

# Implementation Plan and Progress Report

Expert Panel advice and recommendations on the essential therapeutic elements required for an improved service system response for Tasmanian children and young people with highly complex needs

December 2021

# Acknowledgement

The Tasmanian Government would like to thank and acknowledge the work of the Independent Chair, Tasmanian Commissioner for Children and Young People, Ms Leanne McLean, and members of the Expert Panel:

- Ms Dianne Baldock;
- Ms Raylene Foster;
- Professor Maria Harries AM;
- Ms Claire Lovell;
- Professor Brett McDermott;
- Ms Janise Mitchell; and
- Ms Trudy Pearce.

The Tasmanian Government also wishes to acknowledge and thank all stakeholders, including the children and young people with care experience, who provided information that assisted the Expert Panel in formulating their advice and writing their report.

# Acknowledgement of Tasmanian Aboriginal People

The Tasmanian Government acknowledges and pays respect to the Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the traditional and original owners and continuing custodians of this land. We acknowledge elders, past, present and emerging.

# Seeking Help

If you have concerns for the safety or wellbeing of a child, call the Strong Families Safe Kids Advice and Referral Line on **1800 000 123**.

If a child is at immediate risk and Police or medical assistance is required, call **000**.

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# Background

In October 2020, the Department of Communities Tasmania (Communities Tasmania), Children, Youth and Families (CYF) undertook an [Investigative Review](#) in response to allegations for the safety and wellbeing of young people participating in the Many Colours I Direction (MCID) Therapeutic Residential Placement Program.

The Investigative Review made four recommendations. One of the four recommendations was that the former Minister for Human Services, the Hon Roger Jaensch MP, establish an Expert Panel (the Panel).

In January 2021, the Panel was established and comprised of individuals who have extensive experience working with children, young people and their families. Collectively, the Panel has expertise in key areas relating to child and adolescent development, psychology research, child rights, out of home care statutory service provision, education, trauma and abuse. An Independent Chair was appointed to support the Panel.

For more information, please refer to the [Expert Panel's Terms of Reference](#) for appointments of Panel members and the Independent Chair.

## Expert Panel Final Report

On 27 July 2021, the Panel provided its Final Report to the Minister for Children and Youth, the Hon Sarah Courtney MP. The report outlines four recommendations to the Tasmanian Government:

1. Develop a whole-of-government approach to promote and drive systemic change;
2. Develop the Tasmanian Out of Home Care system to improve its efficacy and increase and enhance placement options for children and young people;
3. Transition away from the utilisation of MCID and commit to robust, inclusive and collaborative decision making in relation to interstate residential placements of young people throughout transition; and
4. Adopt a whole-of-government focus on implementation and investment.

The Expert Panel Final Report represents a significant step forward in the Tasmanian Government's commitment to establishing programs for young people with exceptional and complex needs in Tasmania.

The Tasmanian Government has accepted all recommendations made in the report, including transitioning away from the use of MCID.

The Panel also acknowledged that MCID has many strengths in education, healthy lifestyle, pro-social activities, engagement, individualised assessment, care arrangement and geographic barriers and that these should be incorporated in new programs.

The Panel's recommendations were designed to complement the significant activity underway in Tasmania and sit alongside the [Strong Families Safe Kids: Next Steps Action Plan 2021-2023](#) (Strong Families Safe Kids: Next Steps), the [Tasmanian Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy](#) and the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service reforms.

The Panel's recommendations also support the Tasmanian Government's ongoing commitment to work closely with Tasmanian Aboriginal communities to see better outcomes and more opportunities for Tasmanian Aboriginal children, young people and their families. The recommendations align with key commitments and actions under the [Closing the Gap Tasmanian Implementation Plan 2021-23](#).

In March 2021, the Tasmanian Government committed \$500,000 to begin the immediate implementation of the Panel's recommendations.

The Panel has identified three areas of focus for the immediate \$500,000 funding made available by the Tasmanian Government including:

- Adopting a therapeutic model of family-based care;
- Procuring the delivery of new programs that incorporate positive elements of MCID and other essential evidence-based principles; and
- Establishing a cross-sectoral oversight group to monitor implementation of recommendations.

