

Your ref:
Our Ref: 912

29 July 2022

The Hon Ruth Forrest MLC
Chair
Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts
Parliament House
Hobart TAS 7000
By email: pac@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Forrest

Re: Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's continuing response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Thank you for your letter of 21 June 2022 inviting me to provide a written submission to the above Inquiry.

I am currently undertaking a range of data analysis to better understand the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on children and young people in Tasmania. That analysis will not be completed for some time. In the interim, I can refer you to an [opinion piece](#) I wrote in January 2022 in which I outlined the importance of children and young people continuing to access the people and places of importance to them during the COVID-19 pandemic – including educational settings. I highlighted that placing children and young people at the centre of decision-making processes during the pandemic not only upholds their rights but also reduces the possible long-term impacts upon their lives and wellbeing.

I would welcome the opportunity to attend a public hearing in due course, to further discuss my views on this topic.

Yours sincerely



Leanne McLean
Commissioner for Children and Young People