



Teachers Registration Act Review

Safe children, quality practice, modern regulation

Guidelines for adults supporting consultation with
children and young people

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Minister's Foreword

Teachers across Tasmania play a crucial role in shaping the future of our community.

Every day, our teachers guide students through their schooling journey, equipping them with the skills and confidence they need to succeed. Their impact goes beyond the classroom, a great teacher can help a student to build resilience, recognise their strengths and create a lifelong love of learning.

The hard work, dedication and commitment that is shown by our teachers is deeply valued, and their influence on the lives of students is felt in every corner of our state. It is therefore of utmost importance that the teaching profession in Tasmania is safe, accountable, and provides high quality teaching.

My priority is to ensure that Tasmanian children and young people thrive as learners in a safe and supportive environment. *The Review of the Teachers Registration Act 2000* is a crucial step toward achieving this goal. It will look at how we can better protect children while they learn, support teachers (including those in early childhood education and care) in maintaining high professional standards and assess if the legislative framework is modern, effective and fit for purpose.

Importantly, the Review will also provide advice on the implementation of the recommendations from the Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Response to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings related to teacher registration.

This is a significant moment for education in Tasmania. I encourage all Tasmanians, including children and young people, to share their views on how we can improve teacher registration to maintain the highest standards in the teaching profession and strengthen the safety of our children and young people while they learn.



Jo Palmer MLC
Minister for Education

Acknowledgement of Victim Survivors

This Discussion Paper addresses recommendations made by the Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Response to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings.

We acknowledge the trauma that continues to affect people with lived experience of child abuse. We are committed to being sensitive to this trauma as we use the learnings from past wrongs to protect the rights of current and future generations of children and young people and keep them safe from harm.

About the Review

Why are we undertaking this Review?

Teachers play a critical role in shaping children and young people's education and personal growth. In Tasmania, the *Teachers Registration Act 2000* (the Act) regulates the teaching profession by requiring teachers to meet the necessary standards of character, competence, and fitness to teach in Tasmanian schools.

While the Act has been updated over the years, the Teachers Registration Act Review is a chance to revise and modernise it to improve safety for learners and help teachers maintain high professional standards to better support children and young people. A Minister-appointed Steering Committee is guiding the Review and will present to the Minister a final report that will include recommendations on how the Review's objectives can be achieved.

Why the Review Wants to Hear from Children and Young People?

All children and young people have the right to have a say on things that affect them. Their unique and valuable perspectives on what makes learning safe and inspiring can help us better understand how teachers can do their important work in the best way possible. To support this, we have created child-friendly consultation materials to help them share their thoughts with guidance from trusted adults like you.

How Can Stakeholders Engage with the Review?

You can contribute to the Review by responding to the questions in this discussion paper [[available here](#)]. A child-friendly consultation package is included in these guidelines to ensure children's voices are heard throughout the process.

How to make a submission

You can help children and young people to provide their feedback either by:

- **Online Survey:** respond to the Review's child-friendly questions directly online via the Survey, which you can access on our website [here](#); OR
- **Email:** send children's thoughts and creations digitally to legislation@decyp.tas.gov.au using the subject line Teachers Registration Act Review; OR
- **Mail:** send a physical copy of children's ideas or creations to:
Teachers Registration Act Review Steering Committee
GPO Box 169
Hobart TAS 7001

Engaging Children and Young People's Voices: Guidelines for Adults

What is the Purpose of these Guidelines?

These guidelines help trusted adults—such as community organisations, families, youth advocates, and teachers—support children and young people in sharing their views in the Review, ensuring safe, respectful, and ethical engagement throughout the process. Depending on the age of the children and young people involved, trusted adults might need to:

- Help children access and engage with this consultation document.
- Assist them in submitting their work.

These guidelines should be used alongside the Discussion Starter, available at the end of this document. Adults involved can find [more information about the Review](#) on the Department for Education, Children and Young People website.

