

● **STRONG**
● **FAMILIES**
● **SAFE KIDS**

NEXT STEPS

Action Plan 2021-2023



Contents

Minister's message.....	3
Our Approach.....	4
Key Priorities	6
Actions.....	8
Governance.....	14
Implementation, monitoring and reporting.....	14
Terminology and Definitions	15
Policy context	16
Related Tasmanian Initiatives.....	18
Summary of actions	19
References	21

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TASMANIAN ABORIGINAL PEOPLE

The Tasmanian Government acknowledges and pays respect to the Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the traditional and original owners and continuing custodians of this land. We acknowledge elders, past, present and emerging.

SEEKING HELP

If you have concerns for the safety or wellbeing of a child, call the Strong Families Safe Kids Advice and Referral Line on 1800 000 123.

If a child is at immediate risk and Police or medical assistance is required, call 000.

Minister's Message

VISION STATEMENT

Reforming Tasmania's Child Safety Service system remains a top priority for the Tasmanian Government.



Ensuring the safety, wellbeing and resilience of Tasmanian children, young people and families is our shared responsibility.

The *Strong Families Safe Kids Implementation Plan 2016–2020*, released in June 2016, commenced an ambitious system reform agenda.

We have made progress over the past four years, but we have more work to do.

This *Strong Families Safe Kids: Next Steps Action Plan 2021–2023* (Next Steps Action Plan) represents the next stage of the Tasmanian Government's long-term commitment to prioritising the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in Tasmania.

Our Next Steps Action Plan will continue to embed the critical core components of our new system. This includes our public health approach to child safety and wellbeing and the focus on primary prevention and early intervention approaches. We will also continue to promote cross-agency collaboration to support children and young people to grow and thrive within their own families and communities.

Importantly under our Next Steps Action Plan we are also turning our attention to the statutory Child Safety Service where we will enhance how we engage with parents and families and the oversight of our out of home care system. We will also progress system changes that promote permanency and stability for children and young people and ensure better outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people. A comprehensive review of the *Children, Young Persons and their Families Act 1997* will underpin many of our initiatives. Our new actions incorporate the recommendations of the Strong Families Safe Kids Evaluation completed by the University of Tasmania.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the implementation of *Strong Families Safe Kids*. We look forward to continuing to work with the community in the future.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R Jaensch'.

Hon. Roger Jaensch MP
Minister for Human Services



Our Approach

Families are key to providing children with a safe and supportive environment.

A PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH TO CHILD SAFETY AND WELLBEING

The aim of the public health approach to child safety and wellbeing is to shift the focus from a sole statutory response towards one that addresses the needs of all families.

Problematic family situations may arise in any family at any time.

Supports to prevent problems occurring in the first place and supports to quickly respond to problems if or when they do occur should be widely available to all, with specific intensive targeted interventions available as required.

Engaging families early seeks to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families.



Addressing concerns and issues early with a family ensures a child's safety and wellbeing and prevents the need for a statutory child safety response at a future point. The research is clear. Life outcomes for children once they enter care are at best uncertain and are very costly.

A public health model for ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children comprises three platforms: primary, secondary and tertiary services.

Primary or universal services are focused on the whole community in order to provide support before a problem occurs. Examples of primary services for Tasmanian families include health services, Early Childhood Education and Care, schools and Child and Family Centres.

Secondary services include a suite of services that target families where the likelihood of child safety and wellbeing worries, or concerns is high. Examples of secondary services for Tasmanian families include the Strong Families Safe Kids Advice and Referral Line, Intensive Family Support Services, and specialist family counselling services.

