

Tasmanian Youth Justice Facility Model of Care

Consultation Draft

Plain
English
guide

February 2026



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1. What is this guide about?

The Tasmanian Government is building a new youth justice **facility at 466 Brighton Road, Pontville.**

The new **facility** will care for children and young people who are in **detention.**

We are creating a **Model of Care** for the new youth justice **facility.** It is called the Tasmanian Youth Justice Facility Model of Care Consultation Draft.

It explains how children and young people will be cared for and supported in the new **facility.**

The **Model of Care** includes:

- How staff will look after children and young people in the **facility**.
- How children and young people will be supported in the **facility** when they arrive to when they leave.
- Other things that will help make the **facility** work well.

We want to hear from people to make sure the **Model of Care** is right.

This is a **plain English guide** to the New Tasmanian Youth Justice Facility Model of Care Consultation Draft. It contains the most important information in the **Model of Care**. It uses plain language so that everyone can understand.

You can tell us what you think about the **Model of Care**.

You can send us your ideas by:

- Answering questions in the survey on our website at [New Tasmanian Youth Justice Facility - Department for Education, Children and Young People](#).
- Answering the questions in this **plain English guide**.

You can answer every question, or just a few.

How to send us your ideas

You can send us your ideas in an email to

newyjfacility@decyp.tas.gov.au

Or you can send us your ideas in a letter:

Department for Education, Children and Young People

Attention: New Youth Justice Facility Project Team

GPO Box 169

Hobart TAS 7001

You can find more information on our website:

[New Tasmanian Youth Justice Facility - Department for Education, Children and Young People](#)

2. Word list

This list explains what the bold words in the document mean.

- **Care plan** – a written plan that explains the child or young person’s supports, strengths and goals while in detention.
- **Crime** - an action that gets people into trouble with the police and the law.
- **Detention** – When a court decides a child or young person has broken the law and they must stay in a secure place for a time.
- **Plain English guide to the Model of Care** – this document, which includes key information in plain English so that everyone can understand easily.
- **Evaluation** – checking what works and fixing problems.
- **Governance** – strong leaders who make sure the facility is safe, fair and always improving.
- **Key worker** – a staff member who gives help and support to one child or young person while in the new facility.
- **Legal support** – support given to children and young people from experts in the law, like lawyers.
- **Model of Care** – a plan for how children and young people will be cared for in the new facility.
- **New Tasmanian Youth Justice facility or new facility** – the new secure place where children and young people will stay during detention.

- **Organisational framework** – the other things that are needed to make sure the children and young people are well cared for.
- **Youth justice system** – rules and services to stop children and young people from coming into trouble with the law or for supporting children or young people who have broken the law or are accused of doing so.

3. Why are we doing this?

The Tasmanian Government has promised to better protect children and young people from harm.

A big report called the Commission of Inquiry found that some children in Government care were not kept safe in the past.

The Tasmanian Government agreed to all the changes the Commission of Inquiry said were needed.

The Commission of Inquiry said the Tasmanian Government should make changes to the **youth justice system** to stop children getting in trouble with the law.

The Commission also said the Government should change how it cares for children and young people in **detention**.

We want to keep children and young people out of **detention** wherever possible.

When **detention** is needed, we want it to be safe and help children and young people turn their lives around.

Evidence from around the world shows that **youth detention** facilities

that focus on healing, not punishment, are most effective at stopping crime and keeping children, young people and communities safer.

4. Why is a Model of Care important?

The Model of Care sets out the vision, purpose and key parts of the Model of Care.

Vision

We want children and young people in the **facility** to:

- Be seen as children or young people first (not only for their behaviour) and get the best care and education.
- Have chances to learn, grow and stay connected to family, culture and community.
- Be supported to return to the community and live a positive life.

Purpose

- Put healing and wellbeing first.
- Help children and young people to grow and change the behaviour that is getting them into trouble to keep the community safer.
- Make sure children, young people, families, staff and visitors feel safe and supported.
- Help the community to trust that the facility is safe and managed properly so it can care for children and young people in the best way.

The **Practice Standards** are the rules for staff to give children and young people the best care at the **facility**. These are:

- Children and young people have rights and their voices are heard.
- Children and young people will stay connected with family, culture and community.
- Care will respect and celebrate Aboriginal culture and all cultures and identity.
- The **facility** will be safe with kind and caring staff.
- Staff will get to know each child or young person, and care will focus on healing, not punishment.
- Staff will be well-trained and supported to care for the children and young people
- Care will be given before, during and after a child or young person is in the **facility**.