For more information, please refer to the [Expert Panel's Final Report](#).

## Purpose

The purpose of this document is to outline the Tasmanian Government's response to the recommendations outlined in the Expert Panel Final Report, as well as highlighting the current actions that have commenced and/or have been committed to that align with the Panel's recommendations.

## Governance

Recommendation 4.1 in the Expert Panel's Final Report was to *"Establish a cross-sectoral oversight group to monitor the implementation of the above recommendations, including the establishment of feedback loops, evaluation and action-based research running throughout the implementation phase"*.

The Minister for Children and Youth has established a Cross-Sectoral Oversight Group – Expert Panel Recommendations (Cross-Sectoral Oversight Group).

The Government's internal governance framework relating to the Expert Panel's Final Report recommendations sits within the Cabinet Sub-Committee relating to Children, Young People, Families Safety and Wellbeing.

## Functions

The Cross-Sectoral Oversight Group will:

- ensure accountability in implementing the Panel's recommendations; and
- ensure a coordinated and consistent whole-of-government approach to supporting vulnerable children and young people in Tasmania.

## Membership

The membership of the Cross-Sectoral Oversight Committee comprises of:

- Ms Caroline Brown – Families and Children Tasmania (FACT), Chairperson
- Ms Janise Mitchell – Australian Childhood Foundation, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
- Ms Raylene Foster – Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, Southern Regional Manager
- Ms Adrienne Picone – Tasmanian Council of Social Service (TasCOSS), Chief Executive Officer
- Ms Dianne Baldock – Circular Head Aboriginal Corporation, Chief Executive Officer
- Professor Brett McDermott – Child and Adolescent Mental Health, Statewide Specialty Director
- Ms Trudy Pearce – Department of Education, Deputy Secretary – Learning
- Dr Anagha Jayakar, Community/Child Protection Paediatrician, Department of Health

- Ms Mandy Clarke – Department of Communities Tasmania, Deputy Secretary – Children, Youth and Families (Chair of Cross-Sectoral Oversight Group)

Members are appointed by the Minister for Children and Youth and are appointed as individuals with direct experience in delivering a service system response for children and young people with highly complex needs.

New members may be invited at any time under direction of the Minister for Children and Youth.

Membership is on a voluntary basis.

# Implementation Plan

## Recommendation I

Develop a whole-of-government approach to promote and drive systemic change.

### RECOMMENDATION I.1

Implement a whole-of-government approach to investment and reform across the service system, encompassing effective collaboration and common language and practice across all services and support systems for responding to the complex needs of children, young people and families who have been identified as under-resourced and vulnerable to poor outcomes. This will require the establishment and/or capitalisation of cross-sectoral partnerships and decision making wherever possible to maximise shared responsibilities amongst providers and communities.

Action	Lead Agency Partner Agency	Description	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Develop a Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy  <i>Action 1 - Strong Families Safe Kids: Next Steps Action Plan 2021-2023</i>	Whole of Government	<i>It Takes a Tasmanian Village</i> is Tasmania's first ever comprehensive, long-term whole-of-government Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy which comprises of 65 initiatives including eight strategic policy actions that will enable Government and the community sector to work better together to improve the wellbeing outcomes for Tasmanian children and young people	✓			
Develop and implement "Sure Start" Framework  <i>Action 9 - Tasmanian Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy</i>	Communities Tasmania	The Sure Start Framework will ensure vulnerable children and young people in Out of Home Care (OoHC) have priority access to services they need to achieve better health, education and wellbeing outcomes. It will include a Learning Wellbeing Fund for children and young people in OoHC as well as a framework to	✓	✓	✓	✓

Action	Lead Agency Partner Agency	Description	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
		improve co-ordination across government services for children and young people in OoHC.				
Identify and implement strategies and associated agreements/partnerships to improve cross-agency and cross-sectoral collaboration and integration	Communities Tasmania Education Health	Establish a cross-agency governance framework that ensures alignment of all actions and initiatives each Department is progressing that has relevance to children and young people.	✓			

### Status Update:

- On 22 August 2021, the Tasmanian Government launched 'It Takes a Tasmanian Village', Tasmania's first comprehensive long term and whole-of-government Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy for 0–25-year-olds.
- Terms of Reference to establish a cross-agency governance framework is under development.
- Development of the Sure Start Framework has commenced.
- The Department of Education has established an internal Cross Agency Oversight Committee to strengthen alignment and support cross agency initiatives related to child and student wellbeing.

