



Tasmanian 100% Literacy Alliance

STATEMENT

9 June 2023

The Tasmanian 100% Literacy Alliance believes we are now at the starting line for transformational change in our state.

The recent announcement by the Tasmanian State Government that it will accept all priority recommendations of the Premier's Literacy Advisory Panel to achieve 100% literacy in Tasmania will considerably, and positively, change the trajectory of our state for all Tasmanians.

If the recommendations are implemented consistently, at scale, and with fidelity, the outcomes that will be achieved in Tasmania will be broad and long lasting for individuals, society, and our economy.

The outcomes we can expect to see over the short, medium, and long term, if implemented with intentionality, will be profound.

Young, pre-school aged children will start formal schooling with well-developed oral language skills and emotional readiness for learning. The proportion of 5-year-olds considered to be developmentally vulnerable will decline. Children who experience delays in oral language development will be screened and/or diagnosed prior to the commencement of formal schooling and will be provided with appropriate intervention and support at the intensity they need to engage and achieve in education and life.

Lower primary school children will learn to read confidently and fluently by the end of grade 2 so that when they start grade 3, they will be reading to learn. Upper primary school students, no longer learning to read, will be expanding their literacy knowledge and skills into wider learning opportunities in maths, sciences, and the social sciences as well as other areas of interest. Classroom behaviour will improve. Children who have learning difficulties (including those living with a disability) will receive intervention and support at the intensity they need to engage and achieve in education and life.

Young Tasmanians will experience success in acquiring life-long skills for reading and writing which will bring a great sense of achievement, independence, and improved self-esteem.

Secondary school students will be engaged in learning in core subjects and areas of interest. Literacy knowledge and skills will continue to expand. Students will aspire to continue their education through to year 12 as well as to participate in post-school education and/or training. Being more engaged in learning due to experiencing achievement, students will be less disruptive in class. There will be less bullying and anti-social behaviour. Attendance will improve and the need for exclusionary

practices will be reduced. The school-to-prison pipeline will be disrupted. There will be less variance in progress within each class, which will reduce teacher workload. Students with learning difficulties (including those living with a disability) will continue to receive the intervention and support they need to successfully complete school and pursue further education and/or employment.

Young Tasmanians will complete their schooling as literate, numerate and civically engaged young adults ready for the next stage of their life.

The education sector workforce will be supported to further develop their knowledge and skills in evidence-informed teaching practices through quality, continuous professional development. Through a system-wide, whole-school approach, educators will have access to resources and professional support to focus on what they do best, teach. Educator's workloads will improve due to access to comprehensive resources as well as reduced need for differentiation due to less variance in each class. The need for behaviour management strategies will be reduced. Retention of the education sector workforce will improve. Working as an educator will be an attractive, rewarding and valued profession.

For adults, immigrants and others - wherever they may be in the life-cycle - who may not have benefited from the transformation to structured literacy instruction and explicit teaching practices through this system-wide, whole-school approach, services will be provided to support them become competent and confident in reading and writing so they, too, can engage fully in life opportunities.

Our communities will see a reduction in anti-social behaviour in our suburbs and on public transport. There will be a reduction in youth crime as the school-to-prison pipeline will be disrupted. Mental health and well-being will improve for students and the education sector workforce.

Employers will have confidence that school-leavers and higher education graduates will be literate and numerate with good behaviour and work ethic. Productivity will improve and the State will be able to attract investment that sees opportunities to reap the benefits of a higher educated and skilled workforce.

While this may sound utopian, this is what is possible if the recommendations of the Premier's Literacy Advisory Panel are implemented with intentionality according to implementation science, at scale, consistently, and with fidelity over the long term. The result will be transformational for all Tasmanians.

As the Tasmanian 100% Literacy Alliance has always said, improving literacy outcomes for all Tasmanians is critical, and urgent. Let's get this right.