

Department of Health and Human Services

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Contact: Dr Susan Diamond
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Subject: Out of Home Care Senate Inquiry

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Senate Committee Inquiry into Out of Home Care.

Over the past decade in Tasmania, there has been significant progress in some elements of service provision for children in Out of Home Care. An increased recognition of the role of trauma, development of therapeutic services specific to children and young people in care, and a growing focus on permanency processes such as transfer of guardianship have all provided positive outcomes for children.

Whilst acknowledging the positive elements of the current system, there are a number of areas which are systemically and operationally creating obstacles to a quality system and are likely contributing to poor outcomes for children in care.

Children and Youth Services have identified that a radical reform of the whole Out of Home Care system is the only option to deliver the level of change required. These reforms, when fully implemented, will ensure a responsive and robust Out of Home Care service system that has the capacity to meet the needs of children, is sustainable, is able to demonstrate value and ultimately improves outcomes for children, young people and their families.

I am very pleased to submit a copy of our recently released paper Out of Home Care Reform in Tasmania. This document outlines the current issues in Out of Home Care in Tasmania and presents an implementation plan for the reform of the system to an evidence-informed, needs-based, strategic response to the needs of children who cannot live with their families.

I hope that this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Tony Kemp
Deputy Secretary
encl: Out of Home Care Reform in Tasmania

8/8/14

cc: Department of Premier and Cabinet, Tasmania