



STRATEGIC PLAN 2014 – 2017

About the Tasmanian School Canteen Association Inc.

The Tasmanian School Canteen Association Inc. (TSCA) was formed in 1994 to promote and facilitate the provision of a nutritious and healthy food service in Tasmanian school canteens. The TSCA is a non-government health promotion organisation, predominately funded by the Department of Education (DoE) and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Tasmania has 290 government and non-government schools at primary, secondary and college level, of which 215 have a canteen or food service capabilities. The Association supports all schools with or without a canteen who deliver a food and beverage service for their students and staff.

The TSCA employs a small team of staff, and a volunteer Board governs the organisation. The TSCA team work in partnership with the DHHS Population Health Services, Community Dietitians, and the Department of Education Curriculum Staff, to support Canteen Managers and their school communities in delivering a healthy, nutritious and safe food service to the students and staff, using local produce where possible.

The aims of the TSCA are:

- To continually improve the quality and safety of foods and beverages available through school food services.
- To encourage the availability of healthy food and beverage options in schools.
- To support Canteen Managers in their daily operation of the school canteen
- To promote the use of local produce in canteen menus.

We offer Canteen Managers and their school communities' ongoing support, in the form of resources, reliable information and workshops. A key component of our service delivery is the Canteen Accreditation Program, which is a best practice model for school food services. The scope of the Canteen Accreditation Program has recently been broadened to include schools that have no canteen but are providing school lunches using an external food service.

The Canteen Accreditation Program encompasses four areas of canteen management which are:

1. Food service policy, guidelines and procedures
2. Food safety
3. Foods available at school.
4. 'Whole school approach'- curriculum and marketing activities which spread the healthy food message to the broader school community.

The TSCA works in partnership with key stakeholders such as the Department of Education (Policy and Curriculum) and the Department of Health and Human Services (Population Health Services, Oral Health, Health Promotion, Environmental Health), Catholic Education Office, Independent Schools, local government – particularly with Environmental Health Officers, parent bodies, the food industry and other like-minded non-government organisations' and programs e.g. Eat Well Tasmania and Move Well Eat Well.

OUR VISION

By 2020, all Tasmanian children have access to healthy ‘everyday’ food choices.

Everyday foods are those that offer a wide range of nutrients and are generally low in saturated fats, sugar and sodium (salt). Fruits, vegetables, breads and cereals, dairy, lean meats and water are everyday foods. They should always be on the canteen menu.

OUR MISSION

To support Tasmanian schools in offering healthy ‘everyday’ food choices for children.

To do this, we work directly with school Canteen Managers, and through them with Principals and the wider school community. We provide information, training, resources and advice tailored to each school community.

SUCCESS MEASURES

We have three main measures of success for our work:

1. School participation and accreditation rates are increasing.
2. TSCA is seen as credible and prominent ‘trusted advisors’ by school Canteen Managers and other key stakeholders.
3. The organisation is thriving.

PRIORITY AREAS

1. Participation
2. Measurement
3. Governance
4. Awareness
5. Partnerships

OUR VALUES

At the Tasmanian School Canteen Association, we stand for being:

Advocates for eating 'everyday' foods

Healthy eating leads to healthy children now and healthy adults in the future. Evidence indicates that it also helps children learn better. 'Everyday' food choices in school canteens should be the norm.

Evidence-based

There is a large amount of research that underpins the need for healthy eating. Our work draws from this ongoing research and also contributes to it.

Flexible and supportive

Not every school is the same and what each one needs in achieving healthy eating, varies. Tailored approaches work best for each school and their school Canteen Manager. These approaches include nutritional, food safety and canteen viability.

Collaborative

By working productively with like-minded organisations we can have a bigger impact on 'everyday' food choices in the wider community. This can have flow-on effects back to school children.

Equitable

All Tasmanian school children deserve to have 'everyday' food choices, no matter where their school is or whether it is public, catholic or independent.

Supporters of local produce

Tasmania has fantastic local produce available and it has a valuable place on school canteen menus.

