



Child Safety Reform Implementation Monitor

TASMANIA

Office of the Implementation Monitor



Looking ahead: sustaining reform momentum

Welcome to our latest update from the Office of the Implementation Monitor.

This edition comes a little later than planned, as much of our recent work has been focused on finalising the Office's 2025-26 Annual Report and completing the first full cycle of appraisals under our Implementation Framework.

As I reflect on the past few months, I am struck by the extent to which child safety reform in Tasmania is maturing. The focus is increasingly shifting from establishing frameworks, policies and structures to the more challenging task of ensuring reforms are embedded in practice and making a meaningful difference in the lives of children and young people.

This period has also provided opportunities to engage with reform in many different ways. I have visited the proposed new youth justice facility site at Pontville, visited Risdon Cove to learn more about the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre's *Nukara* Strategy and *Tirrina* Child

Safety Model and am seeing new child safeguarding initiatives emerge across government. I continue to be reminded that lasting change depends on collaboration, leadership and a shared commitment to better outcomes for children and young people.

There remains much work ahead. As reform matures, maintaining momentum, accountability and public confidence will become increasingly important. Major reform programs inevitably evolve over time, and periods of change can create both opportunities and challenges for those responsible for its delivery. It will be important that the focus on safer outcomes for children and young people remains at the centre of those changes.

Robert Benjamin AM KC

Implementation Monitor

Our team

The Office of the Implementation Monitor is supported by a small, dedicated team. While modest in size, the team plays a critical role in supporting the Implementation Monitor to independently oversee and report on the implementation of reforms aimed at improving outcomes for children and young people in Tasmania.



This year also saw some changes within the team. We thank Peta Carlyon, Senior Communication Advisor, for her valuable contribution to the team and wish her every success following her departure in May.



We were pleased to welcome Emma Wilkins, Principal Policy Advisor, to the team in August.

"I'm really pleased to have joined the OIM team at such an important time. I'm looking forward to bringing my policy and stakeholder engagement experience to the role, while learning from the team and our stakeholders. I'm excited to contribute to the OIM's work to ensure the implementation of reforms leads to meaningful change for children and young people."

Emma Wilkins

Emma Wilkins

New Youth Justice Facility Project Reaches Key Milestone

Progress towards replacing Ashley Youth Detention Centre (AYDC) reached an important milestone this year, with the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works supporting the proposed new Youth Justice Facility at Pontville. The Committee's findings followed detailed consideration of the project and its role in Tasmania's broader youth justice reform agenda.

The replacement of AYDC was recommended by the Commission of Inquiry and forms part of a wider package of reforms aimed at improving outcomes for children and young people in contact with the youth justice system. These reforms place greater emphasis on prevention, early intervention, diversion and therapeutic supports, recognising that detention should be a last resort.

Robert Benjamin recently visited the proposed Pontville site and met with DECYP's Youth



Justice Facilities Reform team to discuss progress on the project and the broader reforms it supports. The proposed facility has been designed around a therapeutic, trauma-informed and culturally safe model of care, with smaller, home-like accommodation intended to support rehabilitation and wellbeing.

The development complements a broader shift towards earlier support and intervention for young people, helping to strengthen Tasmania's youth justice system.

While the project remains subject to ongoing approval processes, the replacement of AYDC represents a significant opportunity to deliver a contemporary youth justice facility that better reflects the expectations and recommendations arising from the Commission of Inquiry.

The Implementation Monitor, Robert Benjamin (3rd right), at the proposed Pontville Youth Justice Facility site with Sharyn Cody, Director Youth Justice Facilities Reform (left), and Project Managers Joe Jones (2nd left) and Bryce Taplin (right), July 2026.

Recognising '50 Years of Deadly'

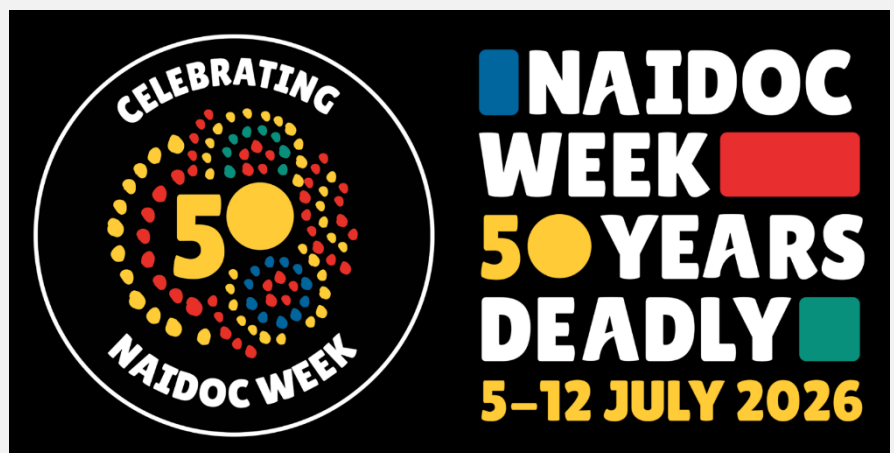
The Implementation Monitor, Robert Benjamin, and his staff attended the NAIDOC Week flag raising ceremony at Piyura Kitina / Risdon Cove on 6 July for the official local commencement of NAIDOC Week 2026.

