

INCLUSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Communiqué I
25 March 2021

On 25 March 2021, the Inclusion Advisory Committee (IAC) held its inaugural meeting in Hobart.

The new Committee was established by the Minister for Education and Training and will operate for a term of three years, from 2021 until 2023, with representation across key education and disability sectors across Tasmania.

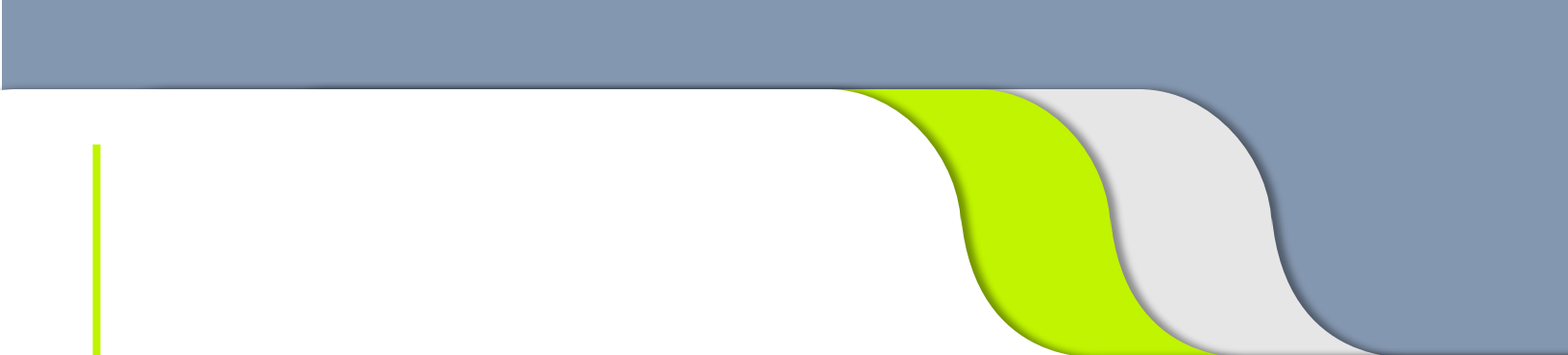
Members of the Committee include:

Organisation	Representative
Independent Chair	Cheryl Larcombe
Catholic Education Tasmania	Cathrine Montgomery
Independent Schools Tasmania	Ruth Croser
Department of Education Secretary / Delegate	Jodee Wilson
Department of Education Inclusion and Diversity	Lynne McDougall
Southern Support School	Simon Ellaby
Tasmanian Principals Association	Sally Milbourne
Tasmanian Association of State Schools Organisations	Jared Dickason (apology)
Australian Association of Special Education Tasmanian Chapter	Bernard Knight

The new Inclusion Advisory Committee will replace the Inclusion Advisory Panel, which operated from 2016-2020, and will have a new Terms of Reference, Workplan and revised membership.

The IAC's focus will be providing advice to the Minister for Education and Training in relation to the key national and state initiatives and reforms to improve support for students with disability and further strengthen inclusive education practices in Tasmania. Continued focus will remain on the Ministerial Taskforce recommendations, namely:

- Work with schools to become increasingly disability ready and responsive
- Continuously improve teaching and learning in inclusive education
- Work with communities in partnership
- Align resources to inclusive education practice.



The Committee will also support Tasmanian education sectors' participation in the National Agenda Reform areas including (but not limited to):

- Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability
- 2020 Review of the *Disability Standards for Education (2005)*
- Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) Quality Assurance
- National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) – Intersection with Education
- Other reforms related to inclusive education practice and supporting students with disability.

At its first meeting, the Chair provided an overview of the work of the Ministerial Taskforce and Inclusion Advisory Panel to date.

Members reviewed the draft Terms of Reference for the IAC, which will be ratified at the Committee's next meeting.

Members also reviewed the draft Workplan for the IAC, which includes a proposed schedule of agenda items for 2021 meeting dates. Members have the opportunity to review both the Terms of Reference and Workplan out of session and provide feedback at the Committee's next meeting.

Inclusive Education Professional Learning update

The Department of Education provided an update on the Graduate Certificate in Inclusive Education, which has been delivered through the University of Tasmania for the past five years in partnership with the Department's Professional Learning Institute.

The Peter Underwood Centre recently undertook an evaluation of the Graduate Certificate to measure the impact of the professional learning on teacher practice and student outcomes.

The Department is currently reviewing the findings and is considering a range of future professional learning opportunities to further strengthen the workforce capability in inclusive education practice.

New Inclusive Practice Team update

The Department of Education shared information about the new Inclusive Education Practice Team which will be commencing statewide from Term 2, 2021. This team will introduce a new approach to supporting schools to grow their inclusive practice, aiming to support more learners and building the capabilities of school leaders, school Support and Wellbeing Teams and Support Teachers in inclusive practices that support educational outcomes for all learners.

The new team will be formed by re-aligning the current Autism Consultants team and the Respectful Schools Support Team (RSST), and will consist of a Manager of Inclusive Learning, two Inclusive Practice Team Leads and 16 Inclusive Practice Coaches.

Future Meeting

The Committee's next meeting will be held in June 2021.