

# RESPONSE TO CONSTITUENT

ASKED BY: Mr Marcus Vermey MP

ANSWERED BY: Minister for Education

## QUESTION:

A 90 year old constituent in my electorate of Clark is a retired teacher and would like to see improvements in children's reading ability. How is the government investing in this space, and can you outline what you are doing to ensure students can read?

## ANSWER:

Thank you for your question in Parliament on 03 March 2026 regarding the Tasmanian Government's investment and strategies to improve children's reading ability.

Our government is making record investment in education and undertaking bold and innovative system-wide education reform to lift outcomes for every student. This includes improving the reading ability of every student.

Learning to read is foundational to all other learning. In 2024, the Tasmanian Government required teachers to change the way they teach reading to ensure that children and young people develop the literacy skills they need to succeed.

All students in Tasmanian Government schools are now benefiting from a structured (systematic and explicit) and evidence-based approach to the teaching of reading. This approach is grounded in research in how children and young people learn to read. Skills are taught explicitly, and students are given regular opportunities to watch, learn and practice before moving onto a new skill.

This method builds on what students already know. Teachers start with the basics and gradually progress to more complex skills. Each new skill connects to prior learning, helping students become more confident readers.

The approach is also supported by strong evidence. Teachers use practices shown to be effective about how children learn, and they are supported with training to implement these methods well.

Instruction is explicit and intentional. Teachers model new skills, they explain their thinking, and provide lots of examples. Students first watch the teacher, then practice together, and finally try the skill on their own. Throughout this

process, teachers give students feedback and ensure they have a solid understanding before introducing new learning.

This approach is already contributing to improvements in students reading achievement. Recommendations from the Independent Education Review encouraged us to 'stay the course' on our Lifting Literacy initiative and noted it several indicators of early positive impact.

In addition to changing the approach to the teaching of reading, the Tasmanian Government remains committed to supporting teachers with high-quality resources and professional learning so they can deliver high-impact teaching. Tasmanian Government schools are receiving a \$12 million investment, delivered through the Better Fairer Schools Agreement (BFSA), providing additional tools and resources that strengthen literacy learning. These resources include class sets of texts, such as decodable readers for Prep to Year 2, and access to instructional materials to support the teaching of the English curriculum from Prep to Year 10.

Our approach to teaching reading is working, and teachers, school leaders, and students are rightfully proud of the progress being made.

Thank you for raising this important question.

Yours sincerely



APPROVED/NOT APPROVED

Hon Jo Palmer MLC  
**Minister for Education**

Date 16.3.26