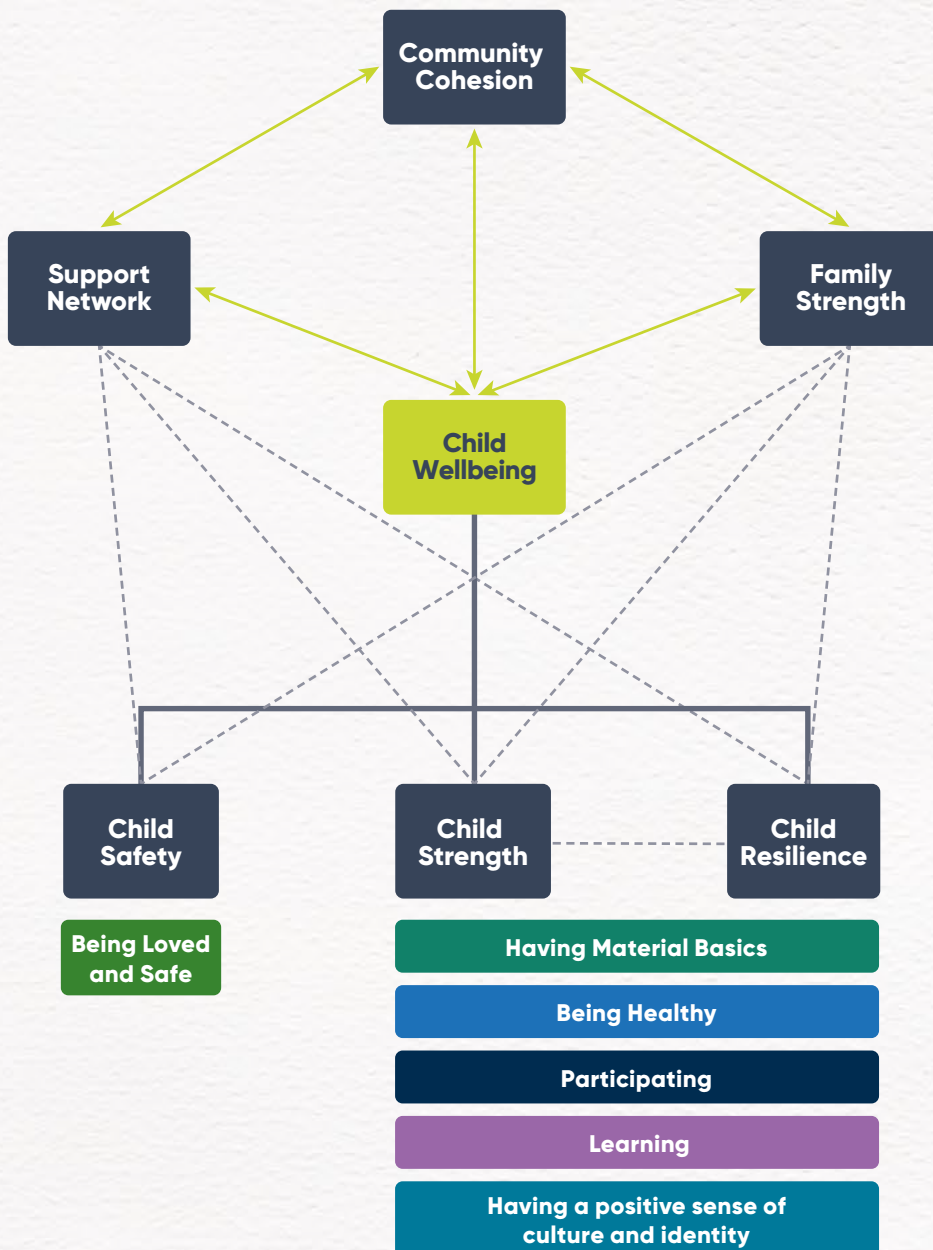
Tertiary services includes Tasmania's Child Safety Service as the service of last resort, and the least desirable option for families. The service targets families where child maltreatment is very likely or has been substantiated and the ongoing safety and wellbeing needs of a child may no longer be able to be provided by the parents.



PLACING WELLBEING OF CHILDREN AT THE CENTRE OF OUR SERVICE

The wellbeing of a child critically relies on the strength of the family, the cohesion of the community relevant to the child and the effectiveness of formal and informal support networks that surround a child. Child safety is just one component of child wellbeing, along with strength and resilience. The Tasmanian Child and Youth Wellbeing Framework promotes a whole system response to child wellbeing.

Figure 1. Critical Elements of Child Wellbeing



Child Safety means:
Protecting children from physical or psychological neglect and abuse.

Child Strength means:
Building the skills in, and networks around a child that support active and productive lifelong participation in our community, both socially and economically.

Child Resilience means:
Building the capacity of a child to repel or recover from adversity or adverse events.

Key Priorities

This Next Steps Action Plan represents the next stage of the Tasmanian Government's commitment to delivering better outcomes and improved safety and wellbeing for Tasmanian children and their families.

The *Strong Families Safe Kids: Next Steps Action Plan 2021-2023* will deliver 34 actions under five key priority areas. The five key priority areas formed the original architecture of the reform agenda.

KEY PRIORITY 1. Child Safety and Wellbeing is Everyone's Business

For the child safety system to work effectively, all parts of the system have to focus on support for children, young people, families and communities to promote health and wellbeing, prevent problems and enable early and effective intervention when problems do escalate. Statutory child protection must be seen as one small, albeit important part of this broader network of service.