## RECOMMENDATION 1.2

Lead a cross-partisan commitment to invest in the first 1,000 days of children's lives and support vulnerable children and families, increase universal support services for parents and fund a community wide awareness raising campaign.

Action	Lead Agency Partner Agency	Description	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Implement the Bringing Baby Home Program <i>Action 1 - Tasmanian Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy</i>	Communities Tasmania	The Bringing Baby Home initiative provides pre and post birth support for parents who have been assessed by the Child Safety Service as being at imminent risk of having their infant removed and placed in care. It will include a 24/7 supported residential program post birth.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Implement the Child Health and Parenting Service (CHAPS) Sustained Nurse Home Visiting Program <i>Action 2 - Tasmanian Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy</i>	Health Communities Tasmania Education	The CHAPS Sustained Nurse Home Visiting Program will provide targeted home visits to families who are identified as having complex needs and would benefit from additional child health support in the first 1,000 days.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Deliver supported playgroups and parent groups for vulnerable parents <i>Action 3 - Tasmanian Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy</i>	Communities Tasmania	The action will provide support for families in the first 1000 days by developing and implementing volunteer supported playgroups as well as providing additional parent groups in areas of need.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Identify preferred universal parenting programs <i>Action 5 - Tasmanian Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy</i>	Health Communities Tasmania Education	This initiative will review current parent programs with the intent of determining best practice parenting program/s that could operate universally.	✓	✓	✓	

Action	Lead Agency Partner Agency	Description	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Support Expecting and Parenting Teens Program <i>Action 6 - Tasmanian Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy</i>	Communities Tasmania	This initiative will provide mentoring, information and resources to assist participants in the Support Expecting and Parenting Teens Program to navigate the complex landscape of service providers and ensure access to services that are right for them.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Develop a Child Wellbeing Model in Child and Family Learning Centres (CFLCs) <i>Action 31 - Tasmanian Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy</i>	Education with Health	This initiative will replicate the Support and Wellbeing team model currently in government schools into Child and Family Learning Centres. This will enhance developmental, and wellbeing supports for vulnerable children in CFLCs through working with speech pathologists, school psychologists and social workers where appropriate.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Extend the Connected Beginnings Program <i>Action 54 - Tasmanian Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy</i>	Communities Tasmania	Connected Beginnings helps Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children prepare for school and contributes to objectives under Closing the Gap. The program has been running in the Bridgewater/Gagebrook areas. This action will extend this initiative to two more Tasmanian sites.	✓	✓	✓	

## Status Update

- The Bringing Baby Home Program has commenced.
- Actions 2, 3 and 5 in the Tasmanian Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy have commenced with discussions occurring between the Departments of Communities Tasmania and Health.
- Development of a Child Wellbeing Model in CFLCs to commence in January 2022.

### RECOMMENDATION I.3

Review legislation influencing the safety and wellbeing of children and young people to ensure shared accountabilities and responsibility.

Action	Lead Agency Partner Agency	Description	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Undertake a comprehensive review the <i>Children, Young Persons and their Families Act 1997</i>  <i>Action 2 - Strong Families Safe Kids: Next Steps Action Plan 2021-2023</i>	Communities Tasmania	The review provides the opportunity to update Tasmania's legislative base to align to Tasmania's changing approach to child safety and wellbeing including shared accountabilities and responsibilities. Recommendation 2.4.3 will be examined as part of the legislative review process.	✓	✓		

### Status Update

Communities Tasmania has commenced a review of the *Children, Young Persons and their Families Act 1997*. Stakeholder consultation will commence in the 2021-22 financial year.

