Improving Literacy and Numeracy

A MAJORITY LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

• Employ a specialist Literacy/Numeracy Coach in every Tasmanian Government school
• Implement a new Literacy and Numeracy Strategy in Tasmanian Government Schools to improve results
Investing more into education

Improving literacy and numeracy

A re-elected majority Hodgman Liberal Government will prioritise literacy and numeracy to ensure our students are at or above the national standard in every single NAPLAN measurement in reading, writing, and mathematics.

A new Literacy and Numeracy Strategy, focused on the basics of high quality classroom teaching, and formative assessment will guide literacy and numeracy improvements across the state.

We have listened to parents, principals, and teachers concerned about the ‘crowded curriculum’ and will simplify our requirements, including assessment and reporting. This will enable teachers to focus on the basics of high quality classroom teaching, with a particular focus on literacy and numeracy, across all subjects.

Specialist coaching support in every school

Our new strategy will be implemented by specialist Literacy/Numeracy coaches in every Tasmanian Government School.

We know that through investing in specialist teachers, results improve.

In 2014 we introduced 25 specialist Literacy and Numeracy teachers to work directly with students and this additional investment is working. We have now seen improvements in our NAPLAN achievements. Despite this improvement, we know we have more work to do to achieve our goals.

We will employ an additional 35 experienced teachers as Literacy/Numeracy coaches and transition all existing 25 specialist Literacy and Numeracy teachers to become coaches. Taking into account the existing 60.5 FTE coaches, the total number of Literacy and Numeracy coaches will be 120.5 FTE, providing access to a literacy coach in every Tasmanian Government School.

We know coaching works, because it’s the successful model used through the “Raising the Bar, Closing the Gap” initiative.

Our plan will dramatically improve the access our children have to specialist assistance and provide at-the-shoulder support to our teachers.

Our targets

Continuing: By 2020, be at or above the national standard in every single NAPLAN measurement in reading, writing, maths and science

#27: Ensure the retention rate of students from Year 10 - 12 is at or above the national average by 2022

#28: 75% of all students to complete their Tasmanian Certificate of Education (TCE) by 2022

Why Tasmania needs this

Currently, only some schools have literacy coaches. Our view is that every Tasmanian student deserves the opportunity to access quality literacy and numeracy learning, which allows them to reach their potential and lead fulfilling and productive lives.

Our latest NAPLAN results show we are improving, but we still have a long way to go to reach our targets, and supporting every school will help us get there.
Investing more into education

Cost
We have committed up to $26 million over 6 years* to employ 35 additional experienced teachers.

*This is in addition to funding already structured into the budget for the continuation of our existing 25 Literacy and Numeracy Specialist Teachers committed in 2014.

Labor Green record
The Labor Green legacy in education was an attempt to force the closure of 20 schools, and the lowest educational outcomes in the country.

Labor was content to see our retention rate languish at 68.4% and our completion rate as low as 46.5%

The Hodgman Liberal Government’s investment in education has seen the retention rate rise to 73.4% and the completion rate to 56.4% in 2016.

We have gained excellent momentum in 4 years, and we are committed to seeing further improvement. There is no room for complacency in our education policy - we have the vision, the plan and the budgetary capacity to build a brighter future for Tasmania.