The Child and Youth Wellbeing Framework (the Framework) developed in the first phase

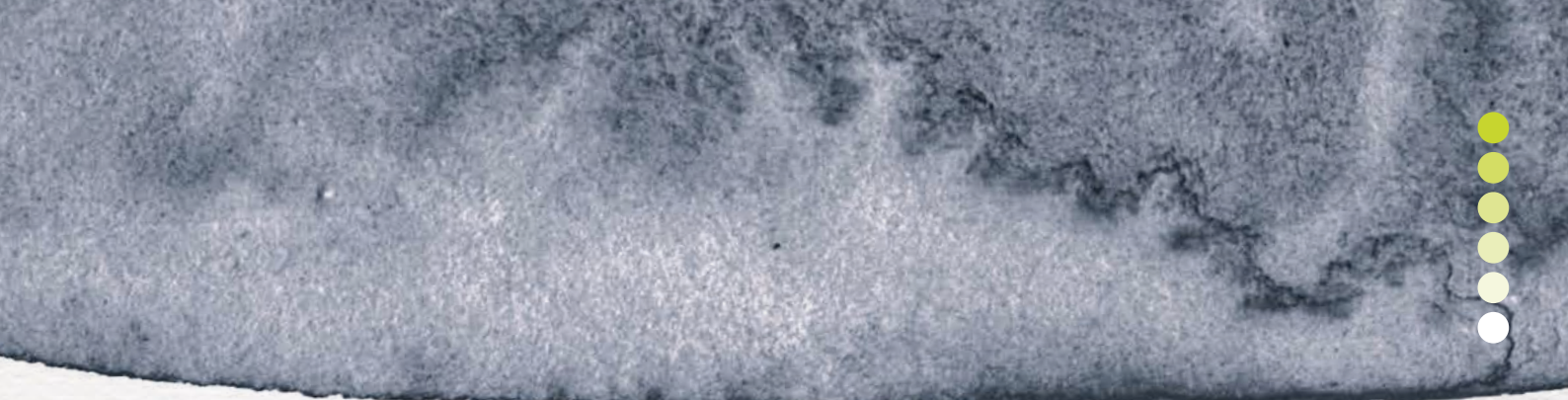
of Strong Families Safe Kids has established a common understanding and language of wellbeing. Embedding the Framework across broader support sectors is a focus of this next phase of Strong Families Safe Kids.

KEY PRIORITY 2. Building a Common Understanding of Safety and Wellbeing

A common understanding of safety and risk ensures that children and families receive services from government that are better targeted to their needs and reflect the complexities of the lives of vulnerable children and families and the issues that they face.

The Child and Family Wellbeing Assessment Tool uses the six domains of wellbeing to provide a common language and consistent way that relevant service providers can evaluate and discuss the strengths and





needs of a family, child or young person, enabling them to work more collaboratively and effectively with families. Promotion of the Child and Family Wellbeing Assessment Tool continues in the *Strong Families Safe Kids: Next Steps Action Plan 2021-2023*.

KEY PRIORITY 3.
Managing the Front Door

Establishing the Strong Families Safe Kids Advice and Referral Line as a single front door to Tasmania's children and family support service system during phase one of Strong Families Safe Kids has enabled earlier intervention services for children, young people and families based on their personal, social and cultural needs. While still in its infancy there are early indicators the service is beginning to reduce pressure on the statutory child safety system.

KEY PRIORITY 4.
Providing Better Support for Children and their Families

Providing better support for children and their families requires a coordinated effort. Services must work together in planning for and delivering services. Developing cross-agency and collaborative service networks which promote joint training and learning opportunities across sectors is an essential component to delivering better support.

KEY PRIORITY 5.
Redesigning the Child Safety Service and Out of Home Care Supports

Redesigning the Child Safety Service and Out of Home Care Supports from a forensic practice orientation to a practice framework based on collaborative decision making to resolve concerns. This Next Steps Action Plan also includes actions specific to improving support to children and young people in Out of Home Care.

Key areas of new activity include:

- A comprehensive review of the *Children, Young Persons and their Families Act 1997*;
- Establishing a non-legal support service for parents;
- Appointing a Youth Wellbeing Officer in the Advice and Referral Line; and
- Appointing an additional Child Advocate.

This Action Plan also addresses specific recommendations made in the *Strong Families Safe Kids Summary Evaluation Report* to fundamentally change the way government and non-government services work together to shift the curve and improve the wellbeing outcomes for all Tasmanian children through a public health approach.

Actions

KEY PRIORITY 1.

Child Safety and Wellbeing is Everyone's Business

ACTION 1. Develop a Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy

The Tasmanian Government is developing a comprehensive, whole-of-government, long term Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy for ages 0-25 years, with a specific focus on the first thousand days (pregnancy – two years old). The Strategy will be based on the Tasmanian Child and Youth Wellbeing Framework which was developed during the first phase of Strong Families Safe Kids. The Strategy will build on past achievements and link current initiatives, policies and reforms to improve the wellbeing outcomes of all Tasmanian children and young people, including those who are most vulnerable.

