



Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts

Media Advisory

Thursday, 3 September 2026

Follow-Up of the Report of the Auditor-General Improving Outcomes for Tasmanian Senior Secondary Students (No. 1 of 2022-2023) Report

The Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts has today tabled its report into the Department of Education, Children and Young People's response to the Auditor-General's performance audit, *Improving Outcomes for Tasmanian Senior Secondary Students*.

The Committee's review found that the Department has made substantial progress in implementing all seven of the Auditor-General's recommendations, particularly through improvements to project management, governance arrangements, data systems and accountability frameworks.

However, the Committee concluded that while improvements in project management are evident, there remains insufficient publicly available evidence to demonstrate whether those reforms have resulted in improved educational outcomes for Tasmanian senior secondary students.

Committee Chair, Hon Ruth Forrest MLC, said the review highlighted an important distinction between implementing reforms and demonstrating their impact.

"The Committee acknowledges the significant work undertaken by the Department to strengthen project planning, governance and data capability since the Auditor-General's report. However, the key question remains whether these reforms are delivering better outcomes for students."

"Our review found improvements in process and administration, but in several important areas outcome data was either unavailable, not measured, or unable to be provided to the Committee."

The Committee identified several areas of concern, including the absence of publicly reported data demonstrating the effectiveness of major reforms, incomplete information relating to student re-engagement through the Back on Track program, and a lack of publicly available reporting on outcomes for students enrolled through eSchool and Virtual Learning Tasmania.

The report notes that Recommendation 5 of the original Auditor-General's audit, relating to reporting against performance measures and benefits realisation, remains only partially implemented.

To address these concerns, the Committee has made an overarching recommendation that the Department develop and publish an annual outcomes report on senior secondary reforms. The report should include measurable retention, attainment and engagement indicators, outcomes against stated targets, the effectiveness of student re-engagement programs, and progress toward the Department's emerging definition of educational success.

The Committee also made three additional recommendations aimed at strengthening stakeholder engagement and improving the collection and reporting of student outcome data.

Hon Ruth Forrest MLC said transparency and accountability were essential to ensuring Parliament and the community could assess the effectiveness of education reforms.

"Improved governance and data systems are important foundations, but they are not themselves evidence of improved student outcomes."



"The Committee considers it essential that the Department move beyond reporting activity and begin publishing clear, measurable evidence of impact so Parliament and the community can have confidence that reforms are achieving their intended purpose."

The report, *Follow-up of the Auditor-General's Report: Improving Outcomes for Tasmanian Senior Secondary Students (No. 1 of 2022-23)*, is available on the [Committee's inquiry webpage](#).

The Members of the Committee are:

Legislative Council

Hon Ruth Forrest MLC (Chair)

Hon Luke Edmunds MLC

Hon Bec Thomas MLC (Deputy Chair)

House of Assembly

Mr Rob Fairs MP

Mr Marcus Vermey MP

Mr Dean Winter MP

Further information on the Committee's activities and current inquiries is on the [Committee webpage](#).

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