



## Public Notice

### TISC's proposed change to Western Australia's ATAR calculations

It is with regret that at its 13 March 2026 meeting, the Board of Directors at TISC determined that due to present circumstances, the current inequities in the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank calculation in Western Australia will continue. As a result, **the change proposed in 2024 by the TISC Board to the WA ATAR calculations will be postponed until further notice.**

This decision was made in the context of the WA Government currently exploring a number of directions and proposals for high school and tertiary education in Western Australia. The Board considered in this context that the proposed ATAR changes, while sound, may contribute to change fatigue in the sector in the short-medium term and on that basis made the decision above.

It is clear from extensive consultation that key stakeholders support the changes TISC has advocated for the past two years. TISC's commitment to removing the current inequity associated with ATAR calculations, unique to WA, will continue to be a priority. The TISC Board reaffirmed, at its March meeting, that the principles of equity and social justice that underpin the proposed changes are too important to compromise. The majority of schools and students are negatively impacted by the inherent preferential treatment given to the study of higher mathematics and languages in the current calculation of WA students' ATARs.

While TISC regrets the lack of progress on this matter there remains a more strategic challenge for Western Australia to address. In 2025 WA had 27.4% of all people of school leaving age in the State completing the four ATAR courses required for an ATAR. This WA ATAR participation rate is the lowest in the country. It is just below Tasmania's and perhaps more importantly between 20 and 30 percentage points below other mainland states. This strategic challenge will take a concerted effort at policy and implementation levels if WA is to address the long-term decline in this performance indicator that has persisted since 2016.

During our recent consultations TISC heard wide commitment to a more equitable approach to the ATAR calculations, growing academic attainment, and students being challenged to study at the highest levels they can. TISC and its members remain ready and willing to work with both Ministers, sector leaders, schools, and wider stakeholders to address the current parlous ATAR course participation trends for Western Australia. We look forward to continuing to work with all stakeholders on this challenge.

Finally, TISC sincerely thanks the many organisations, educators, students, and community stakeholders who made considered and insightful contributions to TISC's consultations on ATAR calculations and Year 12 incentives over the last two years.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Crevald', written in a cursive style.

Andrew Crevald  
Chief Executive Officer, TISC

26 March 2026