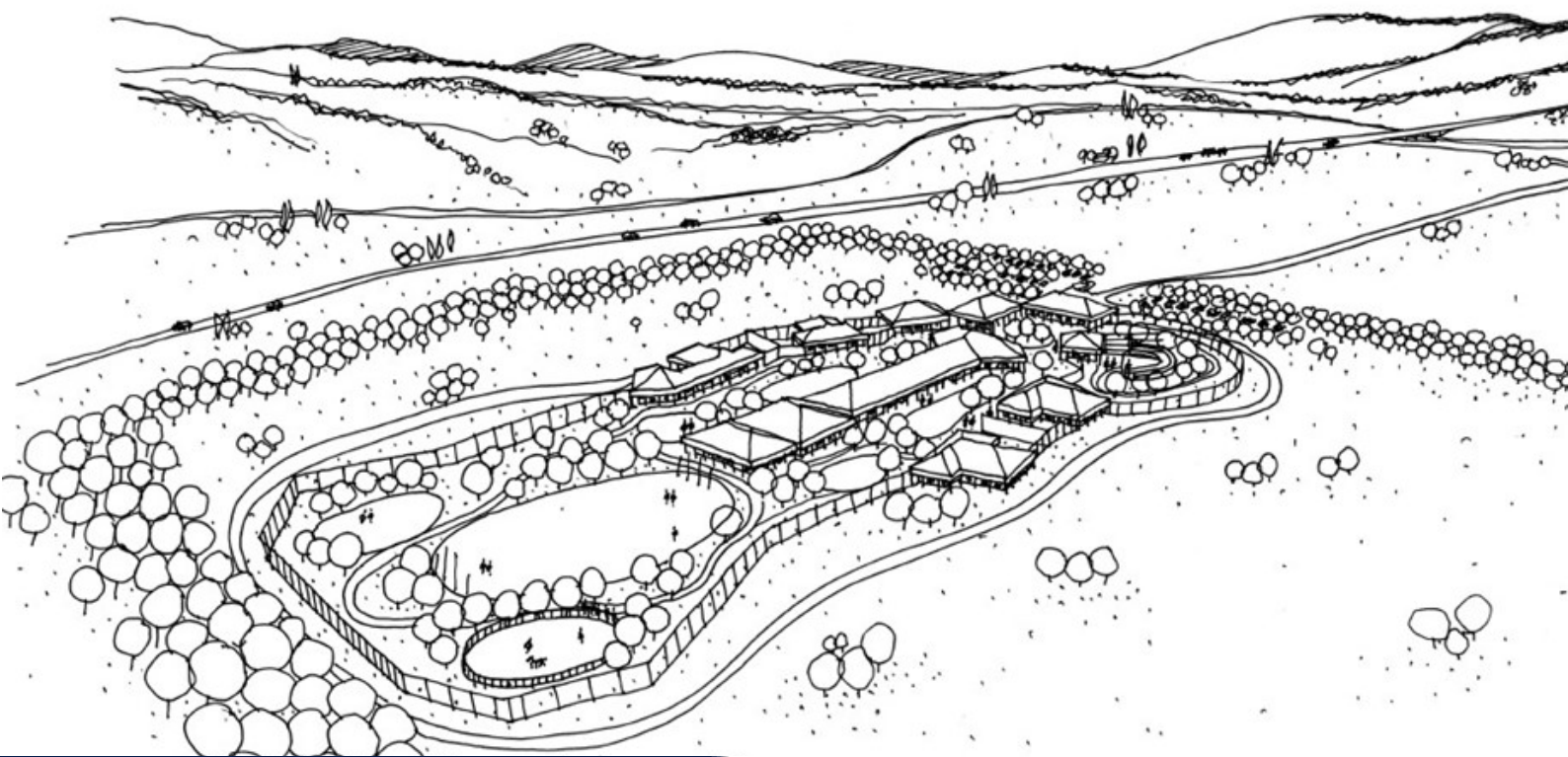


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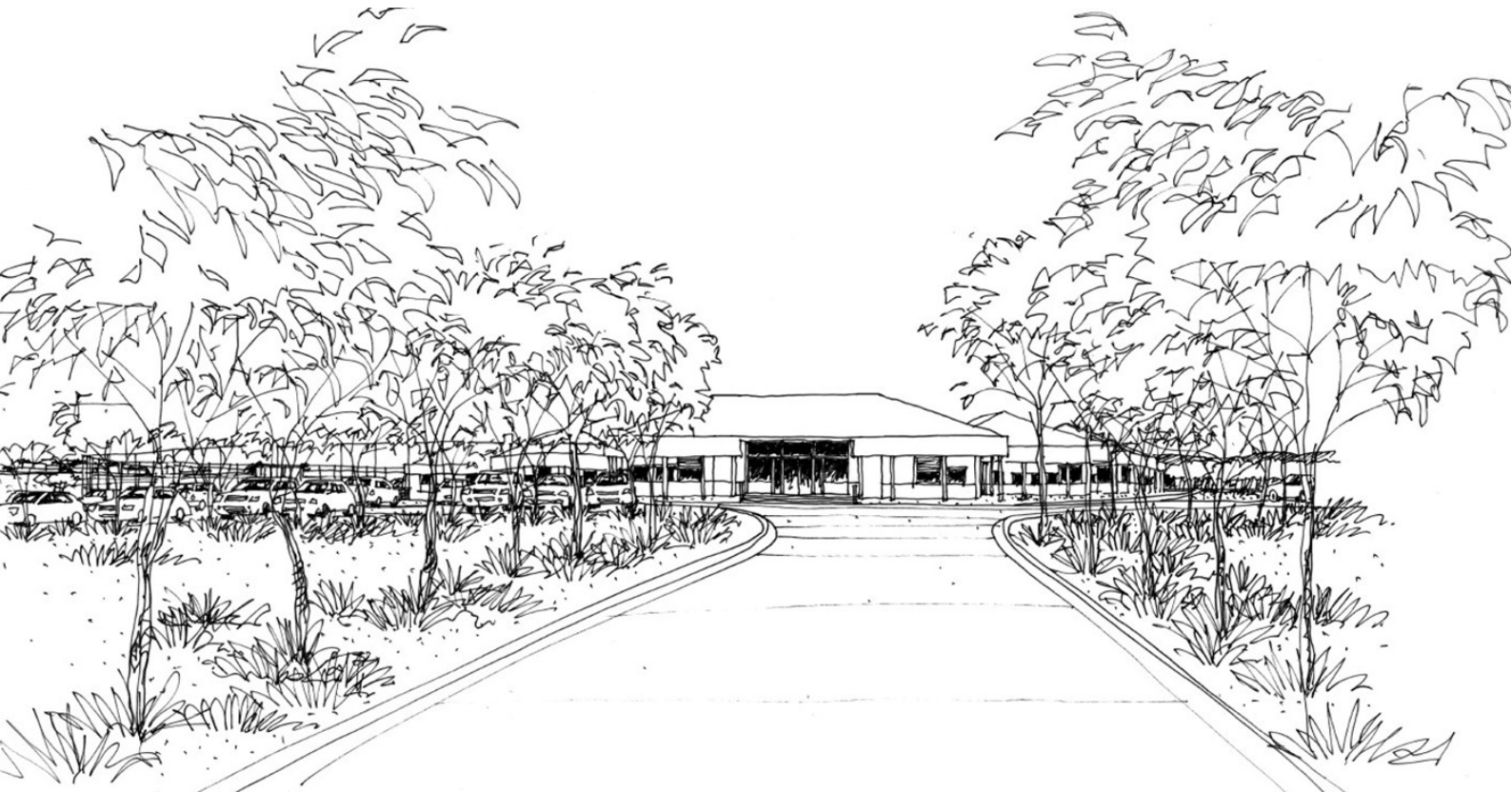
# Tasmanian Youth Justice Facility

Community Consultation & Feedback Summary Report



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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Project background

The Masterplan for the new Tasmanian Youth Justice Facility outlines the development of a new facility in Pontville, which will replace the Ashley Youth Detention Centre (AYDC). This facility is designed to create a safe and nurturing environment for children and young people, emphasising healing, wellbeing, and rehabilitation through a therapeutic approach.

On Monday 5 May 2025 the Tasmanian Government released the Masterplan for the new youth justice facility for community engagement. This represents the second round of community engagement undertaken, where we sought feedback on the Masterplan from the broader community and key stakeholders.

