

Minister for Education
Minister for Children and Youth
Minister for Disability Services

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17 FEB 2026

The Hon Ruth Forrest MLC
Chair
Public Accounts Committee

Via Committee Secretary: pac@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Forrest

I am writing to correct the record in relation to a figure I provided to the Public Accounts Committee for its Follow-up Audit: Improving Outcomes for Tasmanian Senior Secondary Students.

During the hearing on 5 February 2026, I noted that approximately 500 young people identified through the Youth Participation Database as not meeting their education and training obligations had been re-engaged in 2025.

In addition to young people who had been re-engaged in education and training, this figure also included young people who may have:

- Met a leaving requirement in accordance with S.24(1) of the *Education Act 2016*;
- Received an exemption in accordance with S.26 of the *Education Act 2016*;
- Left Tasmania; or
- Passed away.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Committee, it was great to be able to detail some of the progress the Department for Education, Children and Young People has made since the Auditor-General's report was handed down in 2022.

I also valued the opportunity to share a bit about the work currently underway following the Independent Review of Education in Tasmania. I am personally very excited about our cross-sectorial Defining Educational Success project which will lead to enhancements to senior secondary accreditation and delivery in Tasmania.

Yours sincerely

Hon Jo Palmer MLC
Minister for Education