

**Deputy Premier  
Minister for Education and Training  
Minister for Primary Industries and Water  
Minister for Racing**

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**12 November 2014**

**Dear School Association Chair**

I am writing to inform you about resources available to schools and colleges for the 2015 school year.

For 2014-15 the Tasmanian Government is spending a record amount of \$1.4 billion on education and training and for the 2015 school year this means that additional funding is going directly to schools through school resource packages (SRPs). This includes a minimum five per cent increase in the Fairer Funding Model component as part of the Government's commitment to Students First funding; additional funding for the first six schools involved in the Government's initiative to extend high schools to Year 11 and 12 in rural and regional communities; and an additional \$1 million for Launching into Learning.

The Government has also allocated additional school resourcing in 2015 for up to one week of additional employment to teacher assistants (\$1.1m); for bandwidth upgrades to support improved and more consistent base levels of information and technology access (\$1.7m); for an IT Infrastructure fund to maintain the lifecycle of local school ICT infrastructure on behalf of schools (\$1.5m); for VET in schools (\$500,000); for the development of a school health nurse program (\$300,000); and for literacy and numeracy specialists (\$1.2m).

Regrettably, we've also had to make an adjustment to the staffing formula due to the decision by the Australian Education Union (AEU) to reject our sensible pay freeze proposal. We've made it clear all along that we need a pay freeze to protect 500 jobs across Government and our consistent position has been that we would much rather a pay freeze than a reduction in staffing. Unfortunately, as a direct result of the AEU's decisions, the Department of Education will now have a total savings target of 266 full time equivalent positions across the whole department, including schools. This means that the specific staffing component of SRPs will be reduced somewhat in all schools and colleges, except the 16 smallest schools and support schools (see list attached).

It's important to note that the student-to-staff ratio will remain better than the national average.

I am sure that parents are hearing about the AEU's decision and proposed industrial action through the media, and they may be contacting you or wish to discuss these issues at your next Association meeting. I thought it important that you are aware of, and are able to provide information about, the Government's position. I'm deeply concerned by the proposed stop work actions of the AEU, and the impact these actions will have on schools, children's education, parents and the broader community.

Should the stop work meetings go ahead, information about the arrangements being made by schools to support students and families will be provided to parents. In the meantime, I urge you to express any concerns you might have about the impact of this stop-work directly to the AEU.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Rockliff', written in a cursive style.

**Jeremy Rockliff MP**  
**Deputy Premier**  
**Minister for Education and Training**

**ATTACHMENT:**

<b>Small Schools</b>	<b>Support Schools</b>
Meander Primary School	Ashley School
Cape Barren Island School	Northern Support School
Avoca Primary School	School of Special Education North West
Redpa Primary School	Southern Support School
Edith Creek Primary School	
Sprent Primary School	<b>Also excluded:</b>
Wilmot Primary School	Early Childhood Intervention Service – Burnie
Bruny Island District School	Early Childhood Intervention Service – Devonport
Ouse District School	Early Childhood Intervention Service – Hobart
Natone Primary School	Early Childhood Intervention Service – Launceston
Kempton Primary School	
Stanley Primary School	
Zeehan Primary School	
Collinsvale Primary School	
Strahan Primary School	
Sassafras Primary School	