This report focuses on the feedback received during the masterplan engagement period, noting that the feedback received in Round 1 was used to inform the design of the Masterplan.

The feedback received and shared in this report will help to guide future decisions and planning for the facility. This summary report focuses only on community consultation and doesn't include any internal government consultation, or consultation on the *Youth Justice Facility Development Bill 2025*.

## 1.2 Consultation overview

To support the release of the Masterplan, the project team carried out community consultation from Monday 5 May to Sunday 25 May 2025. The Masterplan was published online at the start of this three-week period, inviting stakeholders and the broader community to review the document and share their feedback. The aim was to make the process easy and accessible, with the goal of gathering meaningful input from the broader community and stakeholders to inform the project's development.

Community members, nearby landowners, businesses, Aboriginal communities, and service providers were invited to take part. The consultation was promoted through the Department for Education, Children and Young People's (DECYP) website and social media, and letters were delivered to all residents and landowners within two kilometres of the proposed facility site at 466 Brighton Road, Pontville.

A range of engagement methods were used, including:

- Meetings both online and in person
- Community drop-in sessions
- Inviting written feedback
- Targeted engagement with key stakeholders



## 1.3 Consultation approach

Stakeholders and the broader community were invited to review the Masterplan, learn more about the design, and share feedback that will inform decision making on the project.

To ensure broad accessibility, details about the Masterplan, community session details, and feedback process were actively shared on DECYP's website and social media channels.

In addition, the community could provide feedback on the Masterplan by contacting the project team on 03 6165 0443 or at [newyjfacility@decyp.tas.gov.au](mailto:newyjfacility@decyp.tas.gov.au).

The below timeline outlines the key engagement opportunities that occurred during the engagement period.

### **5 May 2025**

- Briefing to local councils and oversight bodies
- DECYP Website updated with Masterplan and other project information

### **5 and 6 May 2025**

- The project team notified all identified key stakeholders and Aboriginal community groups of the Masterplan's release and opportunities to provide feedback

### **6 May 2025**

- The project team coordinated a mail drop to all residents and landowners within a two-kilometre radius of 466 Brighton Road, Pontville
- A further briefing was provided to Brighton Council

### **12 – 14 May 2025**

- One-on-one meetings held with adjacent landowners

### **14 May 2025**

- The first community drop-in session was held at Brighton Football Club

### **20 May 2025**

- Aboriginal engagement session was held at Brighton Municipal Memorial Hall

### **22 May 2025**

- Briefing with service provider
- The second community drop-in session was held at Brighton Football Club

### **25 May 2025**

- Community consultation closed

## 2 What we heard – consultation outcomes

For the purpose of this report, stakeholders have been categorised into four groups:

- Adjacent landowners and businesses
- Aboriginal people, communities, and organisations
- Service providers
- The broader community

**Adjacent landowners and businesses** raised concerns about safety and security, location, and infrastructure, seeking more transparency and reassurance. The landowners had varied perspectives and an interest in finding out more.

Feedback received from **Aboriginal people** reflects a strong desire for cultural safety, meaningful Aboriginal engagement, and trauma-informed care. Stakeholders seek trust, connection, and a healing-focused transition, emphasising collaboration and support for long-term community collaboration.

**Service providers** raised concerns about the facility's location — especially its closeness to a medicinal cannabis facility and gun clubs — as well as access for visitors, infrastructure, and environmental impact. They agreed with the need for inclusive, trauma-informed, home-like spaces that avoid institutional features. Keeping young people connected to family and community, is vital. There's strong support for early intervention, transparency, and working with the community to ensure safe and respectful rehabilitation.

Feedback from the **broader community** highlights concerns about the facility's location, accessibility, and design, questioning whether it will truly support rehabilitation. There was a focus on how the facility will function in practice rather than raising concerns about the approach itself.

Overall, community members and stakeholders have expressed that they would like more transparency and reassurance about the facility's positioning on the site, security, and design. There is strong support for cultural safety and trauma-informed care, with a focus on trust, connection, and healing.