ACTION 2. Undertake a comprehensive review of the *Children, Young Persons and their Families Act 1997*

Strong Families Safe Kids is strongly focused on sharing responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of Tasmanian children and young people. Legislative reform provides an opportunity to update Tasmania's legislative base, including examining information sharing across government and between non government services; asserting the role of Aboriginal communities and organisations in supporting Aboriginal children and families; scaffolding a public health approach to safety and wellbeing in families; requiring family support and preservation wherever safe, and promoting permanent and stable outcomes for children who enter out of home care. In this way we will ensure the legislative

platform aligns to the changing approach to child safety and the wellbeing embodied in the Strong Families Safe Kids reform agenda.

ACTION 3. Develop a whole-of-Government children and young people under 16 who are alone and at risk of or experiencing homelessness Policy Framework with supporting Practice Guidelines

This action ensures an improved coordinated service system response to young people under 16 who are alone and at risk of or experiencing homelessness. The Child and Youth Wellbeing Framework and the principles of the public health approach to child and youth safety and wellbeing is the foundation on which the whole of government policy will be developed.

ACTION 4. Implement a revised governance framework for Strong Families Safe Kids

The action supports the *Strong Families Safe Kids Summary Evaluation Report* recommendation to review the Strong Families Safe Kids governance structure.

ACTION 5. Develop a Strong Families Safe Kids website

There is no single information portal for child and youth safety and wellbeing in Tasmania. The Strong Families Safe Kids website will be developed further to promote the use of common language, to raise awareness of relevant primary prevention resources and other available resources. The website shall also ensure whole-of-government policy and relevant practice guides are readily accessible across government and non-government support service sectors.



ACTION 6. Contributing to the Successor Plan to the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children

This action supports improved safety and wellbeing outcomes for all Australian children, young people and their families through participation in the fourth phase of the *Protecting Children is Everyone's Business National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009–2020*.

KEY PRIORITY 2.

Building a Common Understanding of Safety and Wellbeing

ACTION 7. Embed the Child and Youth Wellbeing Framework across key children, youth and families support sectors

Tasmania's Child and Youth Wellbeing Framework aims to ensure that everyone, in all parts of Tasmania's service system, as well as in the broader community, has a strong, common understanding of child and youth wellbeing. This action will support relevant non-government services contracted by the Department of Communities Tasmania delivering family support, family based care, residential care, special packaged care, community youth support and children's counselling services to align their policies and strategies with the Framework.

ACTION 8. Develop and deliver professional learning, education and training regarding the Child and Youth Wellbeing Assessment Tool

This action supports further education and training regarding the purpose and application of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Assessment Tool to relevant government and non-government agencies and will include scoping an interactive online version of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Assessment Tool. This action will further assist in supporting a common approach to understanding the wellbeing concerns and needs of families, which in turn will support effective consultation and referral.

ACTION 9. Work with the eSafety Commissioner to deliver education and training to carers in response to technology-facilitated abuse

While technology is a great way for children and young people to play, learn and stay connected to their family, friends and support services, it does also present risks. The eSafety Commissioner coordinates and leads online safety efforts across government, industry and the community. Under this action, the Tasmanian Government will support and promote eSafety education and training opportunities for Tasmanian parents, grandparents and carers.

ACTION 10. Continue to build collaborative cross-agency working relationships to facilitate improved outcomes for children, young people and their families

The aim of this action is to continue to strengthen and further develop cross-agency working relationships and identify and embed new ways of working that improve outcomes for children, young people and their families. This includes enhancement of the collaborative working relationship between the Departments of Education and Communities Tasmania in relation to vulnerable students.

KEY PRIORITY 3.

Managing the Front Door

ACTION 11. Establish the Advice and Referral Line as the single assessment, referral and triage point for children and young people under 16 who are alone and at risk of or experiencing homelessness

This action establishes the Advice and Referral Line as the single assessment, referral and triage point for children and young people under the age of 16 who are alone and at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

ACTION 12. Establish a Youth Wellbeing Liaison Officer in the Strong Families Safe Kids Advice and Referral Line

The Liaison Officer will assist to identify the best service response to improve support to young people under 16 who are alone and at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

ACTION 13. Establish the Care Team practice approach to improve coordination of young people under 16 who are alone and at risk of or experiencing homelessness

This action will trial a 'Care Team' approach to improve coordination of support for young people under 16 who are alone and at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

ACTION 14. Develop and publish an Advice and Referral Line Terminology Guide

The action will deliver ongoing education about the Advice and Referral Line including new language regarding notifications, concerns and safety risks.

ACTION 15. Implement a revised Child Wellbeing Online Contact Form

This action will see the Child Wellbeing Online Contact form replace the existing public facing online Child Safety Notification form. The public will receive a confirmation of receipt and a reference number. The new form will allow more efficient action by front-line service delivery staff within the Department of Communities Tasmania as it will not require manual data processing, removing the risk of human error and allowing for more time to address child related concerns.