The 2026 theme, '50 Years of Deadly', recognised the achievements, leadership, resilience and contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples over the past five decades.

Hosted by the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, the ceremony provided an opportunity for reflection, acknowledgement and connection as NAIDOC Week commenced in southern Tasmania. It also recognised the voices of Palawa people and acknowledged the enduring strength, resilience and contribution of Tasmanian Aboriginal communities.

"The Commission of Inquiry highlighted the importance of Aboriginal-led solutions. Supporting self-determination and better outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people remains an important part of Tasmania's reform journey."

Robert Benjamin AM KC,
Implementation Monitor



Learning more about the Nukara Strategy

In May, the Implementation Monitor, Robert Benjamin, and office staff met with Wendy Moore from the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC) at Piyura Kitina / Risdon Cove to learn more about the Nukara Strategy and Tirrina Child Safety Model. The visit provided an opportunity to meet on Country and discuss Aboriginal-led approaches to improving outcomes for Aboriginal children, young people and families.

Developed by the TAC, the Nukara Strategy and Tirrina Child Safety Model aim to reduce the number of Aboriginal children entering out-of-home care and increase opportunities for children to remain safely connected to family, culture, Community and Country. The work reflects a broader focus on self-determination and Aboriginal-led solutions to improve outcomes for Aboriginal children and families.

A powerful concept underpinning the work is the idea of the Tirrina or basket. During community consultation, Aboriginal community members described the current child safety

system as a "dilly bag" that is loosely woven, with no one consistently holding it. Too often, this can result in Aboriginal children becoming disconnected from family, culture, Community and Country.

The Tirrina represents something stronger: a carefully woven basket designed to hold and support Aboriginal children and families. The accompanying Nukara Strategy takes its name from the palawa kani word meaning "to weave a basket" and provides a pathway for strengthening Aboriginal-led decision-making, community capacity and culturally safe supports.

The visit also provided valuable insight into how the Nukara Strategy seeks to strengthen the supports surrounding Aboriginal children and families. Like the weaving of a basket, the approach recognises that better outcomes are achieved when families, communities, Aboriginal organisations and government work together to create a stronger and more coordinated system of support.



[Read more](#)

Launch of the Child Safety and Wellbeing Action Plan

The Honourable Bridget Archer MP (pictured) launched the Department of Health's [Strong Systems, Safe Children: Child Safety and Wellbeing Action Plan 2026-2029](#) in Hobart on 30 July, attended by Office of the Implementation Monitor's staff.

The Action Plan sets out how the Department will continue to strengthen child safeguarding across Tasmania's health system and build on the significant work already undertaken in response to the Commission of Inquiry and the Child and Youth Safe Organisations Act 2023. It outlines a vision for a child-safe health system where every child and young person is safe, respected, empowered and included in decisions that affect them.



The three-year plan includes 24 actions across four focus areas: Building Safe Foundations, Empowering Children and Families, Skilled and Responsive Workforce, and Accountability and Learning. A monitoring and evaluation framework will also be developed to support implementation and measure progress over time.

The launch highlighted the important role that leadership, organisational culture and continuous improvement play in creating environments where children and young people are safe. While many reforms focus on legislative and policy change, lasting improvement also depends on how child safeguarding is embedded into everyday practice across services and organisations.

The launch also reinforced that child safety is everyone's responsibility. By strengthening safeguarding capability, listening to children and young people, and creating systems that support accountability and learning, the Department is continuing to build on the important reforms underway across Tasmania's child safety landscape.

Referral of the Woolcott Review

On 18 August 2026, recommendations from the Independent Review into the actions taken in response to the information and concerns raised by the Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings ([the Woolcott Review](#)) were [formally referred to the Implementation Monitor](#) under section 13 of the Child Safety Reform Implementation Monitor Act 2024. The referral includes recommendations that were supported, supported in part, or supported in principle by the Tasmanian Government and expands the Office's ongoing program of independent oversight.

Peter Woolcott AO said:

“The referral of the Woolcott Review recommendations to the Office of the Independent Monitor is a significant and welcome development and it reflects the importance of independent oversight in embedding lasting change. I look forward to seeing these recommendations translate into real, sustained improvements to child safety.”

Led by former Australian Public Service Commissioner Peter Woolcott AO and supporting author Radha Thomas (Sharma), the Review examined actions taken by Government in response to information and concerns raised through the Commission of Inquiry and identified areas for further improvement.

The referral means the recommendations will now be subject to the Monitor's independent oversight, including monitoring, appraisal and evaluation activities. As with all recommendations within the Monitor's remit, the focus will extend beyond whether actions

have been completed to consider whether they are effective and contributing to improved outcomes for children and young people.

The Woolcott Review highlights that child safety reform is an ongoing process of learning, improvement and accountability. As reforms mature, continued independent oversight will help ensure that lessons identified through reviews and inquiries contribute to stronger systems and safer outcomes for children and young people

Stakeholder engagement

Developing our Stakeholder Engagement Strategy is a key focus for the Office of the Implementation Monitor this year.