## RECOMMENDATION I.4

Develop a more integrated system response across the whole-of-government and non-government sectors in responding to children and young people who have complex needs as these children and young people most often require tailored responses across multiple service systems. The focus must be on ensuring timely access to physical and mental health services for this vulnerable cohort, with an improved emphasis on the overall physical and mental health of children and young people with complex needs.

## RECOMMENDATION I.5

Expressly prioritise funding and implementation of recommendations made in the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Review (2020). This will support integrated and collaborative provision of service to this cohort and enable steps to be taken to assess and intervene as early in a child's life as possible.

Action	Lead Agency Partner Agency	Description	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Development of Tasmania's Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy <i>Action 26 - Tasmanian Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy</i>	Health	This action will be undertaken as part of the implementation of Rethink 2020 – Tasmania's new mental health plan. Under this plan, all of Tasmania's Suicide Prevention Strategies will be updated, including the first Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy. Updates to the Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy will be informed by a community consultation process.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Develop and deliver Kids Care Clinics <i>Action 30 - Tasmanian Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy</i>	Communities Tasmania Education Health	This action will establish a Kids Care Clinic model co-designed by Departments of Communities Tasmania, Education and Health for vulnerable children and young people. These clinics will ensure the health of vulnerable children and young people through the delivery of sustainable state-wide community paediatrics service.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fully implement the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Review	Health	In 2020, a review of CAMHS in Tasmania occurred and was released. The Tasmanian Government has accepted the report and committed to reforming the service in Tasmania.	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Status Update

- Child and Adolescent Mental Health reforms have commenced with the successful recruitment of:
  - Statewide Speciality Director of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services; and
  - Two senior project officers who have commenced core work associated with coordinated new service streams associated with Out of Home Care and Youth Early Intervention Services.

### RECOMMENDATION 1.6

Ensure all service providers working with children, young people and their families are using the Child and Youth Wellbeing Framework to assist in identifying areas where a highly vulnerable child may need additional assistance as early as possible in the child's life, or as early as possible when problems first emerge for the family. This will enable the alignment of Physical and Mental Health Assessments with the six domains of wellbeing in the Child and Youth Wellbeing Framework.

Action	Lead Agency Partner Agency	Description	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Embed the Child and Youth Wellbeing Framework across key children, youth and family support sectors  <i>Action 7 - Strong Families Safe Kids: Next Steps Action Plan 2021-2023</i>	Communities Tasmania Education	Tasmania's Child and Youth Wellbeing Framework aims to ensure that everyone, in all parts of Tasmania's service system, as well as in the broader community, has a strong, common understanding of child and youth wellbeing.	✓	✓	✓	
Develop and deliver professional learning, education and training regarding the Child and Youth Wellbeing Assessment Tool  <i>Action 8 - Strong Families Safe Kids: Next Steps Action Plan 2021-2023</i>	Communities Tasmania Education	This action supports further education and training regarding the purpose and application of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Assessment Tool to relevant government and non-government agencies and will include scoping an interactive online version of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Assessment Tool.	✓	✓	✓	

## Status Update

- Embedding the Child and Youth Wellbeing Framework in the Integrated Family Support Services is scheduled to commence in the 2021-22 financial year.
- Development work to implement the Child and Youth Wellbeing Assessment Tool and associated training program has commenced.

### RECOMMENDATION 1.7

Support the Tasmanian education system to develop an aligned overarching framework that identifies and supports education provision and emotional wellbeing interventions for all children and young people with increasingly more complex and severe presentations.

