



**FAMILIES & CHILDREN
TASMANIA**

Issue 2, 2021

Report from the Chair

It has been a busy couple of months at FACT with the Board being active in the advocacy space. We have organized several forums on Safe Families Safe Kids and the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy. A budget submission for FACT to receive a minimal amount of funding to support our activities has been submitted to Treasury.

Since the election was announced FACT has been working with TASCOS on the development of a sector wide election priorities and you can read about those [here](#). FACT has also prepared a budget statement for the election. A summary of this statement is as follows:

FACT support the Tasmanian Community Services Industry Joint Statement of 2021 State Election Priorities and knows that the Community and Social Services industry is critical to the wellbeing of Tasmanians and therefore our economy.

FACT particularly supports the implementation of a minimum five-year funding models for Tasmanian community service organisations which support transparent, adaptable, community led and place-based solutions and service delivery to enable the organisations to deliver their services on a safe and stable footing.

FACT urges political parties to consider the development of a robust model for the commissioning of services that places Government and Departments in their proper role of governance and oversight and removes the conflict of interests that currently exist with Government being both a provider and competitor of the not-for-profit sector.

FACT calls upon all political parties and representatives to consider the needs of children, young people and their families when developing policy positions.

FACT calls for political parties to adopt policies that ensure:

- Families have a place to call home and that no child is homeless.
- Tasmania’s vulnerable children are cared for in Tasmania and not sent interstate for treatment or support.
- Children living in Out of Home Care have their health needs, including mental health, prioritised.
- Families have the support that they need to care for their children.
- Kinship carers have access to the same support and resources as foster carers.

Thank you to all our members for your support!



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SECTOR UPDATES

STRONG FAMILIES SAFE KIDS UPDATE

In 2016, Children, Youth and Families commenced the [Strong Families Safe Kids Implementation Plan 2016-2020](#), an ambitious long term system reform agenda.

The Department of Communities has now released the [Strong Families Safe Kids: Next Steps Action Plan 2021-2023 \(Strong Families Safe Kids: Next Steps\)](#) which continues the journey of changing the way government and non-government services work together to shift the curve and improve the wellbeing outcomes for all Tasmanian children through a public health approach.

Strong Families Safe Kids: Next Steps will deliver 34 actions under five key priority areas of the reform agenda:

1. Child safety and wellbeing is everyone's business
2. Building a common understanding of safety and wellbeing
3. Managing the front door
4. Providing better support for children and their families, and Redesigning the Child Safety Service.

Mission Australia's Youth Survey 2021 is open until 9th August to all young people aged 15-19 years-old who are living in Australia. To take part in the survey, visit www.missionaustralia.com.au/youthsurvey. Share the word using #YouthSurvey2021

You can view the sub-report from the 2020 survey relating to economic disadvantage for Young People here: [Youth survey | Mission Australia](#)

Update on the Australian Child Maltreatment Study 2019-23

You would recall that Professor Ben Matthews joined us early in 2021 for a lunchtime seminar. Please find an update on the ACMS study below:

Launch of survey. We are delighted to advise that the ACMS is on schedule and the main survey fieldwork commenced on Friday 9 April 2021. We anticipate the survey will take around 6 months from April – October 2021. We will interview roughly 10,000 Australians aged 16 and over (through to 65+). We oversample 16-24 year olds to generate particularly strong evidence of the experience of adolescents and young adults.

Nature of the Australian Child Maltreatment Study. As you will recall, the ACMS is the first national study of the prevalence all five forms of child maltreatment in Australia (physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, neglect, and exposure to domestic violence). We ask 20 core screener questions about maltreatment experiences across these five domains to identify prevalence rates (these are Yes/No questions). Through subsequent follow-up questions, we then capture information about the nature of these experiences (e.g., age of onset and cessation; frequency; and who inflicted the maltreatment). For sexual and physical abuse we also assess if the maltreatment was ever disclosed. In addition, we examine other Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), peer bullying and sibling victimisation, and out of home placement.

