

YOUR QUESTIONS
ANSWERED

WHY HAVE AN AGENDA?

Tasmania's children and young people deserve the best possible start in life. *Our Children Our Young People Our Future* is Tasmania's Agenda for Children and Young People.

Our Children Our Young People Our Future is an ambitious 10 year plan for action. It is about making sure that Tasmanian children and young people are **nurtured, educated** and **protected** to enable them to realise their full potential in life.

The Agenda shows how services that support children and young people will be re-focused to improve outcomes for our children, our young people and their families during the next 10 years.

HOW WILL WE DELIVER THE AGENDA?

The Office for Children has been established to lead implementation of the Agenda. Located within the Department of Health and Human Services, the Office for Children will promote a culture of joint working; engage collaboratively with all stakeholders, including the non-government sector, and progress the 13 initial Action Areas in the Agenda.

Our Children Our Young People Our Future will strengthen the way government and non-government organisations work together and support and guide services to develop stronger partnerships to achieve a better coordination of services. The focus will be on delivering early intervention and prevention approaches that ensure children and young people

receive the support they need when they need it.

To achieve the actions set out in the Agenda, we will ensure that children, young people and their families are at the centre of all our planning and service delivery. We will also consult them on development of all actions to be implemented under the Agenda.

Importantly, the Agenda will build on actions already being taken to ensure that parents and families are getting the support they need to **nurture, educate** and **protect** their children.

WHAT GUIDES FUTURE PRIORITIES AND FUNDING?

Our Children Our Young People Our Future is a long-term plan for action that will continue to evolve over time and be shaped by ongoing stakeholder and community feedback. It will guide government investment, to ensure that funding is targeted to actions that will markedly improve outcomes for children, young people and their families.

The Agenda will support children, young people and their families by delivering a range of services that promote the wellbeing of all young Tasmanians.

WHAT ARE THE PRIORITY ACTION AREAS?

The actions that have been identified in *Our Children Our Young People Our Future* aim to **nurture, educate** and **protect** our children and young people, and to support our families and communities in the important job of raising children.



To **nurture** our children and young people we will:

- Produce a guide to health and wellbeing information and services for parents and families (*Signposts*)
- Reduce teenage pregnancy rates by improving access to youth health services and delivering comprehensive relationship and sexual health education (*Making Choices Two*)
- Progress initiatives to improve the mental health and wellbeing of Tasmania's children and young people with a focus on promotion, prevention and early intervention
- Improve children's healthy eating and physical activity by expanding successful programs across schools and into early childhood settings (*Healthy Choices Where Children Live, Learn and Play*)

To **educate** our children and young people we will:

- Build on existing early years programs such as *Launching into Learning* to ensure all communities have access to programs, and identify new initiatives that support children in their early years of education (*Bright Beginnings*)
- Enable more effective partnerships between home, school and community (*Great Schools ... Great Communities*)
- Support young people to attain a year 12 qualification or equivalent (*Purposeful Pathways*)

To **protect** our children and young people we will:

- Provide children in Out of Home Care with priority access to services
- Implement problem solving approaches to youth justice by providing interventions, motivation and support to address the issues that contribute to young people's involvement in the court system
- Develop a collaborative case coordination model to improve the social, psychological and physical wellbeing of vulnerable children and young people

To enable the government and other sectors to create new ways of delivering services to children and young people we will:

- Facilitate shared professional development for staff working with children and families across all sectors
- Improve the way we collect and use data about children and young people
- Develop a whole of government data warehouse for children and young people

HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

You can get more information:

by email: info@children.tas.gov.au

by web: www.children.tas.gov.au

and by phone — (03) 6233 4895