As we develop the Strategy, we are meeting with stakeholders across government, the community sector and the broader community to better understand how people want to engage with the Office and what is important to them.

A key priority is ensuring the voices of people with lived experience, particularly victim-survivors, children, young people and Aboriginal people, are heard and considered in our work, in line with the principles and domains of the Implementation Framework.

Where possible, we will engage through existing groups and mechanisms. This helps reduce duplication and ensures appropriate supports and safeguards are in place for participants.

We are also engaging with oversight bodies, experts, Ministers and parliamentarians, and government agencies responsible for implementing child safety recommendations.

What we hear through these conversations will help shape the Strategy and inform how we undertake our oversight role into the future.

Stakeholder mapping and engagement activities are continuing ahead of publication of the Strategy.

We thank everyone who has taken the time to share their views and experiences with us.



Ribbons of Reflection

Victim-survivors, advocates and community members gathered in Burnie on 28 August and Launceston on 4 September for the annual Ribbons of Reflection events. Organised by Laurel House, the events marked three years since the release of the Commission of Inquiry's final report into institutional child sexual abuse and provided an opportunity to reflect on progress made and the work still required to keep children safe.

Attendees tied ribbons to a memorial ladder sculpture created by the late Daisy Ford, a victim-survivor advocate and whistleblower whose courage and commitment helped drive change. Tasmania's Implementation Monitor, Robert Benjamin AM KC, was invited to speak at both events.

Reflecting on the ongoing reform effort, Mr Benjamin said:

"We have an obligation to those who have been abused, and a duty to protect children from harm, to act when concerns arise, and to support victim-survivors in their healing and recovery. Our work should be Daisy's legacy."

Robert Benjamin AM KC, Implementation Monitor



Policy reform and legislation

- ❖ The Tasmanian Government released the [Change for Children Action Plan: Collaboration for Change 2026-29](#), outlining priority actions for the next three years to help prevent, respond to and support recovery from child sexual abuse in Tasmania.
- ❖ In August 2026, Tasmania Police launched [Safe2Say](#), a secure online reporting platform that provides an additional way for people to report current or historical sexual assault and abuse against children or adults, including online sexual abuse. Reports can be made at a time and place that suits the person and may be made anonymously.
- ❖ The Teachers Registration Bill 2026 passed the House of Assembly in September. The Bill strengthens the framework for regulating teachers in Tasmania and includes new child safety measures, including minimum child safety training requirements as part of teacher registration.
- ❖ Debate commenced on the Commission of Inquiry (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2026 in August, proposing reforms to strengthen child safety, information sharing and

accountability across public institutions. Read the Implementation Monitor's [media release](#) supporting these reforms.

- ❖ In September Parliament passed the Integrity Commission Amendment (Mandatory Notifications) Bill 2025, which will require public authorities to notify the Integrity Commission of suspected serious misconduct, helping strengthen accountability across the public sector.
- ❖ The Sentencing Amendment (Good Character) Bill 2026 passed the House of Assembly in September. The Bill would limit the use of good character references when sentencing adults for serious offences, including sexual offences.
- ❖ [Consultation is underway on the draft Family Violence Reforms Bill 2026](#), which proposes a range of changes to strengthen protections for victim-survivors and improve responses to family violence. Consultation closes on 4 October 2026.

Public statement

Machinery of Government changes

The Implementation Monitor is aware of community interest in recent Machinery of Government changes and what they may mean for ongoing child safety reform.

Among the announced changes are the transfer of responsibility for the Keeping Children Safe Reform Program from the Department of Premier and Cabinet to the Department for Education, Children and Young People, along with changes to responsibilities for therapeutic services for victim-survivors of family and sexual violence, and family violence prevention.

Building trust following the Commission of Inquiry remains a long-term challenge. Trust takes time to establish and can be easily lost if change is not visible, understood or communicated clearly.

The Monitor understands that some victim-survivors and stakeholders may have concerns about disruption during the transition period, including the potential loss of momentum, institutional

knowledge and established relationships. There is also concern that people with lived experience may need to repeat their stories as responsibilities move between agencies.

While administrative arrangements may change, the accepted recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry remain unchanged. The focus of implementation must continue to be on achieving better outcomes for children and young people, maintaining accountability, and sustaining reform momentum throughout the transition period.

These changes may also provide opportunities to strengthen connections between reform implementation and frontline service delivery.

The Office of the Implementation Monitor will continue to monitor the transition and consider any impacts on child safety reform through its ongoing public reporting.

Acknowledgements

We acknowledge all victim-survivors of institutional abuse, including those with lived experience of harm in institutional settings, and those who are no longer with us. We pay tribute to you.

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Tasmanian Aboriginal people, as the original and continuing custodians of the land, seas, waterways and skies of Lutruwita/Tasmania.

We approach this task of better protecting all children in Tasmania with commitment, compassion and hope.



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You can also follow us on social media, on Facebook or LinkedIn. Search on your favourite platform for Child Safety Reform Implementation Monitor.

As with our other outputs, please note these accounts refer to matters relating to child sexual abuse, and reader caution is advised.