There remain concerns about how well the facility will work in practice, particularly given the proximity to odours from the medicinal cannabis facility and noises from gun clubs. Overall, the feedback reflects concern, hope, and a push for practical solutions.

### 3 How the team is responding to feedback

This section of the summary report provides a detailed summary of the feedback received during the consultation period, along with how the project team has responded to each area of concern.

#### 3.1 The Facility's site and location

**Feedback:**

*Some people are concerned that the chosen site is too close to neighbouring houses, the medicinal cannabis facility and nearby gun clubs, which might impact rehabilitation for young people in the facility.*

**Response:**

In 2023, DECYP asked the public for feedback to help choose a location. The community was invited to share their thoughts on two possible sites.

After reviewing the community feedback, the government chose 466 Brighton Road, Pontville as the preferred site. A summary of the community feedback is available in the Community Engagement Outcomes Report on the DECYP website.

To make sure the site was suitable, the government carried out several studies. These looked at Aboriginal cultural heritage, the natural environment, noise levels, the ground and soil, and whether the site could be provided with the right infrastructure.

These studies took 12 months and included on-site visits, research, and expert advice.

The location of the project's site is confirmed.

**Feedback:**

*There was a preference for the facility to be closer to the highway, with better landscaping and visual barriers.*

**Response:**

The chosen location on the site was selected to balance several important factors, including keeping a good distance from nearby homes. While being closer to the highway might increase that distance, it would also bring problems like more road noise and less privacy for the young people staying at the facility.

To address this, the design includes a buffer zone between the facility and the highway. This helps reduce noise and keeps the space calm and private. The plan also includes landscaping, natural screening, and visual barriers to help the facility blend in with the rural surroundings.

This remains the preferred location for the facility on the site. However, the landscaping plans have been updated based on feedback from nearby property owners to increase the visual buffer.

**Feedback:**

*Some people raised concerns about using Rifle Range Road for access, due to its name and current condition. They suggested using the highway instead.*



**Response:**

Rifle Range Road was chosen because it allows for a more private and controlled entry to the site, avoids damage to Aboriginal cultural heritage, and moves traffic away from neighbouring properties. It will be upgraded to make sure it's safe and suitable for this purpose.

The existing entrance on Brighton Road will still be used for farming and rural activities, just like it is now.

Access from the Midland Highway isn't feasible as it is a major freight and passenger route (a Category 1 road), and under the *Roads and Jetties Act 1935*, new access points are not permitted. Rifle Range Road will be improved to meet the facility needs.

**Feedback:**

*Concerns that the lack of public transport near the site will make it harder for families to visit and for the community to stay involved.*

**Response:**

We understand that having good public transport is important for families, visitors, and staff. There are limited public transport options near the site, and we understand this could make it harder for people to visit or stay connected.

We are working with other Government agencies to look at ways to improve transport connections as part of the planning process and through the development of the Model of Care for the facility.

## 3.2 Facility security and design

**Feedback:**

*There are concerns that there isn't enough fencing or monitoring around nearby homes and the proposed cultural walk.*

**Response:**

The facility will have a secure outer fence and internal fencing to separate areas for visitors and young people. There will also be monitoring equipment around the outside of the site to help keep it safe.

Young people will only be allowed into areas outside the secure fence after showing positive behaviour and under supervision.

The location of the heritage walk will be reviewed, with feedback regarding its proximity to residential properties and security concerns taken into consideration.

**Feedback:**

*There are concerns about the possibility of young people escaping and the potential safety risks this could create for the community.*

**Response:**

The facility includes a secure perimeter made up of fencing and buildings, using a "building as perimeter" model. This means some buildings form part of the secure boundary and are built to the same high security standards as the fencing.

The fences are made from anti-climb mesh with secure tops, and the nearest private properties are about 200 metres away from the fence line. Each residential building also has its own secure outdoor courtyard, covered with a tensioned mesh roof.

There will also be extensive CCTV coverage and detection to help monitor the site at all times.

The current fencing design is considered adequate to manage the security risks, so no changes are planned at this stage.

For broader safety reasons, we are unable to share detailed information about how the fencing works. This helps to protect the overall security of the facility.

**Feedback:**

*Concerns were raised about the courtyard design, especially around privacy, noise, and the height of the walls and fencing.*

**Response:**

The project and design teams are working with nearby landowners, residents, and local businesses to help manage impacts to their properties.