KEY PRIORITY 4.

Providing Better Support to Children and their Families

ACTION 16. Continue to deliver the Intensive Family Engagement Service

The Intensive Family Engagement Service (IFES) is a family preservation program that delivers intensive support to build a family's capacity to provide a safe, stable and nurturing home environment for their children and to prevent the need for a statutory child safety response.

ACTION 17. Further develop prevention and early intervention capability for vulnerable families and their children

This action supports the Department of Communities Tasmania *Permanency and Stability Framework* to provide short-term, family-focused evidence-based services to assist families in crisis by improving parenting capability and family functioning while keeping children safe. Through implementation and evaluation of family preservation programs, the Department of Communities Tasmania can further progress positive outcomes for those families it is seeking to support.

ACTION 18. Establishing a non-legal advocacy support for parents

This action supports a two-year Early Intervention Unit pilot to deliver pre litigation non-legal advocacy support to parents. The pilot is based on the principles of family preservation, restoration and inclusive decision making. The role of non-legal support seeks to ensure parents understand the process, the concerns and worries of the Child Safety Service, and help explain what needs to occur to alleviate those concerns. The pilot will be delivered in partnership with the Tasmanian Legal Aid and the Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service.

ACTION 19. Review available supports and pilot an Informal Kinship Care Liaison and Support Service

This action supports a formal review of current supports available to Tasmanian informal carers with the intention of enhancing the supports and establishing an Informal Kinship Care Liaison and Support Service.

ACTION 20. Evaluate and further develop the Integrated Family Support Service and relevant Parenting Programs

This action facilitates an independent review of the Integrated Family Support Services (IFSS) and other relevant parenting programs funded by the Department of Communities Tasmania.

ACTION 21. Continue to progress and embed the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle across the Child Safety Service system

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle (ATSICPP) recognises the importance of identification, prevention, partnership, placement, participation and connections to family, community, culture and country in child and family welfare legislation, policy and practice. The Principle asserts that self-determination communities are central to supporting and maintaining those connections and realising the intent of the ATSICPP. This action supports engagement with Tasmanian Aboriginal community organisations to identify and implement actions to enhance implementation of the ATSICPP for Aboriginal children at risk of entering/in the child safety system, including through family preservation services, and support for kin and community connections for Aboriginal families and their children and young people.

KEY PRIORITY 5.

Redesigning the Child Safety Service and Out of Home Care Supports

ACTION 22. Improve the clinical supports services available to children and young people in care

Given the complex nature of the mental health care needs of many children in care this action will establish phase one of a dedicated highly specialised clinical service for children and young people in Out of Home Care.

ACTION 23. Implement a permanency and stability framework which defines and prioritises permanent and stable outcomes and timely decision making for children and young people engaged with the statutory Child Safety Service

The Framework will define a hierarchy of preferred outcomes including preservation, restoration, third party guardianship, adoption and long-term parental responsibility to the state as a last resort. It will also promote timely decision making to avoid unnecessary delays for children achieving permanent and stable outcomes. We will also continue to progress key activities including strengthening family restoration practice and refining Third Party Guardianship assessment and support.

ACTION 24. Commence implementation of Standards for children and young people in care and a carer register

This action supports the Department of Communities Tasmania's Standards for Children and Young People in Care to help build a better out of home care system. This will be guided by standards, ensuring robust accountability to improve the safety, wellbeing and future success of children and young people who are unable to safely live with their parents or family. Establishing and implementing a carer register will ensure oversight of all Tasmanian carers and is in line with the Royal Commission into Institutional Response to Child Sexual Abuse recommendations.

ACTION 25. Participate in the national child protection information sharing initiative Connect for Safety

The Connect for Safety sharing solution will improve child safety information gathering and assessments by sharing child protection information dynamically across jurisdictions.

ACTION 26. Review the functions and structures of clinical decision making processes within the Child Safety Service

This action will undertake a review of the Child Safety Service clinical decision making processes, where significant decision making processes should be undertaken in a consultative and collaborative manner. This will include review of, but not limited to the following processes within Child Safety, the Court Application Advisory Group (CAAG) process and legal decision making, Three and Under panel, Restoration, Placement Changes and Entry to the Out of Home Care setting.

ACTION 27. Support the transition of the Child Safety Service to a practice framework which is orientated on collaborative decision making to resolve concerns

This action facilitates the implementation of changes relating to practice leadership, child safety assessments, workforce learning and development.

ACTION 28. Develop and implement an Out of Home Care Therapeutic Practice Framework

The development and implementation of an Out of Home Care Therapeutic Practice Framework ensures responses to children and young people's trauma-based behaviours are effective and evidence based. The Out of Home Care Therapeutic Practice Framework will be applicable to all organisations delivering out of home care services.

