

DECEMBER UPDATE

From Families and Children Tasmania (FACT)

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On behalf of FACT we would like to thank the Department of Communities and Sonya Enkelmann for facilitating round table discussions with our FACT Members in both Hobart and Launceston on the release of the discussion paper titled: A Future Program for Family Based Care and Outcomes Framework for Children and



Department of Communities Tasmania
Tasmanian Government
Young People in Out of Home Care. We trust that the feedback provided from our members during these discussions will add to the ongoing conversation.



Out and About

Festive Greetings from your Peak Body for Families and Children in Tasmania.



The Tasmanian Commissioner for Children Leanne McLean and Geraldine Ellis-Maguire.

Firstly a huge thank you to all of our members, Minister Jaensch, Minister Petrusma, and Departmental staff from Communities, Education, Police, Health and Justice, for supporting FACT throughout 2018. It has been a pleasure to serve as the Executive Officer and to witness such wonderful collaboration throughout the sector. The wellbeing of families and their children is always at the forefront of everything you do, and your willing involvement has made my transition from the corporate world into this sector highly enjoyable, educational, and so worthwhile.

In December, the new Children's Advice Referral Service was launched. We are very thankful to Gail Eaton-Briggs who had agreed to provide us with an update at our Christmas event. Unfortunately due to last minute commitments by a number of the FACT Board Members, we will now organise an event in early 2019. We look forward to welcoming Gail so that you can all be provided with an update.

On the 7th December, many FACT Members took part in the Kindness Rally that was organised by Equal Opportunity Tasmania. The Kindness Rally was held as part of Human Rights Week, with the aim of working towards making Tasmania a kind and caring state. It has been pleasing to hear Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern of New Zealand highlighting kindness, compassion and empathy, as showing strength not weakness. It is a reminder to us all of what we can achieve as Tasmanian's, if we are all working towards being kind through acts of friendliness, generosity and consideration.

It was a pleasure to meet with our new Children's Commissioner in Tasmania, Leanne McLean. It was only her fourth day on the job, however Leanne's enthusiasm and commitment to children and young people is very evident. On behalf of FACT and our members, we congratulate Leanne on her appointment and we look forward to working closely with the office of the Commissioner for Children and Young People in Tasmania, in the new year.

In December, FACT made a budget submission to the Department of Treasury for 2019/2020. Presently we are the only non funded Peak within the Peaks Network and we will be keeping our fingers crossed that our submission is successful. We received a large number of "letters of support" from our members and we thank you for taking the time to complete these. You can read the FACT Budget submission, which highlights our achievements over the last twelve months, as well as our recommendations, key issues and links to government priorities [here](#).

In closing, on behalf of FACT, we would like to wish you a joyous festive season and a prosperous, safe and kind 2019. For further information on any of our news items please email geraldine@fact.asn.au.