

8 September 2025

On International Literacy Day 2025 the Lifting Literacy Outcomes Monitoring Group acknowledges and celebrates Tasmania's journey toward universal literacy. This day is not only a global reminder of the power of literacy but also a moment to reflect on the extraordinary collective effort underway in Tasmania.

Launched in 2024, the Lifting Literacy Community-wide Framework declares a clear goal: to achieve 100% literacy for Tasmania. Not just improved scores. Not just better averages. But full, universal literacy—where every Tasmanian, regardless of age, background, or postcode, has the skills to read, write, speak, and understand in ways that empower their lives.

Without these foundational literacy skills, Tasmanians will not be able to meet the increasing demand in everyday life matters.

Literacy is the foundation for lifelong learning, civic participation, and personal agency. Without literacy, individuals are locked out of opportunities—unable to navigate healthcare, employment, digital platforms, or democratic processes.

In Tasmania, where entrenched disadvantage persists, the cost of illiteracy is not abstract. It's felt in lower workforce participation, poorer health outcomes, and diminished social cohesion. That's why the Lifting Literacy Framework matters. It's not just about improving test scores—it's about unlocking human potential.

This isn't just a policy aspiration. It's a moral imperative.

The Lifting Literacy Framework is a living commitment to equity, opportunity, and transformation. It represents a shared vision that literacy is a human right, and that every Tasmanian deserves the chance to participate fully in society.

What makes Tasmania's approach unique is its whole-of-community framework. It is a shared responsibility embraced by educators, families, libraries, community groups, employers, and policymakers. This alignment of effort is unprecedented and deeply inspiring.

Tasmanian schools are progressing the implementation of structured literacy and the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) to ensure every student receives the help they need. Libraries and adult education providers are extending their reach to support lifelong learning. We have heard stories of parents, volunteers, and community leaders stepping up to champion literacy in their neighbourhoods.

This is what systemic change looks like. It is not a single program or initiative—it is a cultural shift. To make this change, we're relying on the efforts of all these individuals, in the work they do day-to-day. This will not be a short-term fix – it will take sustained effort and a willingness to stay the course. We're currently in the second year of a ten year shift in Tasmania.

As the Outcomes Monitoring Group, established by the Premier, our role is to provide independent oversight and ensure transparency. We track progress, identify challenges, and elevate voices from across the state. And what we are seeing is remarkable: a groundswell of belief that 100% literacy is not only possible but necessary.

Consider this: every child is born with the capacity to learn language. Every adult has the right to access education. The barriers—poverty, trauma, neurodiversity, systemic exclusion—are real, but they are not insurmountable.

When we lift literacy, we lift lives.

On this International Literacy Day, we celebrate progress and call on all Tasmanians to continue this journey. Together, we are building a Tasmania where every person has the words—and the power—to shape their own story.

For more information about the Lifting Literacy Outcomes Monitoring Group see www.tas.gov.au/literacy/outcomes-monitoring-group.

Dr Michele Bruniges, Chair, Lifting Literacy Outcomes Monitoring Group