Action	Lead Agency Partner Agency	Description	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Professional Development for Teachers and Teacher Aides in Trauma Informed Practice <i>Action 39 - Tasmanian Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy</i>	Education	This initiative will enable teachers and teacher aides to undertake professional development in trauma-informed practice. The professional development resources will provide staff with the knowledge and skills to adapt teaching practices to support the learning of young people impacted by mental health issues and trauma.	✓	✓		
Increase the availability of Trauma Support to Students <i>Action 42 - Tasmanian Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy</i>	Education	This action will provide funding to help meet the growing demand for student trauma support. It will provide additional support for individual students impacted by trauma across Tasmanian Government schools.	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Status Update

- The Department of Education (DoE) is exploring an overarching framework and tiered approach to interventions and supports for student engagement.
- To supporting students impacted by trauma (Action 42 - Tasmanian Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy) the Department of Education:
  - continues to implement the Model for Supporting Students Impacted by Trauma. The Model is a multi-tiered approach, which identifies, and addresses need at a universal, whole-of-school and individual student level;
  - is analysing student data to identify the next cohort of schools to receive targeted trauma support in 2022; and
  - is progressing work to deliver the universal professional learning resources.

## Recommendation 2

Develop the Tasmanian Out of Home Care system to improve its efficacy and increase and enhance placement options for children and young people.

### RECOMMENDATION 2.1

Develop the OoHC system to incorporate:

- 2.1.1 family finding at the point a child or young person enters care in order to enhance the care planning process, and prioritise the development of relationships as a primary influencer of placement stability
- 2.1.2 therapeutic services that support and follow every child and young person in statutory care; and
- 2.1.3 a protocol between the Department of Communities Tasmania and the Department of Education prescribing that every child and young person residing in OoHC (particularly residential care) has an education needs assessment that is trauma informed and informs that child/young person's education plan.

### RECOMMENDATION 2.2

Adopt a therapeutic model of family-based care where children and young people, and carers receive specific supports and interventions to support placement stability.

Action	Lead Agency Partner Agency	Description	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Permanent Placement and Preservation in Out of Home Care (OoHC)  <i>Action 7 - Tasmanian Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy</i>	Communities Tasmania	This initiative will ensure children do not experience delays in finding permanent family arrangements when they cannot return home. It will provide intensive, rapid support to families who provide these placements, especially during times of stress (e.g. adolescence). Children and young people in OoHC will be assisted to overcome the challenges in their lives, remain permanently with families and reach their full potential.	✓	✓	✓	✓

Action	Lead Agency Partner Agency	Description	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Develop and implement an Out of Home Care Therapeutic Practice Framework  <i>Action 28 - Strong Families Safe Kids: Next Steps Action Plan 2021-2023</i>	Communities Tasmania	The development and implementation of an Out of Home Care Therapeutic Practice Framework to ensure responses to children and young people's trauma-based behaviours are effective and evidence based. The Out of Home Care Therapeutic Practice Framework will be applicable to all organisations delivering out of home care services.	✓	✓	✓	
Establish a Family Finding Service within Children, Youth and Families	Communities Tasmania	This initiative will ensure at the point a child or young person enters care they do not experience delays in finding permanent family arrangements when they cannot return home.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Identify and implement strategies for children in care that ensures education needs assessments occur, are trauma informed and informs that child/young person's education plan.  <i>Action 10 - Strong Families Safe Kids: Next Steps Action Plan 2021-2023</i>	Education Communities Tasmania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a protocol between the Department of Education and Communities prescribing that every child and young person residing in OoHC (particularly residential care) has an education needs assessment that is trauma informed and informs that child/young person's education plan; and</li> <li>• Undertake a comprehensive review of the Transition to Independence Program to ensure it appropriately meets the needs of young people residing in OoHC.</li> </ul>	✓	✓		
Identify and adopt therapeutic model of family based care to ensure interventions support placement stability	Communities Tasmania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and implement strategies that improve stability for children and young people in care by delivering additional supports during critical and stressful periods, such as adolescence.</li> </ul>	✓	✓	✓	✓

Action	Lead Agency Partner Agency	Description	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a shared care hybrid model of care to support the young people transitioning back to Tasmania from MCID.</li> </ul>				

### Status Update

- Communities Tasmania have commenced scoping a Family Finding Service within Children, Youth and Families.
- The Out of Home Care Therapeutic Practice Framework includes, but is not limited to, Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI). Training of Child Safety staff on TBRI has commenced.
- The Departments of Education and Communities Tasmania have commenced the development of a Memorandum of Understanding.

