

INCLUSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Communiqué 2

10 June 2021

On 10 June 2021, the Inclusion Advisory Committee (IAC) held its second meeting in Hobart.

The Committee spent its second meeting reviewing and finalising the Terms of Reference and Workplan. Members shared progress and key priorities across sectors and organisations, and discussed two key reform areas including the 2020 Review of the *Disability Standards for Education 2005* and the Disability Royal Commission.

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
Australian Association of Special Education Tasmanian Chapter	Bernard Knight

Updates on progress and key priorities

Members provided updates on progress and key priorities in relation to supporting students with disability and strengthening inclusive practice in their sectors and organisations. Key areas of focus include:

Catholic Education Tasmania

- Ongoing professional learning for staff in inclusive education
- Ongoing work with the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) and the requirements for imputing disability
- Additional support provided for students needing speech assessment programs in 2021
- Major project to develop a new student information system across all CET schools.

Independent Schools Tasmania

- Ongoing support provided to school leadership teams to strengthen school-wide policies and processes in inclusive practices
- Ongoing delivery of professional learning for staff on a range of topics such as NCCD moderation, learning plans, and implementing educational adjustments
- Developing an Inclusive Schools Handbook for IST schools to be finalised by the end of 2021.

Department of Education

- Continuing to embed the Educational Adjustments funding model for students with disability
- Ongoing delivery of professional learning for Support Teachers each term to strengthen inclusive practice across all schools
- Finalising the *Planning for Improvement – Inclusive Practice* resource to support leaders focus on inclusive practice in improvement planning aligned to the National School Improvement Tool
- Ongoing implementation of the Supporting Students Impacted by Trauma initiative with increased funding for schools to support students.

Southern Support School

- Strong focus on literacy and numeracy and developing teacher skills in assessment for students.
- Three assistant principals across the Support Schools are undertaking a numeracy inquiry to help improve this area of work across support schools.
- Three teams of staff are presenting at the upcoming AGOSCI Conference in Hobart from 1-4 September 2021.

Tasmanian Principals Association (TPA)

Key areas of focus nationally include: Disability Royal Commission and the impact on school leaders and principals, impact of trauma, and the impact of anxiety on students exacerbated by COVID-19.

Australian Association of Special Education (AASE)

AASE is a national peak body and has a key role in collaborating across jurisdictions. AASE National Conference is being held in Adelaide from 8-10 September 2021. Within Tasmania, AASE provides professional learning opportunities and a mentoring program for students studying at UTAS.

Tasmanian Association of State Schools Organisations (TASSO)

Given the cultural change taking place across schools, TASSO recognises the need to include families and school associations to help further inclusion and gather greater support across broader school communities.

2020 Review of the *Disability Standards for Education 2005*

The Committee reviewed the recommendations from the Review of the *Disability Standards for Education 2005* and discussed implications for education sectors in Tasmania. The most significant change to come out of the review is that the DSE will now apply to the Early Childhood Education and Care sector.

Tasmania will continue to engage in the national reference group to collaborate with the Commonwealth and other jurisdictions on implementation of the recommendations.

Disability Royal Commission

The Committee discussed the Disability Royal Commission's (DRC) progress. Discussion focused on the emerging areas of focus in education, which have been explored during public hearings in NSW and QLD.

The DRC will be holding a public hearing in Hobart from 16-20 August on the topic of health and safety of women and girls with disability. Further discussion will take place as the public hearings continue.

Future Meeting

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