

MEDIA RELEASE: 26 April 2009

TASMANIA TOGETHER PROGRESS BOARD ENDORSES TASMANIA'S EDUCATION PERFORMANCE REPORT 2008

The recent release of the Tasmanian *Education Performance Report 2008* is a positive step in providing transparent information to parents and the community about school performance, according to Tasmania Together Progress Board Chair, Bob Campbell.

The 2008 report includes a summary of the performance of Tasmanian government schools in priority areas including the early years, literacy and numeracy, student retention, school improvement and equity.

“By highlighting improvements in these performance measures from 2007, and identifying areas of issue and concern, the *Tasmanian Education Performance Report 2008* will be a useful tool in supporting school improvement and education outcomes in Tasmania,” Mr Campbell said.

Of particular interest to Tasmania Together, the report encompasses results from the new National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) where all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 across Australia are tested on aspects of literacy and numeracy using a common test. Prior to this, each state conducted individual literacy and numeracy monitoring programs to determine national benchmarks. From 2008, the national benchmarks were replaced by new national minimum standards.

“We will be able to develop new Tasmania Together literacy and numeracy benchmarks based on the National Assessment Program,” said Mr Campbell.

Baselines for Tasmania's performance in literacy and numeracy under the new reporting regime were set in 2008 and are referenced against national figures.

“With the 2008 baselines now set, the new national literacy and numeracy testing regime provides an excellent platform for Tasmania Together to report on Tasmania's progress against the new national minimum standards. The rigorous reporting approach of the *Tasmanian Education Performance Report* is a good fit and supports Tasmania Together's commitment to ensuring the ability of Tasmanians to keep track of performance in priority areas such as this,” said Mr Campbell.

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