### RECOMMENDATION 2.3

Procure the delivery of new programs that incorporate the positive elements of MCID and the essential evidence-based principles identified in the [Centre For Excellence in Therapeutic Care - Practice Guide Essential Elements of Intensive Therapeutic Care](#) to allow individuals to build their capacity or pathways. The programs should also incorporate the following:

- 2.3.1 enable cultural connection, including the concept of being 'On Country';
- 2.3.2 include respite and mentoring;
- 2.3.3 have the capacity to have short to medium term residential placement options embedded (as required);
- 2.3.4 embed flexible education models linked to the Australian Curriculum and vocational pathways for young people who are not best suited by re-engagement in mainstream education settings; and
- 2.3.5 be delivered by a number of entities and in a range of locations in order to avoid the stigmatisation of children and young people who access the program, as well as their families and communities and the organisation and the people who deliver them.



## RECOMMENDATION 2.4

Embed the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle (ATSCPP) across Government ensuring:

- 2.4.1 all new care plans for Aboriginal children and young people are developed in consultation with a person from the kinship group, Aboriginal community or organisation representing the Aboriginal people nominated by the young person and/or their family;
- 2.4.2 no new placements, or placement transitions should be initiated for Aboriginal children or young people without the involvement of their nominated representative; and
- 2.4.3 statutory obligation for the ATSCPP and 'recognised body' are implemented.

## RECOMMENDATION 2.5

Effective immediately for children and young people identifying as Aboriginal, the following should not occur without consultation and input with the relevant and identified Aboriginal organisation:

- 2.5.1 further placements to MCID;
- 2.5.2 any other residential care placement; and
- 2.5.3 any other significant decisions about a child or young person's care.

## RECOMMENDATION 2.6

Invest in genuine partnerships with the Aboriginal community to build capacity towards Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations provision of OoHC and to further support self-determination.

Action	Lead Agency Partner Agency	Description	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Aboriginal Family Group Conference Facilitators  <i>Action 56 - Tasmanian Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy</i>	Communities Tasmania	Development of an Aboriginal Family Decision Making Program which will identify planning and decision making for the protection of Aboriginal children and young people through family-led, culturally safe practices when protective concerns have been substantiated. This action will see the Department of Communities Tasmania work with Aboriginal Community	✓	✓		

Action	Lead Agency Partner Agency	Description	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
		Organisations to progress implementation of a Family Group Conferencing model appropriate for Aboriginal children and young people.				
Development of an Aboriginal led Case Management Model for Out of Home Care  <i>Action 57 - Tasmanian Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy</i>	Communities Tasmania	The Department of Communities Tasmania work in partnership with Aboriginal Community Organisations to develop an aboriginal-led case management service model for Aboriginal children in Out of Home Care.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Development of Responding to Aboriginal Children Practice Advice	Communities Tasmania	The Responding to Aboriginal Children Practice Advice will be developed with Aboriginal Community organisations and outline the required practice for Aboriginal children. The Advice will ensure full compliance with Recommendation 2.5.	✓			

## Recommendation 3

Transition away from the utilisation of MCID and commit to robust, inclusive and collaborative decision making in relation to interstate residential placements of young people throughout the transition.

### RECOMMENDATION 3.1

In the event of an interstate placement, Children, Youth and Families establish referral governance arrangements for any new referrals to interstate residential placements, including MCID in the interim ensuring they are considered by a panel which includes:

- the young person and their advocate;
- the child's family and their advocates;
- representative from a Tasmanian Aboriginal community (as appropriate);
- representative from the Australian Childhood Foundation;
- Child Safety practitioners;
- Director of Children and Family Services;
- Statewide Director of Child and Adolescent Mental Health; and
- Tasmanian Child Advocate.