Considerations on age-appropriateness

Following [Lundy's consultation model](#), the Review aims to take children's ideas seriously and use them to inform meaningful decisions. We've adapted some of the questions in the discussion paper to be age-appropriate, recognising that children's ability to express their views and influence decisions varies by age and maturity. The questions that will be consulted with children will focus on objects and principles, as well as Professional Learning for teachers. This is because most of the questions in the discussion paper are technical in nature. Children and young people's views will be sought on objects and principles, as these are critical in framing how the Act is interpreted.

Prepare for consultation

Prior to the Consultation:

- Review the "Discussion Starter" and use it to explain the importance of sharing views and shaping the future of teacher registration in Tasmania.
- Review the consultation guidelines and age-specific resources provided in section 5. Templates are optional and meant as a guide.
- Obtain verbal or written permission from children to participate, and written consent from families or guardians for those under 16 years old. (Sample forms provided).
- Inform children, young people, and guardians that personal information will remain confidential unless they choose to share their name and age.

During the Consultation:

- Create a supportive environment for children to share their ideas comfortably.
- Encourage children to express their views freely.
- Record children's views respectfully. Please note we won't accept photos of children and young people, but images of children's artwork or crafts are welcome if that is the preferred submission option for the respondent.
- Confirm informed consent and remind children they can withdraw at any time.

After the Consultation:

- We will thoughtfully consider children's views in the Review.
- We will publish a child-friendly version of the 'What We Heard' report on the Review's website, showing how their ideas influenced the recommendations.
- Children's submissions will be published anonymously, unless permission is given through consent forms for their names and ages to be published as part of the Review.

Age-specific resources for consultation

Consultation with children in the Early Years (0-5 years)

The Steering Committee encourages all Tasmanian children, no matter their age, to participate in this Review because we value their expertise in their own lives.

The consultation ideas below are suitable for young children of varying ages and abilities. Their input will be used to help shape recommendations for the sections of the Act covering objects and principles. To capture their voices, you can take photos of their artworks or submit them directly if that's the children's preference. Recording any conversations that arise is also recommended, as it will help the Review understand and contextualize children's views. When recording their thoughts, consider each child's needs and create a supportive environment. For guidance, visit the [B4 Coalition](#) website for helpful resources during the consultation process. Younger children may need adult support, and small groups can help them engage

Consultation Questions for this age group:

The below questions can be used as a provocation for play and discussions with young children:

- **What do you like most about your teacher?**
- **What makes you feel safe around your teachers?**

Proposed Consultation Play Experiences:

Young children often express their views and ideas through play. The examples below show how the consultation questions could be used to spark discussions among young children through play.

1. Sensory Learning Experiences:
Use play dough, loose parts, and natural materials with consultation questions to provoke conversations. Ensure materials are engaging, age-appropriate and safe.
2. Postcards:
Encourage children to express their ideas by creating postcards based on the consultation questions. You could use recycled materials to build a mailbox for added fun.
3. One-on-one and Group Time Discussions:
Use the consultation questions as prompts for one-on-one or small group discussions in a safe, comfortable space. Puppets or soft toys can help make the conversation more playful.

4. Graffiti Board/Art Mural:
Invite children to share their thoughts on the consultation questions by collaborating on a large sheet of paper or fabric, using drawing, painting, or collage with various art supplies.
5. Songwriting:
Set up a stage with microphones, instruments, and dress-up fabrics, and encourage children to write and perform a song based on the consultation questions.

Consultation with Children and Young People (6 - 17 years)

The following consultation questions are designed for children and young people between the ages of 6 and 17 years. Please create a supportive and inclusive environment to enable respectful consultation, noting that younger children may need extra help from adults to share their ideas. If a play-based approach is more suitable for the children and young people you are consulting, feel free to adapt the consultation ideas outlined in section 5.1.

We would love to hear from Tasmanian children and young people about what makes learning safe and fun for them, as well as what they believe makes a good teacher. Their input will help shape recommendations for the sections of the Act covering objects and principles, but also explore their views on whether teachers should continue their professional learning and why. We encourage children and young people to share their thoughts creatively—whether by playing a game and describing it, drawing or crafting something, or writing a story, song, or poem. They should feel free to express themselves in whatever way makes them feel comfortable and happy.

