

Attachment I

Tasmania - Update for 2019 Family Matters Report

The Tasmanian Government shares the Family Matters commitment to eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out of home care by 2040. Initiatives that aim to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out of home care in Tasmania include:

- Launch of the Strong Families Safe Kids Advice and Referral Line, in December 2018, which commenced a fundamental shift in the way child protection services work in Tasmania. This service created a new 'single front door approach' that enables earlier intervention services for children, young people, and families based on their needs.
- Development of a new Child Safety Practice framework for the Child Safety Service. One of the four key practice elements in the framework is '*Being culturally responsive*'. A plan is currently being developed to implement the framework throughout the Child Safety Service.
- Continued trial of the Intensive Family Engagement Service (IFES). IFES provides evidence-based intensive engagement, practical supports and role modelling with families to prevent the need for removal of children. The Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation (TAC) is one of four state-wide IFES providers and is the service provider for families that identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. A further \$7.5 million has been committed over the next three years for additional intensive family engagement services to better support families, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.
- Delivery of the listening with our takila project, by Leprena, the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress, which built upon the work of ya pulingina kani through shared stories of empowerment and healing from survivors of family violence in the Aboriginal community. The project included a series of activities and events including gatherings on country, co-delivered workshops with Engender Equality, mental health first aid training, and an eight-week TasTAFE / Aboriginal training arts course to engage participants and promote family safety messaging.
- Delivery of a speaking tour by the Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation to the Aboriginal community about mental health, suicide prevention and wellbeing by prominent Aboriginal man, Joe Williams. This program was considered to address the broader topic and support the safety of Aboriginal families. The tour delivered five sessions state-wide including two youth-specific sessions (two in Hobart, two in Launceston and one in Burnie) to 74 participants.
- Release of a consultation paper for a Permanency Framework which focused on the National Permanency Guiding Principles, inclusive of Principle 2 *Compliance with all five domains of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle is supported and measured*. A draft framework will be developed and provided for further consultation in late 2019.
- Release of the *Tasmanian Child and Youth Wellbeing Framework* in June 2018, which provides a contemporary and accessible definition of child wellbeing to ensure that Tasmania's service system, including the broader community, has a strong, common understanding of child and youth wellbeing. This includes "*having a positive sense of culture and identity*". A range of practical tools are being developed to support this work, including the Child and Youth Wellbeing Assessment Tool and Service Directory.
- Development of an Outcomes Framework for Children and Young People in Out of Home Care released by the Minister on 18 October 2018. Work continues to develop a Companion Document that defines an approach to monitor and report against the Outcomes Framework.
- External and independent monitoring of the Out of Home Care system by the Commissioner for Children and Young People, funded by the Government over a three-year period. The Commissioner for Children and Young People released *Laying the Foundations: A Conceptual Plan for Independent Monitoring of Out-of-Home Care in Tasmania* outlining how independent and external monitoring of the Out of Home Care system from 2018-19 onwards will be undertaken.