

Inquiry into Education in Tasmania

I welcome the Inquiry into Education in Tasmania with the hope that analysis of the extensive data available will provide answers to the dismal results for our students, compared with other States regarding Year 12 completion rates and obtaining a certificate.

The Consultation paper talks of 'define educational success'. This is difficult to do without baseline information. The information provided below has persuaded me that attention to our education system is necessary.

One thing for certain is that without significant reform, the results for our students will be unchanged.

I am a retired paediatrician and retired Local Government Mayor. Although I have always had an interest in Education, it was during my time as Mayor of Kingborough Council (2005-2014) with 3 State High Schools in the municipality, that I became aware of the data for students, both moving on to the Colleges and completing year 12 with a certificate, compared to those from other States.

I was invited to become a patron of Education Ambassadors Tasmania. This initiative was launched at Government House by the Governor at the time with 28 out of the 29 Mayors agreeing to participate.

In around 2014, the Mercury newspaper under the banner, 'Education Matters', printed articles about the status of Tasmanian education, with Professors Rowan and Ramsay regular contributors.

The article 'Educational Inequality in Tasmania: evidence and explanations. Aust. Educ.Res'. published online in 2018. Rowan and Ramsay provides a forensic analysis of the state of education in Tasmania.

Saul Estlake in the John West memorial lecture , 'Education, Productivity and Economic Performance, Then, Now and Tomorrow' March 2017, details an economists view on Education in Tasmania.

I do not know the reason for the dismal results for our students, particularly in the senior secondary years 11 and 12, but there is sufficient data available for the Inquiry to come to evidence based conclusions.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Inquiry in to Education in Tasmania.

Graham Bury

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