



# Tasmanian 100% Literacy Alliance

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Major Progress towards 100% Literacy for all Tasmanians

12 March 2021

The Tasmanian 100% Literacy Alliance has today welcomed the Tasmanian Government's ambitious new target that by Year 7 all students will meet an expected reading ability that is above the national minimum standard, by no later than 2030, as set out in the Alliance's [Roadmap to a Literate Tasmania](#).

The Alliance celebrates that this is fully achievable with the understanding that will emerge through the full and mandated use of the Year One Phonics Check in all Tasmanian primary schools.

The Alliance note that it is critical to resource and engage educators in professional learning in structured literacy methods for reading and writing instruction. This will build teacher knowledge, confidence, optimism, and satisfaction in implementing this approach.

The Alliance also welcomes the establishment of an Expert Advisory Panel to oversee the development of a Community-wide Framework to achieve a Literate Tasmania.

The Alliance is pleased that the Minister recognises that a Literate Tasmania is more than just school education and it looks forward to working with the Minister to further the Road Map through to full implementation – including the first 1000 days of life, secondary schooling, the justice system, and adult literacy strategies.

“Tasmania will now be positioned as a leader in developing the language and literacy skills that we all need to live whole lives, to connect and learn and thrive” said Rosie Martin speech pathologist, criminologist, and Founder of Connect42.

Alliance Member and Workforce Demographer, Dr Lisa Denny also welcomed the Government's commitment as a long-term plan for achieving 100% literacy for Tasmania and all Tasmanians.

"The Roadmap to a Literate Tasmania is an evidence-based, co-designed strategy that aims to help everyone reach their learning potential. We appreciate that this journey will be challenging at times, but we are ready and willing to be part of making this happen."

Dr Denny said.

\*The 100% literacy alliance is comprised of:

- Lisa Denny, Workforce Demographer, Adjunct Associate Professor, Institute for Social Change, University of Tasmania
- Saul Eslake, Economist, Vice-Chancellor's Fellow at the University of Tasmania
- Amelia Jones, Chair, Square Pegs Dyslexia Association
- Rosalie Martin, Speech and Language Pathologist, Criminologist, 2017 Tasmanian of the Year, founder of Connect42
- Rikki Mawad, Chair, Connect 42
- Michael Rowan, Emeritus Professor, University of South Australia, Co-founder Tasmanian Education Ambassadors
- Anthea Pritchard, Co-founder, Tasmanian Leaders Program
- Becky Shelley, Deputy Director, Peter Underwood Centre for Educational Attainment, University of Tasmania.

The Roadmap and a Summary table are available at  
<https://www.tasmanianliteracyalliance.org/>

Media Contacts:

Rosie Martin 0418 390 449

Lisa Denny 0400 190 964