Date	Primary focus
2021 Jan-Dec	Publications on methodological issues, ethics, and further conceptual models; technical reports and administration manuals (ongoing)
2021 Apr-Nov	(1) Main survey; (2) Ongoing engagement with Advisory Board, including multiple government and non-government stakeholders at national, State and Territory level; (3) Statistical planning; (4) Preparing for knowledge translation (Advisory Board, Expert Panel).
2021 Nov-Dec	Data cleaning; initial descriptive data anticipated early 2022
2022	(1) Data analysis; (2) Publications on maltreatment trends, health outcomes; other selected topics and data needs; (3) Ongoing engagement (Advisory Board, multiple government and non-government stakeholders at national, State and Territory level; and Technical Expert Panel) to consider data needs, implications of ACMS findings for reform, and generation of reform options; (4) Accelerating knowledge translation on ACMS outcomes and reform options.
2023 Continuing	(1) Multiple publications on maltreatment trends, health outcomes, health risk behaviour outcomes, burden of disease, numerous specialised topics and scientific and policy advances; (2) Ongoing engagement with Advisory Board and Expert Panel) on data needs, implications of ACMS findings for reform, and generation of reform options; (3) Knowledge translation; policy briefs; reform submissions; impact focus; further projects.



LUNCHTIME FORUMS

Our lunchtime forums have had a great response with our last forum providing an update on the Child Safety redesign by Noel Fittock, Change Manager for Strong families Safe Kids. Our guest for May will be **Kyree Gaffney, Director of Compliance and Risk at the Department of Justice** who will be joining us to give an overview of recent changes to WWVP checks and to answer any questions. If you have suggested presenters please do let us know fact@fact.asn.au Bring your lunch and hear a great presentation or participate in an invigorating discussion.

Lunchtime Forum Dates 2021

The fourth Wednesday of every month

12:30—1:30 PM

26 May

23 June

28 July

25 August

22 September

27 October

24 November

Who's Who on the FACT Board

The FACT Board continues with consistent membership this year though different folk have different roles.. Feel free to contact any of us at any time

Caroline Brown—Chair

Ruby Frankcombe—Secretary

Geraldine Ellis-Maguire—Treasurer and Public Officer

Noel Mundy—Board Member

Chris Demeyer—Board Member

Ros Atkinson—Board Member

Jurek Stopczynski— Board Member



CURRENT CONSULTATIONS

The following consultations and enquiries are currently open:

National Strategy to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse

Survey on the Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility

Commission of Enquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

CLOSED CONSULTATIONS—AWAITING OUTCOMES

Child Safe Organisations Bill 2020

Child Health and Wellbeing Strategy, 0-25 year olds

Review of Family Support Services

NATIONAL STRATEGY TO PREVENT CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

As you may be aware, the [National Office for Child Safety](#) (the National Office) is leading the development of the [National Strategy to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse](#) (National Strategy), in partnership with Commonwealth agencies, state and territory governments and the non-government sector. The National Strategy (2021-2031) will be Australia's first strategic policy framework to guide a whole-of-nation approach to preventing and responding to child sexual abuse. It will consider child sexual abuse in all settings including institutional, familial, and online.

With the National Strategy scheduled to be launched in late 2021, the National Office is now undertaking final development consultations. They are inviting participation in consultation and are accepting responses up to **COB Friday 7 May 2021**.

The key objective of the final consultations is to better understand how key stakeholders wish to be involved in the design of the scope, implementation and evaluation of individual initiatives under the National Strategy once it is launched. Our hope is that we will continue to work closely with stakeholders on the implementation of initiatives

SURVEY ON THE MINIMUM AGE OF CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

Take part in a survey to inform the Commissioner for Children's advice to the Tasmanian Government on the minimum age of criminal responsibility!

Currently in Tasmania, as in all other Australian jurisdictions, the minimum age of criminal responsibility is set at 10 years. This means that children as young as 10 can be arrested, searched, charged with a criminal offence, remanded in custody, and sentenced to detention.

In 2019, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended countries raise the minimum age to what is described as an internationally acceptable minimum of at least 14 years. There is now a groundswell of support for raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility in Australia, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, the Australian and New Zealand Children's Commissioners and Guardians, and many peak or representative organisations amongst those calling for change.

