

Attachment I

Tasmania - Update for 2018 Family Matters Report

The Tasmanian Government is committed to reducing the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out of home care and supports the Family Matters campaign to eliminate this overrepresentation and improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children by 2040.

The Tasmanian Government is working with other jurisdictions to progress the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020 including the development of a comprehensive and consistent national data set on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child safety and wellbeing, and implementation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle in the Child Safety Service.

The Tasmanian Government continues to focus on and invest in activities that support family preservation and reunification for all children including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. The following initiatives undertaken by Communities Tasmania support this focus:

- The Tasmanian Government has invested \$1.15 million for a 12 month trial of Intensive Family Engagement Services as part of *Strong Families, Safe Kids*; the redesign of Tasmania's child safety system. These services target improved outcomes for families with complex needs, addressing risks in the home environment and reducing the need to remove children from their homes. The trial consists of a panel of services which provide intensive family functioning and parenting skills aiming to prevent the imminent separation of children from their primary caregivers. The Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation (TAC) is one of the services that delivers intensive case management and support to Aboriginal families. The trial commenced in February 2018.
- A further \$7.5 million has been committed over the next three years to build on this trial and provide additional intensive family engagement services, including for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families. This will include increased investment in families with more complex needs.
- The *Strategic Plan for Out of Home Care in Tasmania 2017-2019* focusses efforts on ensuring the design and delivery of out of home care services are planned and coordinated. The following initiatives outlined in the Plan have been completed and are contributing to positive outcomes for children and young people in out of home care:
 - A Clinical Practice Educator and Consultant position has been employed to support OOHHC clinical practice.
 - A Child Advocate has been appointed to provide a greater 'voice' to children in out of home care on the quality of the care they experience and decisions made about their care.
- A pakana (Aboriginal) understandings cultural awareness training pilot has been developed to respond to the over-representation of Aboriginal children in out of home care and in the youth justice system. The training aims to provide improved support and resources to Children and Youth Services staff in their work with Aboriginal children, their families and their Community