



Government Administration Committee A
Inquiry into Discrimination and Bullying in Tasmanian Schools

16 December 2025

Archbishop Anthony Ireland
Archdiocese of Hobart

Catholic Education Tasmania

Via email only:

archbishop@aohtas.org.au

ceo@catholic.tas.edu.au

Dear Archbishop Ireland and Catholic Education Tasmania,

Invitation to attend a public hearing to provide an update

I write in relation to the House of Assembly Standing Committee on Government Administration A's Inquiry into Discrimination and Bullying in Tasmanian Schools. As you are likely aware, the Inquiry was first established in June 2024. Due to the prorogation of the Parliament of Tasmania on 11 June 2025, the original Inquiry ceased to operate.

On 9 September 2025, Government Administration Committee A was appointed by the House of Assembly and on 24 September 2025 this Committee agreed to establish an Inquiry of the same name, which received all papers of the former Inquiry, including evidence. In this instance, this means the previous submissions from both the Archdiocese of Hobart and Catholic Education Tasmania and evidence provided in hearings remains with the Inquiry.

I note that since the time of the former Inquiry, there has been a change in personnel for both the Archdiocese of Hobart and Catholic Education Tasmania. Given this, and the period of time since evidence was last received and now, being December 2025, the Committee extends an invitation to yourself, Archbishop Ireland and relevant representatives of Catholic Education Tasmania to attend a public hearing to provide an update on evidence, or any further information, that is felt relevant to the Committee's work

Therefore, the Committee extends an invitation for you to attend a hearing at Parliament House, Hobart, on **Wednesday, 28 January 2026 from 9am to 10am.**

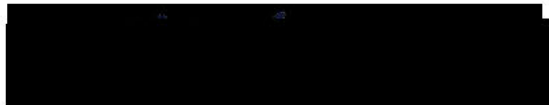
It would be appreciated if you could, via reply correspondence, confirm your attendance in response to this invitation at the hearing on the above date and time by close of business *Friday 9 January 2026*.

If the date and time are unsuitable, please indicate this by return email, and the Committee will consider another date for a hearing.

Alternatively, the Committee invites you to provide a written submission to the Inquiry, to be received by *28 January 2026*.

To assist you in any preparations for your attendance, please find [here](#) the new Inquiry webpage, which also provides access to the work of the former Inquiry.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Brian Mitchell MP.

Brian Mitchell MP
Committee Chair



1 Peter 5:10

23 December 2025

Mr Brian Mitchell MP
Government Administration Committee A

Via email: assemblygaa@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Mr Mitchell,

Your letter of 16th December 2025 regarding the Inquiry into Discrimination and Bullying in Tasmanian Schools with an invitation to attend a public hearing is somewhat troubling to me.

The invitation came four days after Dr Gerard Gaskin announced his retirement, and it makes one wonder why the Committee would want "an update" from the Archdiocese of Hobart and Catholic Education Tasmania.

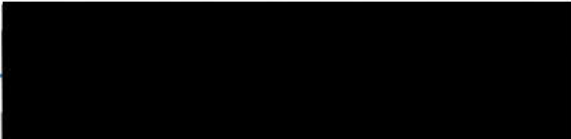
At this point an interim director of Catholic Education only commenced yesterday and he would not be in a position to contribute to such a hearing.

I also mentioned to one member of the Committee that I am going on leave for the first three weeks of January thus it would be ill advised for any of us to present to the Committee in an unprepared state.

At some point, I may offer a written submission as proposed in your letter, but not by 28 January 2026 for the abovementioned reasons.

In the meantime, I refer you to the 2022 Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference publication [*Created and Loved 2022 - Guide for identity and gender.pdf*](#). This publication is slated for revision in 2026. However, in the current version, it can be clearly seen on pages 5-7 that many of the questions asked by the Committee have been addressed.

Yours sincerely


Most Rev. Anthony J. Ireland
Archbishop of Hobart

Archbishop of Hobart

GPO Box 62, Hobart TAS 7001

Telephone: (03) 62086222 Email: 