

# FACT UPDATE

## From Families and Children Tasmania (FACT)

### Join the conversation:

Join the FACT online community and be part of the conversation. You can connect with FACT on LinkedIn and Twitter.



## Invitation for FACT Members

### Changing Futures



You are invited to participate in Changing Futures, the Daniel Morcombe Foundation's latest education program, with a focus on harmful sexual behaviours.

Registrations are now open for the Tasmanian focused first webinar in this series.

**Webinar 1:** Identifying and responding to harmful sexual behaviours, **Wednesday 5 August**, 1:00pm - 2:00pm AEST.

Presented By: Renae Pepper, Senior Therapeutic Specialist, Sexual Assault Support Service (SASS).

[Register Here](#)

### Upcoming Webinars

**19 August** - Safety planning with harmful sexual behaviours - Renae Pepper

**16 September** - Prevention and intervention for harmful sexual behaviours - Dr Dale Tolliday OAM

**23 September** - Involving young people in prevention of harmful sexual behaviours - Dr Gemma McKibbin

**12 October** - Harmful sexual behaviours and the brain - Nathan Wallis

**21 October** - Technology and harmful sexual behaviours - Dr Michael Salter

**10 November** - Dealing with disclosures of abuse - Adie Delaney & Laura Davis

**25 November** - Pornography and harmful sexual behaviours - Liz Walker

### ChildWise Safety Training

Child Wise child safety training programs are designed to help you ensure a child safe service delivery.

[Register Here.](#)

## Out and About

The last three months for FACT has been busy as we ensure effective representation of our sector at the Peaks Network meetings as well as maintaining a voice for Tasmania during Australia wide discussions with CAFWAA.

Covid-19 has created a great deal of upheaval for everyone in Australia, however there has also been great innovation, collaboration and creativity displayed as all of us have ensured the continuation of services.

FACT has held regular Board Meetings through Covid-19 lockdown (virtually of course), and we were joined by the Assistant Secretary, Mandy Clarke at our last meeting in early July. It provided all of the FACT Board Members a great opportunity to understand the focus areas for the Department so that we can continue to contribute effectively to the conversation on behalf of all of our members. Mandy highlighted that there have been success stories from Covid-19 such as the use of virtual meetings for care team meetings enabling more frequency and ease of attendance. As a result, Mandy is determined that this is one practice that should remain. Furthermore Mandy confirmed that CYS has assumed all responsibility for its functions including strategy as the department doesn't want to be positioned as only being in a statutory role but instead overseeing care for all children and their families.

Key areas of focus by CYS include: Youth Justice and the reviewing of what a therapeutic juvenile justice system would look like; royal commission recommendations, family based care quality and accountability framework, and child safe standards. Mandy is also seeking improved engagement with non-government providers through more consistency in decision making and contract management.

CYS has appointed Ross Hinkley to head the Child Safety Service Redesign which includes OOHC reform. Noel Fittock continues to focus on the "Next Steps" project to ensure continued action and implementation of recommendations from the SFSK. Mandy also highlighted that Ross will be reviewing business administration practices and financial administration with the view of centralising functions and taking a more customer focused manner when dealing with non-government providers. In closing Mandy highlighted stronger engagement with the aboriginal community which includes justice and OOHC, as well as under 16's unaccompanied children. Tasmania is committed to the national agreement of "closing the gap" that requires improved support of aboriginal communities. On behalf of the FACT Board and our members, we would like to thank Mandy Clarke for taking the time to speak with us and providing such a valuable update.

During Covid-19, FACT welcomed two new Board Members.

Jurek Stopczynski, Regional Leader for Mission Australia, and Ruby Frankcombe, Operations Manager Children and Family at Life Without Barriers. We thank Jurek and Ruby in advance for the great contribution they will make for this sector.

Did you know that FACT, alongside 4,000 community leaders, doctors, researchers and families, as well as 180 organisations, called on Food Forum Ministers to support a red, black and white pregnancy health warning system. The great news is the Ministers supported the initiative and changes to alcohol labelling will take place.

Child Protection Week is fast approaching with this year's dates being the 6th—12th September. You can access posters from NAPCAN by visiting <https://www.napcan.org.au/posters-and-tip-sheets/>. The posters are a great reminder to all of us about the role the community plays in supporting children and their families. It does "take an island to raise a child" particularly as families and children may be struggling to reconnect once more after being isolated during Covid-19.

