

Realignment of Human Services Head Office Functions – May 2010

Realignment of Human Services

Following the recent election, Human Services, Department of Health and Human Services now has two Ministers.

Minister Lin Thorp MLC is the Minister for Children and has primary responsibility for the operation and management of all issues pertaining to children and young people. This includes:

- Child Protection
- Out of Home Care
- Adoptions
- Child Health and Parenting Service
- Youth Justice
- Youth at Risk
- Kids Come First
- All issues associated with the *Children Young Persons and their Families Act 1997* and *Youth Justice Act 1997*
- Administrative responsibility for the Office of the Commissioner for Children.

The responsibility for children with disabilities and services such as children's therapy will remain with the Minister for Human Services as part of the disability portfolio, although these issues will be of interest to both Ministers.

Minister Nick McKim MP is the Minister for Human Services will have primary responsibility for:

- Disability Services
- Family Support Services
- Community Services
- Neighbourhood Houses
- Gambling Support Services
- Screening processes for people who work with vulnerable people
- Sexual Assault Counselling and Support Services

- Family Violence Counselling and Support Services
- Housing Services
- the Housing Innovations Unit
- Homelessness Services
- Issues associated with the *Disability Services Act 1992*.

Cassy O'Connor MP, Secretary to Cabinet, has been given responsibility for these areas on behalf of Minister McKim.

Now that the current reforms in Family Support and Disability Services are well advanced, it is an appropriate time to reintegrate reform functions into Disability, Child, Youth and Family Services.

Human Services has realigned Head Office functions to support these new Ministerial arrangements and to strengthen the corporate functions that underpin service delivery.

Human Services now consists of:

Disability, Child, Youth and Family Services including:

Children and Youth Services – Led by Mark Byrne and responsible for:

- Child Protection
- Out of Home Care
- Adoptions
- Child Health and Parenting Service
- Youth Justice
- Youth at Risk
- Kids Come First
- All issues associated with the *Children Young Persons and their Families Act 1997*, *Youth Justice Act 1997*, and other legislative issues in Child and Youth Services
- Administrative responsibility for the Office of the Commissioner for Children.

Disability and Community Services – Led by Aileen Ashford and responsible for:

- Disability Services
- Gateway Services
- Family Support Services
- Community Services
- Neighbourhood Houses
- Gambling Support Service

- Screening processes for people who work with vulnerable people
- Sexual Assault Counselling and Support Services
- Family Violence Counselling and Support Services
- All issues associated with the *Disability Services Act 1992*.

Housing Tasmania – Led by Mercia Bresnehan and responsible for:

- Housing Services
- Housing Strategy
- Strategic Asset Management
- Community Housing
- Homelessness Services
- Indigenous Housing Services.

Housing Innovations Unit - Led by Bernadette Jago. This unit manages capital projects jointly funded by the Tasmanian and Australian governments.

Corporate Support, Human Services – Led by Gabrielle Peacock and responsible for:

- Communications
- Workforce Professional Development
- Human Resources
- Planning Performance and Evaluation
- Information Management and Data

Finance and Business Support teams for Children and Youth Services Unit and the Disability and Community Services Unit are managed by David Marshall and for Housing Tasmania, it is managed by Rod Fazackerley.

This division of responsibilities allows Head Office functions to be allocated more evenly across senior staff. However, the operations of Disability, Child, Youth and Family Services and Housing Tasmania at Area level remain unchanged.

Area Directors for Disability, Child, Youth and Family Services are:

North	Michael Willie
North West	Mal Phillips
South East	Deb Leisser
South West	Andrea Sturges (from 31 May 2010)

Area Managers for Housing are:

North	Rick Fulton
North West	Christine Collins
South East	Liz Murray
South West	Kim Bomford

We are confident that the new realignment will be a positive step toward supporting and strengthening the services we provide to the Tasmanian community.

Further information is provided in the [Human Services Functional Chart](#) (attached).