The project team are looking at courtyard design options and ways to add more privacy as part of the final design.

**Feedback:**

*Concern about the types of plants being used, how thickly they're planted, and how close they are to neighbouring properties.*

**Response:**

The feedback gathered from nearby property owners helped the design team better understand how those properties are used. This allowed for a more thoughtful approach towards the landscaping design.

The team is carefully looking at plant types and how densely they will be planted to make sure they provide enough privacy without causing problems for neighbouring landowners.

Feedback from nearby landowners and the broader community has informed updates to the site's landscaping plans.

**Feedback:**

*There is a need for individualised rooms with natural light, access to green space, and access to services.*

**Response:**

The facility is being designed with a strong focus on creating a safe, supportive, and healing environment. Each young person will have their own room to ensure privacy and dignity. The design incorporates natural light and access to outdoor green spaces, and quiet areas to support mental wellbeing and self-regulation. In addition, young people will have access to education, health care, mental health support, and cultural services on site.

The proposed design aims to reflect these principles and is being developed with the intention of including them wherever possible.



**Feedback:**

*There needs to be a balance between a home-like environment and security within the facility.*

**Response:**

The facility is designed to create a calm, home-like atmosphere by using warm, natural materials and more residential-style spaces. The design includes features inspired by nature like natural light, views of the outdoors, and access to open spaces.

The facility will be a secure facility with fencing, CCTV and other measures to ensure security and safety.

The project team are prioritising both the therapeutic design principles (e.g. small and home-like) and safety and security in design.

### 3.3 Future of youth detention

**Feedback:**

*Some people expressed that detention should only be used as a last resort. They believe community-based alternatives are better for young people, and that detention settings can make it harder to provide trauma-informed care.*

**Response:**

The Tasmanian Government is making changes to the youth justice system to focus more on helping young people in the community and stopping them from reoffending.

This includes creating programs that steer young people away from the justice system, working with different service providers to offer early support, help with bail, and rehabilitation services. Detaining young people should only be used as a last resort. The government is making sure that where children and young people need to be detained the facilities are designed to support their care and wellbeing.

The design of the facility is based on a Model of Care that uses proven, trauma-informed approaches. It aims to create a supportive and healing environment, recognising that many young people in the youth justice system have experienced trauma.

**Feedback:**

*Community members said that due to its harmful legacy, the AYDC needs to close as quickly as possible.*

**Response:**

As part of its response to the Commission of Inquiry, the Tasmanian Government promised to shut down the AYDC as soon as possible and build a new secure facility to replace it.

The AYDC will be closed as soon as the new facility is ready.

**Feedback:**

*The government must follow through on its promise to keep detention periods as short as possible.*

**Response:**

The new facility will support a small number of young people who need secure care. The government's main focus is on early support and keeping young people out of detention wherever possible.

### 3.4 Model of Care

**Feedback:**

*Some agreed that trauma-informed care must be at the heart of the system, and staff need to be trained to support young people who have experienced trauma.*

**Response:**

The vision for the Model of Care at the new facility is to enable an environment where children and young people experience the highest standards of child centred rights-based and therapeutic care and education, services and opportunities, supporting them to enhance connections and return and remain successfully in the community.

Workforce planning and staff training is a core part of the Model of Care. Operational planning is occurring alongside the development of the facility design.

**Feedback:**

*There is need for statewide access to flexible, community-based facilities, to provide responsive and tailored support that young people with diverse needs require.*

**Response:**

A key goal of the Youth Justice Blueprint is to keep children and young people out of the justice system by offering tailored programs and services across Tasmania that meet their individual needs.

**Feedback:**

*It was highlighted that there was a need for a design that supported children and young people with a disability, in addition to prioritising youth rights, privacy, and wellbeing.*

**Response:**

The new facility is being designed with a strong focus on children's needs, rights, and wellbeing. It will be therapeutic, youth-centred, and include features that support all young people.

This includes things like accessible spaces, technology that can be adapted to different needs, and sensory-friendly areas—recognising that many young people in detention may be neurodiverse.

The facility will also protect young people's rights, privacy, and wellbeing. This means private areas for personal care, trauma-informed design features, and access to health care, education, and cultural support.

