

**OFFICE OF TASMANIAN ASSESSMENT, STANDARDS & CERTIFICATION
AWARDS PRESENTATION CEREMONY REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
HOBART TOWN HALL, TUESDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2021**

Please be seated.

Welcome to the Office of Tasmanian Assessment, Standards & Certification Awards presentation ceremony, recognising outstanding achievements in 2020 in Tasmanian secondary schools and colleges.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land: the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community, who have survived invasion and dispossession, and yet who continue to maintain their identity, culture and Indigenous rights.

May I acknowledge among you:

- the Honourable Jeremy Rockliff MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Training;
- Tim Bullard, Department of Education Secretary;
- Framework Advisory Council members;
- Principal's Reference Group members;
- and School Representatives from across the State.

As Official guests you are no doubt all proud of the 2020 cohort of young high achievers, including of course those who are unable to be here today.

And to the VET and Academic recipients in front of me, many congratulations. Your diligence and hard work deserves this recognition and it's good to know that you have family and friends attending to witness the presentations.

Recognition of these students' outstanding achievements in VET and TCE is important, not only as a way of acknowledging each individual, but as a true indicator that Tasmania's education sector is fully able to support and promote our highest achievers.

The significance of TASC is well summarised as follows. Its primary purpose includes and I will quote:

“ ... to ensure that:

—relevant Australian and Tasmanian standards for senior secondary education, VET and higher education are monitored and met;

—links between qualifications for senior secondary education, VET, higher education and other education are developed or improved. ..¹

These commitments underpin the TASC *Strategic Plan 2018 to 2022*, the purpose of which is “empowering Tasmanians to achieve”,² and which has three Strategic Goals.

The first is to provide premium qualifications that are meaningful and relevant.

The second is to participate in, and influence culture change regarding the value of learning for all Tasmanians.

The third is to lead with best practice and continual improvement within the educational environment.³

What these stated goals tell us is that TASC and the Department of Education is determined to work meaningfully with schools, education providers and students, vigilant to student needs in an increasingly multi-faceted and complex national and international educational environment.

2020 was indeed a challenging and disrupted year for students and yet you have all managed to not just cope with that but achieve truly excellent

results. Again I congratulate each of you, for your hard work and your personal achievements which should give you confidence and encouragement to achieve the goals and ambitions you have outlined in today's presentation booklet. Clearly you have great potential to become influential Tasmanians in the years and decades ahead wherever you may be. I hope that your education experience will continue to be rewarding intellectually, spiritually and materially.

Thank you.

¹<https://www.tasc.tas.gov.au/about/services-commitments/>, accessed 16 February 2021.

²<https://www.tasc.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/TASC-Strategic-Plan-2018-2022.pdf>, accessed 16 February 2021.

³ Ibid.