Creative and enthusiastic

We achieve results through fun, passion, commitment, empathy and collaboration.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN		Year/s of Implementation
*Year 1 – July 2014 – June 2015 * Year 2 – July 2015 – June 2016 * Year 3 – July 2016 – June 2017		
1. PARTICIPATION		
Goal: To increase the number of schools achieving and maintaining canteen accreditation		
<i>We will:</i>		
1.1 Focus on these priority areas: – schools in rural, remote and lower socio-economic areas. – high schools – catholic and other independent schools		1,2,3
1.2 Work with accredited schools to maintain their accreditation.		1,2,3
1.3 Provide Professional Development and networking opportunities for school staff, in particular Canteen Managers and volunteers.		1,2,3
1.4 Explore and implement a range of communication strategies to support schools involved in food service delivery.		1,2,3
1.5 Enable and support 8 new schools each year to become accredited		1,2,3
1.6 Increase school membership to the TSCA each year		1,2,3
2. AWARENESS		
Goal: To raise awareness of the role of school canteens in healthy ‘everyday’ food choices for school children		
<i>We will:</i>		
2.1 Develop and maintain a vibrant, informative website with a strong membership component.		1,2,3
2.2 Promote the TSCA’s work through newspaper, radio, TV, social media, conferences and other mediums as they present.		1,2,3
2.3 Recognise and promote school achievements through the annual School Canteen Accreditation Awards.		1,2,3
2.4 Deliver tailored professional development to Canteen Managers and teaching staff connecting to the Health and Physical Education curriculum and the Technologies curriculum (endorsed and commencing in 2015).		1,2
2.5 Act, advocate and lobby on behalf of school communities.		1,2,3
2.6 Seek opportunities to be involved in partnerships that promote healthy ‘everyday’ foods for school children.		1,2,3
3. MEASUREMENT		
Goal: To design and implement robust evaluation tools to measure our effectiveness in schools and at the TSCA		
<i>We will:</i>		
3.1 Implement and monitor the evaluation strategy set out in our Program Management Plan, in collaboration with DHHS and DoE.		1,2,3
3.2 Utilise the template for monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the Strategic Plan for reporting to the TSCA Board and to key funders.		1,2,3
3.3 Collaborate with DHHS on factual research into sales data to measure the trends in type of food children are buying (target 60% green/40% amber).		1,2
3.4 Continue to measure the effectiveness of the TSCA Board using existing Board self-evaluation		1,2,3
3.5 Explore the potential of a partnership with the DoE Professional Learning Institute (PLI) to deliver and evaluate professional development for Canteen Managers in schools.		1

4. PARTNERSHIPS		
Goal: To be a vital part of the collective approach to healthy eating in Tasmania		
<i>We will:</i>		
4.1	Be actively involved in food and nutrition-related reference groups and other forums as appropriate (e.g. review of food and nutrition policy, food security).	1,2,3
4.2	Liaise with and seek partnership opportunities with like-minded programs to promote healthy eating in all school communities.	1,2,3
4.3	Work with local producers of fruit, vegetables and other relevant foods to explore ways to improve food supply and quality in school canteens.	1,2,3
4.4	Work in partnership with the Tasmanian Government, DHHS and DoE to achieve a whole of Government approach to achieve the target ' Tasmanians are the healthiest Australian State by 2025'	1,2
4.5	Increase the number of corporate members that share the TSCA vision.	1,2,3
5. GOVERNANCE		
Goal: To provide sound, stable governance for the organisation		
<i>We will:</i>		
5.1	Run Board and management operations in line with professional standards.	1,2,3
5.2	Engage formally with stakeholders through Board representation, productive operation of the TSCA Reference Group, and a constructive relationship with the TSCA Patron.	1,2,3
5.3	Continue to support and build on our existing relationships with DHHS and DoE.	1,2,3
5.4	Advocate for a five-year funding and service agreement cycle with DHHS and DoE.	1,2,3
5.5	Negotiate for equal funding from DHHS and DoE at no less than the currently funded \$150,000.	1,2
5.6	Explore the possibilities of additional funding through alternative sources, including philanthropic programs.	1,2,3

The TSCA is funded by the Crown through the Department of Health and Human Service and Department of Education.