ACTION 29. Develop, implement and publish an Out of Home Care Service Directory

This action will develop a Service Directory that provides the Department of Communities Tasmania, Children, Youth and Families staff and their service partners with a consistent guide to the delivery of approved Out of Home Care services in Tasmania.

ACTION 30. Undertake a feasibility study for a whole of government child and youth rapid response initiative

This action will examine how children and young people in care might receive priority access to services in order to achieve better outcomes in their health, education, accommodation and wellbeing. The feasibility study will include a jurisdictional analysis of initiatives already operating in other states and territories.

ACTION 31. Support the Youth Change Makers to inform the development of policy, procedures and practice standards in the Child Safety Service

Youth Change Makers is a forum for young people who have a lived experience of being in care. This action will continue to support young people to participate in directly shaping the Child Safety and Out of Home Care service systems. A key theme in defining the purpose and goal of this relatively new forum is that it means young people are not only able to share their views but assist in co-creating and co-designing systemic change.

ACTION 32. Implement a child participation model and tool for children and young people in out of home care

This action will see the implementation of the Viewpoint Questionnaire for 12-18 year olds and the creation of a questionnaire for 5-11 year olds and children with communication difficulties. This customisable product will enable children and young people to have an alternative mechanism through which to contribute their view to their Care Team and planning processes. Further, it will enable the Agency to monitor and measure the wellbeing of children in care. This work is supported by the Child Advocate.

ACTION 33. Appoint an additional Child Advocate for the North and North West regions

This action will provide increased Child Advocate support to children and young people in care in the North and North West of Tasmania and deliver a greater capacity for the Child Advocate to engage in individual and systemic advocacy functions within the Child Safety Service.

ACTION 34. Improve data collection and reporting

This action ensures the Child Safety Service is supported through an improved Integrated Client Information Program.



Governance

The governance arrangements for Strong Families Safe Kids has been revised as recommended in the *Strong Families Safe Kids Summary Evaluation Report*.

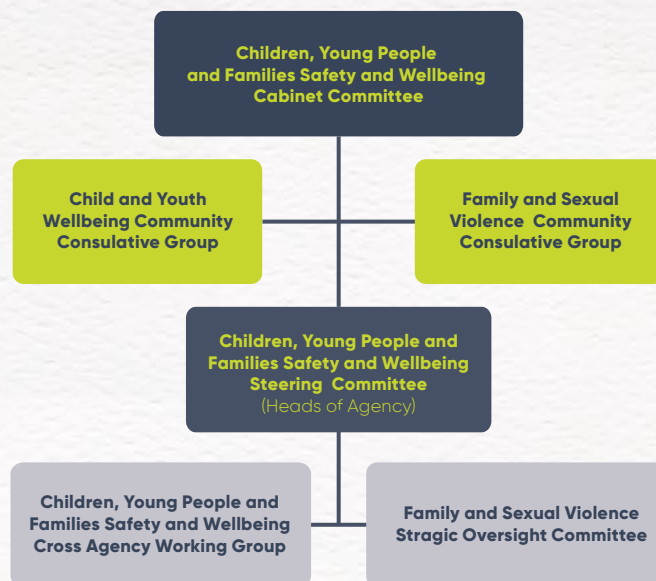
The Tasmanian Government has consolidated its governance frameworks into one Children, Young People and Families Safety and Wellbeing Governance Framework.

The revised governance arrangements will oversee the development and implementation of:

- *Safe Homes, Families, Communities: Tasmania's action plan for family and sexual violence 2019-2022*;
- *Strong Families Safe Kids Next Steps Action Plans 2021-2023*; and
- The development of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy.

As depicted in Figure 2 the Governance Framework includes: Cabinet Committee; Steering Committee; Cross Agency Working Group; Community Consultative Group – Family and Sexual Violence; and a new Community Consultative Group – Child and Youth Wellbeing.

Figure 2. The Governance Framework



The revised governance structure will deliver actions through co-ordinated and collaborative effort between government agencies, with our non-government partners and recognises the interrelationships that exists between family violence and child and youth safety and wellbeing.

Implementation, Monitoring and Reporting

The Tasmanian Government will monitor implementation of each of the actions under this Action Plan. As part of the Government's commitment to transparency and accountability, we will publicly release a Strong Families Safe Kids Next Steps Progress Report in 2021.

Terminology and Definitions



Child Wellbeing

Wellbeing is the state where a child or young person feels loved and safe; has access to material basics; has their physical, mental and emotional health needs met; is learning and participating; and has a positive sense of culture and identity.

Child Abuse and Neglect

In Tasmania abuse and neglect means sexual abuse, physical or emotional harm or other abuse or neglect to the extent that the injured child or young person has, or is likely to, suffer physical or psychological harm which is detrimental to their wellbeing; or is placing their physical or psychological development in jeopardy.