The Commissioner for Children will be providing advice to the Tasmanian Government on this issue. To help inform the advice the Commissioner is seeking, through an online survey, the views of individuals and organisations with relevant expertise, knowledge, and experience on what raising the minimum age might mean for Tasmania.

To participate in the survey please click here— responses are due by **April 30th**. [Commissioner for Children and Young People \(childcomm.tas.gov.au\)](#)

TRAINING AND EVENTS



FREE WEBINAR: WHAT IS THE SOCIAL MODEL OF DISABILITY AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT IN CHILD MENTAL HEALTH?

Children living with disability are affected by the same factors that influence the mental health and well-being of other children. However, there are additional considerations that can help practitioners and parents separate a child's social and emotional functioning, communication and behaviour from their disability, and better support them.

This webinar will explore the social model of disability, specifically the three additional factors that influence a child's experience of disability – the nature of the condition, its impact on daily activities and its impact on participation.

Drawing on two case studies, this webinar will:

- Identify how disability can positively and negatively influence children's mental health and wellbeing
- Explore how the social model of disability can inform approaches to practice and parenting to better support children's mental health, wellbeing and development
- Emphasise the importance of seeing the 'whole child', not just their disability.

This webinar is of interest to professionals supporting children living with disability, and/or their families, including disability support workers and allied health professionals.

This webinar is co-produced by CFCA and [Emerging Minds](#) (link is external) in a series focusing on children's mental health. They are working together as part of the *Emerging Minds: National Workforce Centre for Child Mental Health*, which is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health under the National Support for Child and Youth Mental Health Program.

To register click here: [What is the social model of disability and why is it important in child mental health? | Child Family Community Australia \(aifs.gov.au\)](#)

SAVE THE DATE: DANIEL MORECOMBE FOUNDATION TASMANIAN FORUM WEDNESDAY 4 AUGUST 2021

In the meantime, check out the great on-line training resources produced by the Daniel Morecombe Foundation by clicking [here](#). It only takes a minute to register!



TRAINING AND EVENTS

Youth Week Tasmania 2021 will be held from **Friday 30 April 2021 to Sunday 9 May 2021**.

The theme for the Youth Week Tasmania 2021 is ***We've Got This!***

There are some great events happening across the state and for a full list please visit: [What's On?](#) | [Youth Network of Tasmania \(ynot.org.au\)](http://Youth Network of Tasmania (ynot.org.au))



dare to lead[™]

Two Day Courageous Leadership Program

When we dare to lead, we don't pretend to have the right answers; we stay curious and ask the right questions. We don't see power as finite and hoard it; we know that power becomes infinite when we share it with others. We don't avoid difficult conversations and situations; we lean into vulnerability when it's necessary to do good work.

Dr Brene Brown's Dare to Lead™ Program is an empirically based courage-building leadership program delivered over two days, designed to give you and your teams a deep understanding of the four skills needed for true courage building, values based leadership, leaning in to vulnerability and how to rumble with difficult conversations for better whole-of-business outcomes.

9am - 5.30pm 13th & 14th May 2021, Grand Chancellor Hotel, Hobart. Tickets are limited, [book now](#) to secure your place.

Price includes 2 full days training + catering, a Dare to Lead™ workbook, certificate of completion and a digital LinkedIn badge to display your Dare to Lead™ credentials to the world.



**SAVE THE DATE: TASMANIAN YOUTH SECTOR SYMPOSIUM 2021:
THURSDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER**





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TASMANIA**

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of FACT is open to family and children's services providers across the State.

To find out how to join email us by
[clicking here](#)

For current members, please note that after more than a 12 month membership holiday membership renewal notices and invoices will be sent shortly.

Membership is \$200 per organisation or \$50 for individuals.

**WE HAVE CHANGED OUR POSTAL ADDRESS! YOU CAN NOW FIND US
HERE:**

**FACT - Families &
Children Tasmania**

PO Box 182

Kingston TAS 7051

[Email](#)