culture of collaboration between the Boards and their offices, amongst the Education Regulators, and stakeholders is expected.

Areas for collaboration with DECYP include intergovernmental relations and legislative review, but are not limited to those, or to any particular initiative or priority listed in this document.

Expectation 4: Stakeholder voice

The TASC Board 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

The TASC Board 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 the TASC Board should initiate this.

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

Expectation 6: Keep the Minister informed

The TASC Board 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, the TASC Board is to have regard to and consider implications of relevant Government education policies, priorities, and commitments.

These initiatives include, by are not limited to:

Independent Review into the Tasmanian Education System

An Independent Review into the Tasmanian Education System was announced by the Minister for Education in 2024. The Review's report was released on 22 January 2025. Over coming months, TASC will be included in discussions with key stakeholders regarding the pathway forward following the release of the report. The TASC Board is expected to implement any relevant actions resulting from the Review, as specified by the Minister.

Review into Examination Process

Following completion of the review into examination processes, the TASC Board is expected to provide advice to the Minister regarding any recommendations, for feedback prior to the course of action being decided.

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. The TASC Board 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.

The TASC Board 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'. The TASC Board is to consider strategies for supporting the teacher workforce to improve literacy teaching in Tasmania.