Care and Protection Orders

A Care and Protection Order is granted by the Magistrates' Court in Tasmania. A Magistrate makes a Care and Protection Order when a child is considered to be in need of protection as a result of being exposed to abuse/neglect. A Care and Protection Order may transfer parental responsibility for the child to the Department of Communities Tasmania, or a nominated person as specified in the application. A Care and Protection Order may also initiate supervision of a parent.

Out of Home Care

Out of Home Care may be provided by government or non-government providers of Foster Care, Residential Care or Special Packaged Care. A child or young person may also reside in Kinship Care.





Policy Context

This Action Plan complements international, national and state policies to support child safety and wellbeing.

International Agreements

The *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* contains human rights standards and customs agreed to by nations of the world.

The United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child* requires countries to ensure that children up to the age of 18 years benefit from special protection measures and assistance: access to education and healthcare; can develop their personalities, abilities and talents to the fullest potential; grow up in an environment of happiness, love and understanding; and are informed about and participate in, achieving their rights in an accessible and active manner.

The United Nations *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* establishes a universal framework of minimum standards for the survival, dignity and wellbeing of indigenous people. The Australian Government announced its support for the Declaration in 2009.

National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009–2020

Protecting Australia's Children (2009–2020), focusses on the fact that all children have a right to be safe, receive loving care and support. They have a right to receive services they need to succeed in life. The Framework recognises that parents have a primary responsibility for raising their children and ensuring that the above rights are upheld.

The *National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009–2020* consists of six supporting outcomes and strategies to be delivered. The six supporting outcomes and strategies help to focus effort and actions under the National Framework in order to reach the high-level outcomes, they are:

1. Children live in safe and supportive families and communities
2. Children and families access adequate support to promote safety and intervene early
3. Risk factors for child abuse and neglect are addressed
4. Children who have been abused or neglected receive the support and care they need for their safety and wellbeing
5. Indigenous children are supported and safe in their families and communities
6. Child sexual abuse and exploitation is prevented, and survivors receive adequate support



Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

The Royal Commission commenced in 2013 and undertook a five-year inquiry into the past institutional responses to child sexual abuse in Australia. The Commission released its Final Report in December 2017 exposing the widespread abuse of children and young people in institutions in Australia.

The Commission held private sessions for people to tell of their story of abuse, public hearings to examine responses to abuse; and built a policy and research program to look at ways to improve children's safety into the future.

Tasmania has provided a formal response to the Recommendations. The Department of Justice leads the implementation of Tasmania's response.

Closing the Gap 2020

Since 2008, Australian, state and territory governments have worked together to deliver better health, education and employment outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and to eliminate the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

In December 2018, Council of Australian Government committed to forming a formal partnership with Indigenous Australians to finalise the Closing the Gap Refresh and provide a forum for ongoing engagement throughout implementation of the new agenda.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle (ATSICPP) aims to keep Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children connected to their families, communities, cultures and country. The ATSICPP seeks to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to be involved in decision making about their children's care and protection. The ATSICPP centres on five key elements: prevention, partnership, participation, placement and connection.

National Standards for Out of Home Care 2011

The National Standards for Out of Home Care 2011 were delivered under the *National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020* for children and young people living outside their family homes. The National Standards are designed to improve outcomes and experiences for children and young people by focusing on the key areas within care that directly influences positive outcomes including; health, education, care planning, connection to family, culture and community, transition from care, training and support for carers, belonging and identity, and safety, stability and security.



Related Tasmanian Initiatives

Safe Homes, Families, Communities: Tasmania's action plan for family and sexual violence 2019-2022

Safe Homes, Families, Communities builds on *Safe Homes, Safe Families: Tasmania's Family Violence Action Plan 2015-2020*, to embed the crisis and support services introduced under Safe Homes, Safe Families and to continue to improve the service system for adults and children who experience family and sexual violence.

Tasmania's Affordable Housing Strategy Action Plan

In March 2019 the Government released the second Action Plan (2019-2023) of the Affordable Housing Strategy. The Strategy includes a number of infrastructure initiatives aimed at improving youth homelessness in Tasmania.

Children Thriving in Strong, Connected Communities

Tasmania's strategy for children – pregnancy to eight years 2018-2021 is facilitated by the Department of Education. The implementation is to assist in fostering a culture of quality and collaborative partnerships across the government and non-government sector.

The promotion of involvement of many early year's stakeholders, families and communities outlines a shared purpose and practices for all Tasmanian service providers; with the focus on improving the education, health and wellbeing outcomes of children from pregnancy to eight years.