While we have included templates for your convenience, using them is optional and they are intended only as a guide. Young people can also respond to the questions directly online via the online survey, which you can find on our [website](#).



1.1.1 Consultation questions for children aged 6 -10 years

1. **What does your teacher do that makes you feel good at school and want to learn more?**



2. What helps you feel happy and safe at school?



3. Do you think teachers should keep learning new things? Why?





1.1.2 Consultation questions young people aged 11-17 years

1. What does a teacher do that makes you feel good at school and motivated to learn more?

2. What makes a classroom a safe and comfortable place for you?





3. What is most important for you as a student that teachers need to know?

4. Do you think teachers should keep learning new things? What should they be and how would this help make school better for you?

5. What would you like to change about the way teachers work?

Consent form for parents and guardians

What is the Teachers Registration Act Review about?

The Teachers *Registration Act 2000* (the Act) regulates the teaching profession in Tasmania. The Minister for Education has endorsed a review of the Act to understand how teacher registration can be improved and to support the implementation of the Commission of Inquiry recommendations on teacher registration. For further details about the Review, please visit the [Teachers Registration Act Review](#) page.

Why do children need to be consulted as part of this process?

Teachers have a lasting impact on children and young people, which is why their input is essential for the Review.

What will happen to the feedback provided?

Children's feedback will be collected and used alongside other input to inform the findings of the Teachers Registration Act Review.

What do we need from you?

If your child/young person is under 16 years old, we request your consent for their participation. We will also seek their verbal consent to ensure they actively wish to participate.

1. I understand what my child is being asked to participate in.
2. I understand that what my child says (including quotes) may be shared but my child's identity will not be associated with this information.
3. I understand that if the person talking to my child is concerned about my child's safety, they may need to tell someone.
4. I understand that if my child is upset during any conversation, they can let someone know.
5. I understand that my child does not have to answer every question and can stop participating whenever they want to.

I have read this form and agree to take part in this Review

I would like my child's submission to include their first name and age

I agree to _____ (name of child/young person) taking part in this consultation.

Name (Parent/Guardian): _____

Signature: _____ Date _____



Consent form for young people

Why do we want to talk with you?

We are taking a close look at the “*Teachers Registration Act 2000*”, which is like the rulebook for teachers.

We are doing this because we would like Tasmanian schools and all other places where children learn to be safer. This review is also about helping your teachers to do their work in the best way possible, so that they can help you learn and grow.

We would like to hear what you like the most about your teachers and what makes learning safe for you. You can share your thoughts in any way that works for you - answer the questions directly or get creative! You could draw, craft, write a story, a poem, or even make up a game to show your ideas.

Important things to know:

- It is your choice if you want to participate. You do not have to.
- There are no right or wrong answers. Everyone’s opinion is important.
- If you are under 16 years of age, we will also ask your parent/guardian if it’s OK for you to participate.

-
1. I understand what I am being asked to participate in.
 2. I understand what I say may be shared or published but it will not identify me.
 3. I understand that if I say something that makes the person I am talking to concerned about my safety or the safety of someone else, they may have to tell others so that they can help.
 4. If I feel upset during any conversation, I will let someone know.
 5. Participating in these conversations is up to me. I do not have to answer every question, and I can stop whenever I want to.

I have read this form and agree to take part in this Review

I would like my submission to include my first name and age

Name: _____

Age: _____ Signature: _____

Date: _____

Consultation templates

Consultation template

The below consultation template is provided to support communities, advocates, families and teachers in recording children and young people's voice inspired by the consultation questions.

Date of consultation: _____

Tasmanian region:

- South
- North
- Northwest

The person facilitating this consultation is:

- a community organisation
- a school
- an early childhood education and care setting
- a teacher
- a family member or guardian
- a young person over 16
- Other _____

The number of participants in each age group is:

- 0-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-17 years



I confirm that I have obtained the following:

- Personal informed consent for children and young people participating.
- Guardians' informed consent for participants under 16 years.