The design of the facility is being guided by a Model of Care which means that every aspect of the facility is being developed to ensure it is safe, respectful, and rehabilitative.

**Feedback:**

*Some stakeholders noted that they would like to see more information in the Masterplan about gender segregation and support for transgender youth.*

**Response:**

The facility will be designed and operated in a way that respects and supports all young people, including transgender and gender-diverse youth. Decisions about placement and management will be made with the young person's safety, identity, and wellbeing in mind.

The design includes private rooms, access to health and mental health services, and staff trained in cultural safety and gender diversity.

The project team will continue to engage with service providers and young people themselves within the youth justice system to better understand the kinds of support transgender and gender-diverse youth will benefit from.

**Feedback:**

*Some stated that they would like to see young people have access to vocational training opportunities (e.g. café, landscaping) to help them build skills and cultural connection for when they are integrated back into the community.*

**Response:**

Creating opportunities for skill building and vocational training is a core part of the facility's rehabilitation approach. Young people will have opportunities to learn practical skills through a range of programs.

The facility design will cater for a variety of vocational training opportunities in either the education facility or through other parts of the facility (e.g. productive garden).

Wherever possible, training will be linked to local industries with delivery of cultural practices occurring in partnership with community organisations and targeted Aboriginal organisations

### 3.5 Culture in design

**Feedback:**

*There is a need to support families so that young people don't become disconnected from their culture and community.*

**Response:**

Staying connected to family, culture, community and Country for Aboriginal young people is vital for a young person's wellbeing and rehabilitation. The facility will include spaces for family visits, which are welcoming, respectful, supportive and culturally safe.

The Masterplan includes a cultural garden and cultural pavilion to support a range of activities that will help foster a sense of identity, belonging and connection to community and Country.

There will also be support to assist young people and their families to link with cultural, community and Aboriginal organisations, to stay connected with their people and community.

By involving young people, their families, and the wider community in shaping and caring for these spaces, the program can help strengthen cultural connections, share stories, and bring different generations together.

The project team will co-design various parts of the facility to make sure these spaces reflect the values and features that matter most.

**Feedback:**

*Without ongoing engagement with Aboriginal people and organisations, Aboriginal cultural safety could be overlooked if it is treated as part of general cultural engagement.*

**Response:**

A strong focus will be on creating an environment for Aboriginal young people and their families to feel respected, safe, and culturally supported.

The Tasmanian Government recognises the over-representation of Aboriginal children and young people in the youth justice system.

The project team is continuing engagement with Aboriginal people, Elders, cultural knowledge holders and sharers and young people with lived experience. This is intended to be the start of long-term partnership to ensure the facility reflects and respects Aboriginal culture and practices.

**Feedback:**

*The inclusion of Aboriginal artwork woven throughout the facility.*

**Response:**

The incorporation of Tasmanian Aboriginal artwork is being considered as part of the design, and if included we will work to ensure that it is thoughtfully included throughout the facility as a visible and meaningful expression of culture, connection to Country and to strengthen their identity to be strong young Aboriginal people.

The project team is working with community organisations and young people to facilitate the inclusion of Aboriginal artwork where appropriate, within the facility.

**Feedback:**

*Aboriginal spaces created for storytelling, dance, cooking, and yarning circles.*

**Response:**

The facility will include a dedicated cultural garden and spaces that are Aboriginal led through co-designed for storytelling, dance, cooking, and yarning circles. These are vital ways for Aboriginal young people to connect to Country, culture, identity, which will foster a process that will begin build confidence of self and healing as Aboriginal people.

These spaces will be developed in partnership with Aboriginal people and Elders, to ensure they are culturally, welcoming, and meaningful.

## 4 Next steps

We thank everyone who shared their thoughts on the Masterplan. Your feedback is helping to shape a facility that supports young people and reflects the needs of the wider community.

The Tasmanian Government remains committed to transparent and ongoing community engagement. We will continue to provide updates and opportunities for further input as the project progresses.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please feel free to contact the project team on 03 6165 0443, at [newyifacility@decyp.tas.gov.au](mailto:newyifacility@decyp.tas.gov.au) or visit the Department of Education, Children and Young People's website for project updates.

