



# Tasmanian Catholic Schools Parents Council

10 March 2022

Good morning,

## **Literacy Advisory Panel – Community Consultation Submission from the Tasmanian Catholic Schools Parents Council (TCSPC)**

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to provide a submission to the Literacy Advisory Panel's Community Consultation.

By way of background, the TCSPC is a collaborative and representative organisation dedicated to assisting Catholic School parents (and children), ensuring they have voice at both a local and national level. We also aim to help with Parent Engagement within Catholic Education as a whole, and to help and empower parents take an active role in the education of their children.

As a parent organisation, we have, in our submission, focussed on Adult Literacy and Parent Engagement, and also specifically drawn your attention to a programme called Gearing Up For Parent Engagement.

### **Adult Literacy**

It becomes apparent reading through the papers provided that many of the points noted are intertwined. For example, for parents to be able to assist their children with literacy, parents (adults) need to be supported with their own literacy levels, and there is clear data available that there is much work needed in the adult literacy space.

The TCSPC in 2020 became a member of 26TEN and support the work they do. With a focus on improving the quality of adult literacy, and making real efforts to make contact in a caring and appropriate (non threatening/non embarrassing way) 26TEN are making a difference not only for the adults they have contact with, but for their children. The more adults that are assisted will directly impact on improving literacy levels of (their) children. Children learn at school, but they also need to be supported at home. Parents need to read to the children, and talk to children. Parents need help with this – being appropriately reminded they should do it, tips and hints on how to do it, and help in doing it. By improving adult literacy, they become better equipped to do some or all of this. In 2022, the TCSPC and 26TEN have met with a view to working collaboratively to reach out to parents (to parents of children in Catholic Schools, but also to adults who these parents know), who require some assistance with literacy.

We also note, from the papers provided, the other organisations and community organisations, who all work towards the point we make about supporting adults to improve their literacy. It would also be remiss of us not to mention Libraries located across Tasmania. They provide excellent physical resources for improving literacy, as well as many digital options.



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## Parent Engagement

The TCSPC, through our membership of Catholic School Parents Australia (CSPA) has a great deal of useful information available through a programme called Gearing Up For Parent Engagement which has practical hints and tips on a wide range of topics, many of which are relatable to Literacy <https://www.parentengagementcspa.edu.au/>. During 2022 and 2023, the TCSPC has a goal to spread the word more amongst parents of children in Catholic Schools of the content of this programme, through a series of presentations in each of the 3 main Tasmanian Regions, and possibly on the West Coast. We have recently applied for a Grant to enable these events to be held. We have identified that whilst the information is available on line, we feel it is not being accessed or utilised in large enough numbers, due potentially in part to deficiencies in adult literacy.

In summary, the TCSPC is pleased to be recognised under the heading of 'Peak Bodies and Groups' and fully supports the development of a community wide framework to improve literacy in Tasmania. We hope our inclusion of the information available from the TCSPC, via our peak body the CSPA is of value to the members of the Advisory Panel, and we wish you well in achieving positive outcomes.

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