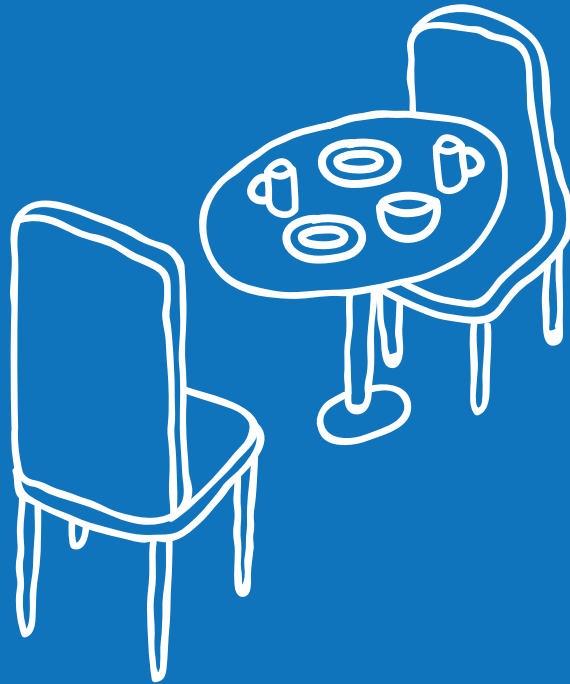


**CHILD-FRIENDLY  
VERSION**



# **A PLACE AT THE TABLE**

**AN INVESTIGATION INTO A CHANGE TO THE  
CASE MANAGEMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG  
PEOPLE IN CARE IN TASMANIA**

---

**OUT-OF-HOME CARE MONITORING PROGRAM  
DECEMBER 2023**

# THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED WITH MY INVESTIGATION

I HEARD FROM ALMOST 70  
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



SEE THEM HERE!



YOU TOOK AN ONLINE SURVEY  
(COMMISSIONER'S BIG QUESTIONS)



WE TALKED ONE-ON-ONE



I MADE ART WITH YOU ON PLATES,  
BOWLS, AND BISCUITS.

I ALSO HEARD FROM PEOPLE AND GROUPS THAT SUPPORT  
AND WORK WITH YOU ABOUT SOME OF THE THINGS THAT  
YOU HAD TOLD THEM ABOUT.



CARERS



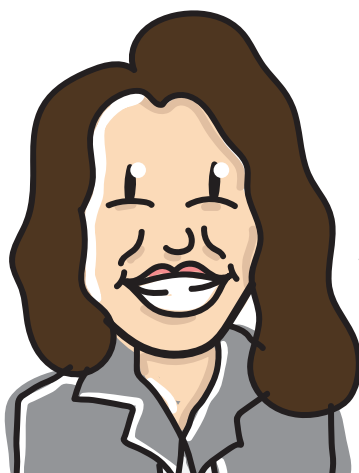
CHILD SAFETY OFFICERS  
(CASEWORKERS)



SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS  
LIKE CREATE AND FKAT



DEPARTMENT



"IF SOMETHING IS NOT OK WITH HOW THE CARE SYSTEM IS LOOKING  
AFTER YOU, I CAN INVESTIGATE. I TELL THE GOVERNMENT WHAT I HEAR  
SO THAT THEY CAN CHANGE THINGS TO MAKE IT BETTER FOR YOU. I DO  
THIS BY WRITING A LIST OF THINGS CALLED RECOMMENDATIONS."

THE COMMISSIONER FOR CHILDREN AND  
YOUNG PEOPLE, LEANNE MCLEAN

# WHY DID I DO THIS INVESTIGATION?



- ▶ SOME CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE NO LONGER HAD THEIR OWN CASEWORKER AND HAD TO CONTACT A TEAM OF CASEWORKERS.
- ▶ THIS MEANT THAT IF YOU NEEDED TO SPEAK TO A CASEWORKER YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW THEM.
- ▶ YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT THIS CHANGE WAS HAPPENING UNTIL AFTER IT HAPPENED.
- ▶ YOU TOLD ME THAT THIS WAS NOT OK.

## CHARTER OF RIGHTS FOR TASMANIAN CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUT OF HOME CARE

THE CHARTER IS A PROMISE MADE BY THE TASMANIAN GOVERNMENT TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE ABOUT WHAT IT WILL DO TO MAKE SURE YOU ARE WELL CARED FOR AND THAT YOU HAVE WHAT YOU NEED FOR A GOOD LIFE.



FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE CHARTER HERE!

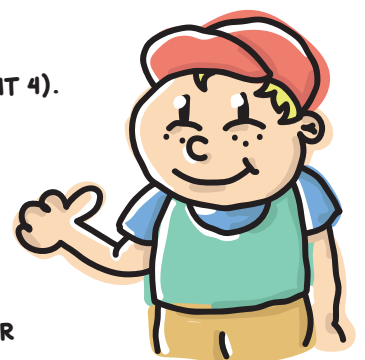
## WHAT I FOUND OUT

BY NOT GIVING YOU A SAY AND LISTENING TO YOU BEFORE THEY CHANGED HOW YOU WERE BEING LOOKED AFTER, THE GOVERNMENT DIDN'T KEEP ITS PROMISE TO YOU UNDER THE CHARTER.

### I ALSO FOUND OUT THAT BECAUSE OF THIS CHANGE:

- ▶ SOME OF YOU DID NOT FEEL SAFE (RIGHT 1).
- ▶ SOME OF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE HEALTHCARE WHEN NEEDED (RIGHT 2).
- ▶ SOME OF YOU DID NOT HAVE REGULAR MEETINGS ALONE WITH YOUR WORKERS (RIGHT 4).
- ▶ SOME OF YOU WERE NOT TREATED RESPECTFULLY (RIGHT 5).
- ▶ SOME OF YOU DID NOT HAVE SAFE CONTACT WITH FAMILY (RIGHT 7).
- ▶ SOME OF YOU WERE LESS SUPPORTED IN YOUR SCHOOLING AND GETTING READY FOR WHEN YOU LEAVE CARE (RIGHT 8).