### RECOMMENDATION 3.2

A plan which embeds cultural and educational needs and strategies is developed for each young person outlining agreed goals for each domain of wellbeing, actions, key people responsible and agreed timeframes for achieving those goals, including:

- 3.2.1 a placement and service plan aligned with agreed case goals including a transition back to Tasmania or to family in the given state within a specified timeframe;
- 3.2.2 arrangements for keeping the young person connected to their community and their family in Tasmania for the duration of their placement at MCID or any other interstate residential program;
- 3.2.3 arrangements for assisting the young person's family/community and services in Tasmania (or relevant state) to be able to best support the young person throughout their transition and after their return home; and
- 3.2.4 provisions for active monitoring overseen by an advisory group and that the Tasmanian Commissioner for Children and Young People be consulted.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead Agency Partner Agency</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>
Establish Referral Governance process relating to interstate placements	Communities Tasmania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In each of the three regions establish a panel to consider requests for any new referrals to interstate residential placements, including MCID until such time as governance arrangements are established.</li> <li>Develop terms of reference for referral governance processes that will oversee requests for interstate placements.</li> </ul>	✓			
Develop a transition plan for each of the young people at MCID, with specific focus on connection to community, education and support to the young person and their family during transition.	Communities Tasmania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Through use of current Care Teams develop individualised transition plans for each of the young people residing at MCID.</li> <li>A detailed Care Plan should be developed which focuses on education, connection to community and family, as well as support needs of the young person to ensure a successful transition.</li> </ul>	✓			
Ensure appropriate consultation with the Commissioner for Children and Young People	Communities Tasmania	Provision of regular systemic data regarding MCID, and any other interstate placements provided to the Commissioner for Children and Young People.	✓	✓	✓	✓

### **Status Update**

- A representative from the Department of Education has been included on the panel in Recommendation 3.1.
- Communities Tasmania have established guidelines in all three regions relating to all new referrals for interstate residential placement requests in accordance with Recommendation 3.1.
- Transition plans for each of the young people residing at MCID have been developed and actioned by the young people and their Care Teams
- The service agreement between the Department of Communities and MCID has now concluded.
- Regular systemic data reports are currently provided to the Commissioner for Children and Young People.

## Recommendation 4

Adopt a whole-of-government focus on implementation and investment.

### RECOMMENDATION 4.1

Establish a cross-sectoral oversight group to monitor the implementation of the above recommendations, including the establishment of feedback loops, evaluation and action-based research running throughout the implementation phase.

### RECOMMENDATION 4.2

Commit to increased and sustained whole-of-government investment to ensure the timely implementation of recommendations.

### RECOMMENDATION 4.3

That Recommendations 2.2, 2.3 and 4.1 are immediately prioritised, noting that an initial \$500,000 has been set aside by the Tasmanian Government to begin the immediate implementation of these recommendations.

Action	Lead Agency Partner Agency	Description	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Establish a Cross-Sectoral Oversight Group to monitor the implementation of recommendations	Communities Tasmania Education Health	A governance framework will be established to ensure oversight of the implementation of all recommendations. This group will meet regularly, and membership will include cross agency and community representation.	✓			
Allocate funding from the \$500,000 to commence the implementation of Recommendations 2.2, 2.3 and 4.1	Communities Tasmania Education Health	Identify and commence specific actions that align with identified priority recommendations including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adopting a therapeutic model of family-based care;</li> <li>Procuring the delivery of new programs that incorporate positive elements of MCID and other essential evidence based principles; and</li> <li>Establishing a cross-sectoral oversight group to monitor implementation of recommendations.</li> </ul>	✓	✓	✓	✓

Action	Lead Agency Partner Agency	Description	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Implement Priority Reforms to achieve key target outcomes in the Tasmanian Implementation Plan to Closing the Gap 2021-2023	Whole of Government (lead agency varies dependent on action)	The Tasmanian Government will work in partnership with Aboriginal Community Organisations to reduce the overrepresentation of Aboriginal children and young people living in Out of Home Care. As well as supporting Aboriginal families involved in the statutory system to remain connected to culture and community and transfer of services and resources to Aboriginal Community Organisations to play a key role in their support and care.	✓	✓	✓	