Discussion Starter - Information for young people

The following three pages consist of a letter from the Teachers Registration Act Review Steering Committee and information about the Review.

To give young people some background and context, you can print these pages for young people before you undertake any consultation activities. They can read them on their own, or you can read them out to them, if easier.



Dear Tasmanian Children and Young People,

We need your help with something important!

We are looking at the Teachers Registration Act 2000 — the set of rules that guide how teachers work in Tasmania. Every day, your teachers work hard to help you learn new things, keep you safe, and make learning fun and exciting.

As part of the Teachers Registration Act Review, we want to hear from you! Your ideas and feedback can help make schools and other learning places safer and better for everyone.



The Steering Committee wants to make sure that your voice is heard in this important review. We want to know what you enjoy most about your teachers and what makes learning safe and exciting for you.

You can share your thoughts in any way you like! Whether you answer some questions or get creative, your input is really important. Together, we can help Tasmanian teachers do their work in the best way possible.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts and being part of this important work.

Sincerely,

Sue Kennedy
Chair
Teachers Registration Act Review Steering Committee



About the Review

Why are we doing this Review?

The *Teachers Registration Act 2000* sets the rules for who can be a teacher in Tasmania, so that all children and young people are safe while they learn.

Learning is not always easy, which is why it's important that all teachers can help you when you need it most. This Review is about making schools and learning spaces safer, and helping your teachers to do their work in the best way they can.



Why do we want to hear your ideas?

All children and young people have the right to have a say on things that affect them. This Review will impact your safety, well-being, and learning, that's why your ideas are important to us. To understand how to make schools and learning spaces safer and get your thoughts on what makes a good teacher, we need *your* expert advice.

What do you need to do?

We would like to hear your views on the following questions:

1. **What does a teacher do that makes you feel good at school and want to learn more?**
2. **What helps you feel happy and safe at school?**
3. **What is most important for you as a student that teachers need to know?**
4. **Do you think teachers should keep learning new things?**

You can share your thoughts in any way you like! Answer the questions directly, or get creative with a drawing or a craft. You could also write a story, a poem, a song or even make up a game to show your ideas. We'd like you to share your ideas about the Review, but you can also choose not to take part if you prefer. We're here to make sure you feel safe, respected and included.

Once your ideas are ready to be shared, you will need to send them to us so we can review them. If you need help, please ask an adult you trust to help you. You can send your ideas in three ways:

- **Online Survey:** respond to the Review's child-friendly questions directly online via the survey, which you can access on our [website](#): OR
- **Email:** send your thoughts and creations by email to legislation@decyp.tas.gov.au using the subject line *Review of the Teachers Registration Act*; OR
- **Mail:** send a copy of your ideas or creations to:
Review of the Teachers Registration Act Steering Committee
GPO Box 169 - Hobart TAS 7001

How will we use your ideas?

Your ideas will be part of the final report for the Review. We will share this with the Minister for Education.



Keeping Your Information Safe

- ✿ When you share your ideas with us your details will stay private. To keep you safe, we can't accept photos of you, but we would love to see images of your artwork or crafts if you would like to share them.
- ✿ You will need to sign a consent form to allow us to include your ideas in the final report for the Review. If you are under 16 years of age, we will also ask your parent/carer if it's okay for you to participate. Your consent form will be stored safely.
- ✿ We won't publish your details if you don't want us to. You and your parent/carer can decide if you would like to share your first name and age as part of your submission.
- ✿ We promise to keep everything private, but if we think you might be in danger, we will contact the right people to keep you safe.

Who can help you?

Sharing ideas is not always easy, so we've created some ways for your trusted adults to help you if you'd like help sharing your ideas.

If you have any questions, please contact: legislation@decyp.tas.gov.au using the subject line Review of the Teachers Registration Act.

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