Questions:

Do you think the purpose, vision and the rules for staff to give children and young people the best care will make children and young people feel safe and cared for in the facility?

What do you like?

What don't you like?

What is missing?

5. How will it help us care for children and young people?

The **Model of Care** describes what care will look like for children and young people in the facility at every stage of their journey.

Arrival

- The child or young person will get a warm welcome.
- Their families will be involved where possible.
- Health needs will be checked.
- The child or young person will meet **key workers**.
- **Key workers** will help children and young people feel safe and cared for and talk with the child or young person about their strengths, needs and goals.

Planning

- There will be a care plan for each child and young person.
- The care plan will cover:
 - Health needs
 - Education and learning goals
 - Cultural needs
 - Family and community connections
 - Help to understand and change behaviour

- The care plan will describe:
 - What the child or young person's strengths are
 - Who is important to the child or young person and needs to be involved
 - What support the child or young person needs
 - How staff will give that support
 - What goals the child or young person wants to reach and who needs to help them
 - What help does the child or young person need to stop getting in trouble with the law.
- **Key workers** will work with the child or young person, their family, other staff and specialists (like teachers and health workers) to make the care plan.

Daily life

- Children and young people will attend school and learning on weekdays during term time.
- There will be activities like sport, art and music.
- The child or young person will be supported to understand their actions, repair harm and prepare for leaving.
- Children and young people will have regular contact and visits with their family and people important to them.

Leaving

- Planning for leaving the facility starts early so everyone and everything is ready.
- The child or young person will receive support for their life in the community, including housing, education and health needs.

Questions:

What do you like about what happens for the child or young person during their stay?

What do you not like?

What else do you think children and young people at the facility will need?

6. What else will help make the facility work well?

The **organisational framework** explains what is needed to make the **Model of Care** work well. It has six main parts:

1. Staff

- Staff who work at the **facility** will be kind, compassionate and enjoy spending time with children and young people.
- There will be specialist staff who work at the **facility** or come into the **facility** to provide help and support.
- Staff will be well-trained to keep everyone safe.
- Staff will work together and work with families and people from the community.

2. Governance

- **Governance** means leadership and making decisions.
- Leaders will make sure the service is safe, fair and always getting better.
- Aboriginal voices and people who have been in detention before will help guide decisions.

3. Monitoring and Evaluation

- There will be ways to check how things are working and make changes if needed.

- Children, young people and families will be supported to have their voices heard
- Children, young people and families can give feedback and make complaints easily.
- Independent people, like the Commissioner for Children and Young People and the Custodial Inspector will make sure the facility is safe and fair and doing the right things. They will look at complaints and make sure they are sorted out properly.

4. Partnerships and programs

- The new **facility** will be open to visits from families, community groups, Aboriginal organisations and other people the child or young person knows.
- Children and young people in the new **facility** will have programs to help them to learn, heal and prepare for life after detention.
- Many of these programs will be delivered with help from staff and people in the community.
- Sometimes, children and young people will be supported to safely leave the new **facility** to take part in activities or programs in the community.
- Children, young people and families will be asked about what is working and what is not working so things can be made better.

5. Infrastructure (buildings and spaces)

- The buildings and spaces will be safe.

- Children and young people will live in small houses, supported by caring staff who will get to know them.
- School and health will be like schools and health centres in the community.
- There will be outdoor space for sport, cultural activities, fun and relaxing.

6. Technology

- Technology will help keep children safe and make sure care is well organised.
- Secure systems will store information and help staff plan and communicate.
- Online services will make it easier for young people to get health and **legal support**.
- Children and young people will be able to have regular contact with family and those important to them, if they can't see them in person.

Questions:

What do you like about the organisational framework (things to make the facility work well)?

What do you not like?

Is anything missing?

7. What happens next?

- We are asking all Tasmanians what they think about the **Model of Care** for the new **facility**.
- We will use what we heard to make changes to the **Model of Care**.
- The **Model of Care** will help us write detailed rules for people who will work at the new **facility**.
- It will help us write a Children’s Charter or agreement, so children and their families will know how they will be cared for and how to use their voices.

Question:

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the Model of Care?