## Status Update

- In September 2021, the Minister for Children and Youth, the Hon Sarah Courtney MP, established the Cross-Sectoral Oversight Group to ensure accountability in implementing the Panel's recommendations and ensure a coordinated and consistent whole-of-government approach to supporting vulnerable children and young people in Tasmania.
- In 2021 the Tasmanian Government released the Tasmania Implementation Plan to Closing the Gap 2021-2023. There are four priority reforms with 17 outcomes. Important links toward reaching outcomes in both the Closing the Gap Implementation Plan and the Expert Panel Recommendations Implementation Plan have been drawn to ensure a consistent approach in reaching targets occurs.

## Action summary tables

The Tables below summarise the identified actions from Tasmanian Government strategies that align with the Panel's recommendations.

### ***Strong Families Safe Kids: Next Steps Action Plan 2021-2023 actions***

1	Develop a Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy
2	Undertake a comprehensive review the <i>Children, Young Persons and their Families Act 1997</i>
7	Embed the Child and Youth Wellbeing Framework across key children, youth and family support sectors
8	Develop and deliver professional learning, education and training regarding the Child and Youth Wellbeing Assessment Tool
10	Continue to build collaborative cross-agency working relationships to facilitate improved outcomes for children, young people and their families
28	Develop and implement an Out of Home Care Therapeutic Practice Framework

### ***It Takes a Tasmanian Village: Tasmanian Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy actions***

1	Implement the Bringing Baby Home Program
2	Implement the Child Health and Parenting Service (CHAPS) Sustained Nurse Home Visiting Program
3	Deliver supported playgroups and parent groups for vulnerable parents
5	Identify preferred universal parenting programs
6	Support Expecting and Parenting Teens Program
7	Permanent Placement and Preservation in Out of Home Care
9	Develop and implement "Sure Start" Framework
26	Development of Tasmania's Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy
30	Develop and deliver Kids Care Clinics
31	Develop a Child Wellbeing Model in Child and Family Learning Centres
39	Professional Development for Teachers and Teacher Aides in Trauma Informed Practice
42	Trauma Support for More Students
53	Identify therapeutic programs that have the capacity to enable cultural connection
54	Extension of Connected Beginnings
56	Aboriginal Family Group Conference Facilitators
57	Development of an Aboriginal led Case Management Model for Out of Home Care

## **New actions to respond to MCID Expert Panel Final Report Recommendations**

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- Identify and implement strategies and associated agreements/partnerships to improve cross-agency and cross-sectoral collaboration and integration (Recommendation 1.1)
  - Fully implement the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Review (Recommendations 1.4 and 1.5)
  - Establish a Family Finding Service within Children, Youth and Families (Recommendations 2.1 and 2.2)
  - Identify and implement strategies for children in care that ensures education needs assessments occur, are trauma informed and informs that child/young person's education plan (Recommendations 2.1 and 2.2)
  - Identify and adopt therapeutic model of family based care to ensure interventions support placement stability (Recommendations 2.1 and 2.2)
  - Procure the delivery of new programs to support young people to build their capacity or pathways (Recommendation 2.3)
  - Development of Responding to Aboriginal Children Practice Advice (Recommendations 2.4, 2.5 and 2.6)
  - Establish Referral Governance process relating to interstate placements (Recommendation 3)
  - Develop a transition plan for each of the young people at MCID, with specific focus on connection to community, education and support to the young person and their family during transition (Recommendation 3)
  - Ensure appropriate consultation with the Commissioner for Children and Young People (Recommendation 3)
  - Establish a Cross-Sectoral Oversight Group to monitor the implementation of recommendations (Recommendation 4)
  - Allocate funding from the \$500,000 to commence the implementation of Recommendations 2.2, 2.3 and 4.1 (Recommendation 4)
  - Implement Priority Reforms to achieve key target outcomes in the Tasmanian Implementation Plan to Closing the Gap 2021-2023 (Recommendation 4)
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