

MEDIA RELEASE

Parents and Families Advocacy Service 8 December 2014

The Commissioner for Children, Mark Morrissey, welcomes the new Parents and Families Advocacy Service launched on Tuesday 2nd December 2014 by the Minister for Human Services, Jacquie Petrusma.

The new service is a state government initiative following the release of Anglicare Tasmania's research paper in 2013, 'Parents in the child protection system.'

'Having parents and families of children in care engaged in the process plays an important role in the overall health and wellbeing of children,' the Commissioner said today.

'Children in care need strong support structures to provide positive outcomes and this is one way of giving the children the support they need'.

This is supported by research undertaken by Dr Maria Harries in 2008 which identified that *'the single most important determinant of positive outcomes in child protection work is the quality of the relationship between families and professionals.'*

'The new service will provide parents and families with an opportunity to gain information, develop skills and empower them to fully engage with the Child Protection System.' Commissioner Morrissey said.

The Parents and Families Advocacy Service, run by Australian Red Cross, will address the important role of giving parents and families a voice when dealing with the Child Protection Service.

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