Child and Student Wellbeing Strategy: Safe, Well and Positive Learners

The *Child and Student Wellbeing Strategy (2018-2021)* committed the Department of Education to adopt the Tasmanian Child and Youth Wellbeing Framework as a key strategy to support the wellbeing of learners in 2018. The aim of the strategy is to build a system which supports every learner in a meaningful way, understanding that the wellbeing of learners requires collaboration between schools, colleges, libraries, families, communities and other government agencies and service providers.

Working Together – Supporting Early Learning

The Working Together initiative was announced by the Department of Education in November 2018. Working Together offers free childcare for three year olds, plus support for the family. Eligible children can take part in up to 400 hours of free childcare in 2021.

Summary of Actions



KEY PRIORITY 1. Child Safety and Wellbeing is Everyone's Business

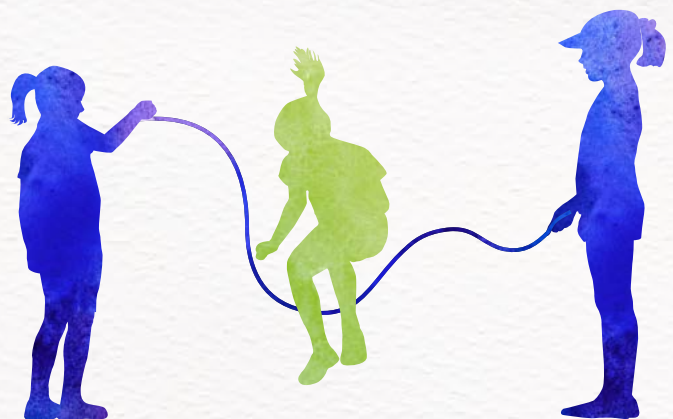
1. Develop a Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy
2. Undertake a comprehensive review of the *Children, Young Persons and their Families Act 1997*
3. Develop a whole-of-Government children and young people under 16 who are alone and at risk of or experiencing homelessness Policy Framework with supporting Practice Guidelines
4. Implement a revised governance framework for Strong Families Safe Kids
5. Develop a Strong Families Safe Kids website
6. Contributing to the Successor Plan to the *National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children*


KEY PRIORITY 2. Building a Common Understanding of Safety and Wellbeing

7. Embed the Child and Youth Wellbeing Framework across key children, youth and family support sectors
8. Develop and deliver professional learning, education and training regarding the Child and Youth Wellbeing Assessment Tool
9. Work with the eSafety Commissioner to deliver education and training to carers in response to technology-facilitated abuse
10. Continue to build collaborative cross-agency working relationships to facilitate improved outcomes for children, young people and their families

KEY PRIORITY 3. Managing the Front Door

11. Establish the Strong Families Safe Kids Advice and Referral Line as the single assessment, referral and triage point for children and young people Under 16 who are alone and at risk of or experiencing homelessness
12. Establish a Youth Wellbeing Liaison Officer in the Strong Families Safe Kids Advice and Referral Line
13. Establish the Care Team practice approach to improve coordination of response to under 16 youth who are alone and at risk of or experiencing homelessness
14. Develop and publish an Advice and Referral Terminology Guide
15. Implement a Child Wellbeing Online Contact Form





KEY PRIORITY 4. Providing Better Support to Children and their Families

16. Continue to deliver the Intensive Family Engagement Service
17. Further develop prevention and early intervention capability for vulnerable families and their children
18. Establish a non-legal advocacy support for parents
19. Review available supports and pilot an Informal Kinship Care Liaison and Support Service
20. Evaluate and further develop the Integrated Family Support Service and relevant Parenting Programs
21. Continue to progress and embed the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle across the Child Safety Service system, including through the support of self-determination in Aboriginal community organisations, and promotion of family preservation options

KEY PRIORITY 5. Redesigning the Child Safety Service and Out of Home Care Supports

22. Improve the clinical support services to children and young people in care
23. Implement a permanency and stability framework which defines and priorities permanent and stable outcomes and timely decision making for children and young people engaged with the statutory Child Safety Service
24. Commence implementation of Standards for children and young people in care and a carer register

25. Participate in the national child protection information sharing initiative Connect for Safety
26. Review the functions and structures of clinical decision making processes within the Child Safety Service
27. Support the transition of the Child Safety Service to a practice framework which is orientated on collaborative decision making to resolve concerns
28. Develop and implement an Out of Home Care Therapeutic Practice Framework
29. Develop, implement and publish an Out of Home Care Service Directory
30. Undertake a feasibility study for a whole-of-government child and youth rapid response initiative
31. Support the Youth Change Makers to inform the development of policy, procedures and practice standards in the child Safety Service
32. Implement a child participation model and tool for children and young people in Out of Home Care
33. Appoint an additional Child Advocate for the Northern and North West regions of Tasmania
34. Improve data collection and reporting



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DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES TASMANIA

Email: CPSRedesignTeam@communities.tas.gov.au | Visit: www.communities.tas.gov.au

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