RIGHT 3: I HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE CONSULTED AND LISTENED TO SERIOUSLY ABOUT DECISIONS THAT AFFECT ME!





# RECOMMENDATIONS

**TO MAKE THINGS BETTER FOR YOU, THE TASMANIAN GOVERNMENT NEED TO DO SOME BIG THINGS:**

---

## **1. MAKE THINGS RIGHT WITH YOU:**

THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD LET YOU KNOW THAT THEY DID NOT KEEP THEIR PROMISE, MAKE SURE YOU HAVE WHAT YOU NEED, AND EXPLAIN HOW THEY WILL MAKE SURE YOU CAN HAVE A SAY.

## **2. TEACH THE PEOPLE WHO WORK WITH YOU ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS:**

EVERYONE WHO WORKS WITH YOU NEEDS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS, AND WHAT THEY NEED TO DO TO MAKE SURE YOUR RIGHTS ARE RESPECTED.

## **3. MAKE A BETTER PLAN FOR LOOKING AFTER YOU:**

THERE NEEDS TO BE A NEW PLAN FOR MAKING SURE YOU HAVE YOUR OWN CASEWORKER, AND THIS SHOULD INCLUDE TALKING TO YOU ABOUT WHAT YOU NEED.

## **4. MAKE SURE THERE ARE ENOUGH PEOPLE TO HELP YOU:**

THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD MAKE SURE THERE IS ENOUGH MONEY TO HIRE AND TRAIN CASEWORKERS TO HELP LOOK AFTER YOU IN A WAY THAT WORKS FOR YOU.

## **5. MAKE SURE EVERYONE KNOWS WHAT'S GOING ON:**

PEOPLE WHO HELP YOU MUST TALK TO YOU AND TO EACH OTHER TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE KNOWS WHAT'S HAPPENING.

## **6. CHANGE THE LAW:**

THE LAW NEEDS TO CHANGE SO THAT EVERYONE KNOWS WHAT THEY MUST DO TO RESPECT YOUR RIGHTS AND MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A PLACE AT THE TABLE.



## WHAT'S NEXT?

### WHAT WILL I DO NOW?

- ▶ I AM HELPING THE GOVERNMENT TO UNDERSTAND MY REPORT.
- ▶ I WILL REMIND THE GOVERNMENT TO GIVE YOU A SAY AND TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE LISTENED TO SERIOUSLY ABOUT DECISIONS THAT AFFECT YOU.
- ▶ I WILL KEEP AN EYE ON HOW THE GOVERNMENT CHANGES THINGS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE.



### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

**SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT THIS REPORT, AND YOUR RIGHT TO HAVE A SAY AND BE LISTENED TO ABOUT DECISIONS THAT AFFECT YOU.**

**IF YOU FEEL WORRIED OR UPSET BY ANYTHING, IT IS IMPORTANT TO SPEAK UP AND ASK FOR HELP. YOU CAN TALK TO SOMEONE YOU KNOW AND TRUST, AND YOU CAN TALK TO:**

▶ **THE CHILD ADVOCATE:**  
FREE CALL 1800 549 725 OR  
PHONE / TEXT 0419 970 181

▶ **KIDS HELPLINE:**  
1800 55 1800

▶ **CREATE:**  
1800 655 105

▶ **TELL SOMEONE:**  
TELLSOMEONE.TAS.GOV.AU

▶ **IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR SAFETY AND WELLBEING, OR ANOTHER CHILD OR YOUNG PERSON'S CONTACT THE ADVICE AND REFERRAL LINE (ARL):**  
1800 000 123

▶ **IN AN EMERGENCY CALL THE POLICE ON:**  
000

### WANT MORE INFORMATION?



CHILD\_COMM\_TAS



COMMISSIONERFORCHILDRENTAS

CHILDCOMM.TAS.GOV.AU

WATCH MY VIDEO EXPLAINING  
THE INVESTIGATION

VIEW THE REPORT



**CHILD-FRIENDLY  
VERSION**

**A PLACE AT THE TABLE:  
AN INVESTIGATION INTO A CHANGE TO THE CASE MANAGEMENT  
OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE IN TASMANIA**

**OUT-OF-HOME CARE MONITORING PROGRAM  
DECEMBER 2023**

**THE COMMISSIONER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ACKNOWLEDGES AND PAYS  
RESPECT TO THE PALAWA PEOPLE OF LUTRUWITA AS THE ORIGINAL AND ONGOING  
CUSTODIANS OF THIS LAND AND FOR MORE THAN 40,000 YEARS THEY HAVE CARED  
FOR THEIR COUNTRY AND THEIR CHILDREN.**

COMMISSIONER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (TAS) 2023 A PLACE AT THE TABLE: AN INVESTIGATION INTO A CHANGE TO THE CASE MANAGEMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE IN TASMANIA – CHILD-FRIENDLY VERSION.

© CROWN IN RIGHT OF THE STATE OF TASMANIA (COMMISSIONER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TASMANIA), 2023.

ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS REPORT OR THE WORK OF TASMANIA'S COMMISSIONER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE MORE GENERALLY MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE COMMISSIONER BY EMAIL TO [CHILDCOMM@CHILDCOMM.TAS.GOV.AU](mailto:CHILDCOMM@CHILDCOMM.TAS.GOV.AU) OR BY TELEPHONING +61 3 6166 1366.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT: [WWW.CHILDCOMM.TAS.GOV.AU](http://WWW.CHILDCOMM.TAS.GOV.AU)