Ticket to Play—Sports Voucher Program is open for the 2020/2021 Financial Year. This program is available for all children and young people in OOHC as well as other families that meet the criteria. Parents of eligible children can apply for two vouchers worth up to \$100 each towards club membership at approved activity providers. To learn more please visit <https://www.communities.tas.gov.au/ticket-to-play>



FACT says thank you to Mandy Clarke, Deputy Secretary, Child and Youth Services for attending FACT's recent Board Meeting.

# FACT UPDATE

From Families and Children Tasmania (FACT)

## Important Invitation for FACT Members

[Lunchtime Sector Forum via](#)

[MS-Teams](#)



Tuesday 11 August  
12:30 PM



The FACT Board invites all sector members, colleagues and friends to join us for a discussion on the current “hot” issues in the child and family services sector. Currently we are concerned about children and young people who don't have a place to call home. Please join us to explore this and other pressing issues challenging the children and families services sector and contribute to the development of a collective plan for us to work together to solve these problems for the benefit of the children and families we all serve.

An email will be forwarded to your email address inviting you to take part via Microsoft Teams.

If you don't receive an invitation and would like to be included in the discussion, then please email [geraldine@fact.asn.au](mailto:geraldine@fact.asn.au)

### [Upcoming Webinars with AIFS](#)

**12 August** - Getting the language of child mental health right

[Register Here](#)

**26 August** - Words matter: How to use frames effectively to advance child mental health

[Register Here](#)

### [Membership Update](#)

We recognise that community sector organisations have faced challenging times throughout the COVID-19 crisis and as such we have decided as a Board not to issue membership fees for the remainder of 2020. This will be reviewed by the Board prior to the end of the calendar year and in the meantime we continue to advocate for ongoing funding for FACT from the Government including through the budget process.

## Out and About



FACT continues to actively represent our sector at the Peaks Network meetings. Most recently we were asked by TasCOSS for our input on a Parliamentary Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's economic response to COVID. We are pleased to provide you with our response.

What worked well

1. The Essential Technology Fund was of great importance for families to access services and schooling.
2. Stimulus to those experiencing poverty was well received and appears to be having the desired effect on the economy.
3. Housing reform and fast tracking the building of new homes as well as freezing evictions were also well received. This provided at risk families, including recently unemployed families, some time to reassess their positions. It is our belief that this will emerge again as an issue once any freeze comes to an end.

FACT was also asked how can we as an industry be better prepared for a future crises?

1. Access to a flexible funding pool for sanitisation/cleaning/PPE equipment, as well as having a stockpile readily available. The requirement for infrastructure improvements that will enable compliance with physical distancing or other potential requirements as determined by the crisis.
2. Faster access to data IT/phone packages etc. without the need to make requests through the Essential Technology Fund. Whilst the current approach was effective, it could be streamlined further.
3. Review of service design and ensuring mechanisms for participant and family engagement on how things look with remote/online services. This should also include working from home models. It is important to ensure that remote/online services aren't seen as a cost savings mechanism but instead the opportunity to reach a broader audience and provide effective client impact.
4. The requirement for clearer messaging regarding essential and non-essential services and the impact this can have on service delivery. A number of organisations in our sector who have similar contracts, held very different interpretations. This needs to be addressed through clearer communications at different stages of restrictions.
5. The opportunity to move towards Government and Sector combined pandemic planning, especially as we now have a base plan across the community. Through combined planning, there is the opportunity to increase collaboration and communication.

**[Feedback provided to our Premier and the Premier's Economic and Social Recovery Council on behalf of FACT and our Members.](#)**

Community Services working together – there are many examples of our sector working collaboratively to benefit clients. There isn't too many, if any, providers who have the breath of programs to meet the increasing prevalence of co-morbidity in clients. For many years the CS sector have referred clients to other services to meet their needs. Case coordination or even 'Joined Up Services' just happens.

Planning for a considered and collaborative approach into recovery — Our sector is a big employer, particularly as we cover all areas of the state. There have been important learnings on service delivery during COVID that will potentially continue. One of these areas is the increased use of technology to support clients. For many clients, this has actually become a preferred mechanism for communication (particularly with our younger clients). However connectivity is still a challenge in some rural and remote areas of the state and the affordability of both hardware and connectivity is a challenge for vulnerable Tasmanians. Recovery will be slow and we need to continue to work collaboratively with the government and across the sector. Issues like financial stress, child homelessness, D & FV, Mental Health and housing affordability will be a challenge over the next 6-18 months and potentially much longer.

If you would like to provide further feedback to ensure particular discussion points are raised at the Peaks Network, then please reach out to us.