

Dear Premier

The Lifting Literacy Outcomes Monitoring Group (LLOMG) has been established at your request, as an independent group tasked with the oversight and monitoring of progress against the *Lifting Literacy 3-year Implementation Plan (the 3-year Implementation Plan)*.

The LLOMG's Terms of Reference provide that the Group will report to you, as required, including twice yearly reports on implementation progress and outcomes. The sections below provide an initial progress update, noting that this project is still in establishment phase.

## Establishment of the LLOMG

The LLOMG met for the first time on 20 November 2023, which was an opportunity for members to meet each other, and discuss the role of the Group and its administrative arrangements. At a second meeting on 15 December 2023, the Group had the opportunity to consider the 3-year Implementation Plan and to commence the work of developing outcomes and reporting frameworks for the Plan.

As Chair I feel extremely fortunate to have a Group with the expertise, experience and goodwill that is present in the LLOMG. I am heartened by the commitment of the people around the LLOMG table to assisting in achieving a radical shift in Tasmania's literacy levels. I feel a genuine excitement among the members for the work that is to come.

## The 3-year Implementation Plan

The LLOMG Terms of Reference provide that the Group will review the 3-year Implementation Plan and suggest any missing detail to enable the effective monitoring of outcomes. The LLOMG reviewed the 3-year Implementation Plan prior to its release and offers some preliminary comments below. With further opportunity to consider its content, it is likely that future LLOMG reports will include additional commentary on the Plan.

The 3-year Implementation Plan includes actions for each of the Literacy Advisory Panel's 23 priority recommendations. The Plan includes the commitment that 25 per cent of primary schools across Tasmania will be implementing structured literacy for K-2 in 2024. By 2026, it is expected that all primary schools will be implementing the structured literacy approach.

While it is important to acknowledge that this initial 3-year Implementation Plan sits within the broader context of a 10-year community wide framework for lifting literacy, the LLOMG feels a great sense of urgency about this work so that literacy outcomes for Tasmanians can begin the improvement we want to see. We note that activity is already underway in the government sector

and attached reports from the Department for Education, Children and Young People and the Department of Premier and Cabinet describe their efforts. We look forward to discussing the implementation plans and activities with school sector heads in 2024.

The LLOMG has been advised that, based on feedback from school sector heads, the commitment to implementation of the Year 1 Phonics Check in every school in Term 3 of this year has only been achieved in Government schools. We were advised that schools in the non-government sectors will have until Term 3 2024 to implement the Check. The LLOMG will be monitoring closely the adherence of all sectors to the published commitments going forward and hope that any further drift from commitments will be very constrained.

The Group discussed Priority Recommendation 13 (*Engage with and be led by Tasmanian Aboriginal people and Aboriginal service providers to develop a culturally appropriate Literacy Strategy for Tasmanian Aboriginal people that is aligned to and is consistent with relevant Closing the Gap targets*). While recognising the importance of cultural contexts, the Panel underscored the importance of having one Literacy Strategy, which ensures all Tasmanians receive evidence-based structured (systematic and explicit) literacy teaching from early years to adulthood.

The Group also discussed the plan for the early years, particularly considering opportunities for more pre-literacy activity for 0-5 children in early childhood education and care settings.

Finally, the Group discussed the importance of consistency and clarity of language and terminology relating to the Lifting Literacy work. In particular, the group warned against the use of the term 'functional literacy' which has unhelpful connotations in some parts of the education community, and is inconsistent with the definition of literacy adopted by the Advisory Panel.

## Development of an Outcomes Measurement Framework

The LLOMG Terms of Reference provide that the Group will develop an outcomes measurement framework for the 3-year Implementation Plan and evaluate its outcomes. Members commenced discussion of the elements of an outcomes measurement framework and considered possible measures for inclusion. The Group will consider options for development of an outcomes measurement framework at its first meeting in 2024.

On behalf of the LLOMG, I thank you for the opportunity to monitor and support all sectors and the community in delivering improvements in literacy levels. We look forward to being an integral part of the literacy transformation and reporting next year on the progress achieved.

Kind regards

*Michele Bruniges*

Michele Bruniges AM  
Chair, Lifting Literacy Outcomes Monitoring Group  
20 December 2023