



## FACT SHEET

### Area Advisory Group

As part of the Reforms within the Disability, Child, Youth & Family Services (DCYFS), the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Community Sector Organisations (CSO), families and individuals with disabilities will share governance of the new way of delivering services. This will comprise the establishment of a state-wide and area advisory groups.

#### **What are the Area Advisory Groups?**

Advisory groups will be established to support planning co-ordination and oversight of services in DCYFS at the regional level – south west, south east, north and north west.

#### **Why establish Area Advisory Groups?**

Working together will mean that vulnerable children, young people and families and people with disabilities, their families and carers will have better access to services which meet their needs if the planning of these services occurs jointly between the Department and the Community Sector at an Area level.

These arrangements create a different relationship between DHHS, CSOs, related government agencies, mainstream health and human services and families, carers and people with disabilities.

#### **What will be the role of the Area Advisory Groups?**

Area Advisory Groups will ensure that the service system responds to local needs that are based on an understanding of the community needs.

The Area Advisory Group will be a forum for the sharing of information and data about the local area, this will mean that over time services provided in the area will better reflect the needs of the area.

The Area Advisory Groups will:

- Provide strategic advice to DHHS on key issues for vulnerable children, young people and families and people with disabilities, their families and carers in their local area;
- Provide a key means of communication and consultation between DHHS and the Community Sector and vulnerable children, young people and families and people with disabilities, their families and carers;
- Promote the needs of vulnerable children, young people and families and people with disabilities, their families and carers in the area strategy development, community strengthening activity and government policy i.e. closeness to the community will provide the capacity to reflect community needs in service system development and planning;
- Engage vulnerable children, young people and families and people with disabilities, their families and carers in decision making or consolidating information from other consultative activity across the area; and
- Promote information sharing and collaboration amongst service providers.

The Area Advisory Group is not a forum for the discussion of individual client/family issues or individual service issues.



## **Who will be on the Area Advisory Group?**

The Area Advisory Group has an open membership that means that all funded organisations in the DCYFS program can be on the Group as well as staff from DCYFS and Staff from other DHHS programs that provide services in the local area.

Other Agencies such as Education, Police, Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Services will also be invited to be a part of the Area Advisory Group.

The Area Advisory Group will be co-chaired by the Area Director and a Community Sector provider representative (nominated by the Group).

## **How often will the Area Advisory Group Meet?**

At the beginning as this is a new group it will meet monthly.

## **Where can I get more information?**

Further information can be located at

[http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/future\\_communities/reform\\_implementation\\_unit](http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/future_communities/reform_implementation_unit)