



Tasmanian Principals Association Tasmanian State Government Budget Submission 2016

In making this submission the Tasmanian Principals Association restates its support for a multi-partite, intergovernmentally depoliticised approach to education strategy and funding in Tasmania and for the nation as a whole.

The Tasmanian Principals Association welcomes the continuation of close engagement with the recommendations of the Riley Report into principal health and wellbeing:

- a) improving the wellbeing of principals/deputy principals through professional support;
 - b) differentiated professional learning including strategies to address the “emotional labour” of the principalship;
 - c) on-going review of the work practices of principals and deputy principals in light of the “job-demands resources model” of organisational health;
 - d) addressing bullying and violence towards principals and deputy principals.
- These should also be considered in light of the 2015 report and recommendations to be released on December 3.

The TPA welcomes equity based funding approaches mooted in 2015 for implementation in 2016 and advocates an equitably based funding strategy that delivers, beyond 2016, a “no school loses” resource guarantee pertaining to the new staffing formula.

The TPA welcomes the allocation of funding for increased senior staffing for Tasmania’s public primary schools in 2016.

The TPA warmly welcomes the Tasmanian Government’s commitment to funding all of the “Gonski” years and strongly advocates for a collaboratively developed strategy “beyond the horizon” of the Gonski period. This strategy should be based, we urge, on the tenets that public education be free, compulsory and secular; well-resourced; thoroughly, efficiently and effectively networked via contemporary, well-supported information technologies; and accessible to all people of school age.

The TPA therefore urges a net increase in public school funding of approximately 3% beyond inflation for 2016 and that the “inflation plus 3%, equitably-distributed” model be sustained as an initiative of current and subsequent Tasmanian governments in ensuing years. This strategy should be continued until there is community satisfaction that public education in Tasmania is well-resourced. Funding increases for non-government schools should be capped at inflation rates. Further, the TPA advocates that all schools in receipt of government funding be required to meet the same levels of accountability.

The Tasmanian Principals Association urges the following strategic actions:

- Funding allocations to the non-government sectors are dependent on full, “public system” accountability measures;



- Multi-year School Resource Package (SRP) funding guarantees to be made to schools, and collaborative groups of schools, to support strategic development arising from School Improvement Plans and to allow agile response to contextual changes within schools and their communities;
- Multi-year funding guarantees regarding joint SRP for schools amalgamating ie. the SRP's of the schools to be joined and applied to the new entity for three or more years to facilitate and encourage amalgamation;
- There is strong support for increases to SRP via the Fairer Funding model but these had been lost against diminished staffing in most schools following the politically/industrially driven change to staffing levels for 2015. This should be redressed immediately.
- An end to bus subsidies beyond the local school gate as part of a strategic approach to end the residualisation of the public school system;
- Predictability in capital works prioritisation and time frames;
- A government directive for a review and re-drafting of staffing policies to ensure equity and fairness in staffing of all public schools and to further counter residualisation.

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Tasmanian Principals Association