

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE – CORPORATE DIRECTION 2019-20

OUR AIM

A safe, fair and just Tasmania.

FROM THE SECRETARY

The Corporate Direction 2019-20 sets out the Department's key priorities for the financial year. It captures high priority initiatives that the Department will progress in order to implement the Government's Second Year Agenda and 2019-20 Budget commitment, together with key reforms and projects that are being progressed or implemented from the 2018-19 year.

During 2019-20, the Department will continue to deliver significant infrastructure and technology programs, including construction of the South Remand Centre, the announcement of a preferred site for a new northern prison and moving into the tender and development phase for the Justice Connect and Planning and Building Portal Projects.

A number of law reform priorities continue to be progressed to keep our community safe, to enhance our justice system and to ensure that Tasmania has up to date and contemporary legislation. The outdated Justices Act 1959 will be replaced with a package of legislative reforms to enhance access to justice, along with the progression of significant policies and procedures within the Magistrates Court associated with the new legislation.

The Department's extensive law reform and policy agenda also includes strengthening the legislative framework to protect families and children from violence and the continued development of legislation and policy to support the Housing Summit Agenda. These important reforms will have a positive impact in our community, together with other significant priorities such as the ongoing implementation of Tasmanian Response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and the development of options for a legislative child safety framework.

The Department also faces a number of budgetary challenges and will be required to make savings while we continue to deliver high quality and essential services to the community. However, we will continue to focus and invest in our staff and finalise and implement our People Strategy and Diversity and Inclusion Strategy. We will prioritise workplace health and safety and wellbeing across the Department and increase our focus in high risk areas of the agency.

During the 2019-20 financial year, we will maintain our emphasis on reducing violence in our community and supporting our employees that may be impacted by family violence. Following significant work during 2018-19, we will continue with the implementation of our Family Violence Operational Plan in 2019-20 and beyond.

We look forward to another successful year ahead and thank all staff for the contribution they make to the implementation of the Department's key priorities and reforms.

Kathrine Morgan-Wicks (to 1 September 2019) & **Ginna Webster** (from 2 September 2019)

OUR PURPOSE

Support the Tasmanian Government to promote the rule of law by ensuring an effective, efficient and accessible justice system; protecting and respecting rights; improving laws; and influencing positive behaviour and enforcing responsibilities.

OUR STRUCTURE

The Department comprises 1,378 full-time equivalent employees across 28 locations throughout Tasmania. Our organisational chart is available at www.justice.tas.gov.au.

The Department delivers legal, regulatory, enforcement and corrections services: Births, Deaths and Marriages; Community Corrections; Corporate Services, Tasmania Prison Service; Consumer, Building and Occupational Services; Crown Law; Monetary Penalties Enforcement Service; Planning Policy Unit; Strategic Legislation and Policy; Victims Support Services; Child Abuse Royal Commission Response Unit; and WorkSafe Tasmania.

The Department also supports the Supreme and Magistrates Courts, together with various legal Tribunals, Boards, Commissions and protective jurisdictions.

OUR KEY STAKEHOLDERS

The Department is responsible to the following Ministers:

- Attorney-General, Minister for Justice and Minister for Corrections
- Minister for Building and Construction
- Minister for Planning
- Treasurer

We also have important external relationships with:

- The Premier, Ministers and Members of Parliament
- Tasmanian Government agencies, the Australian Government, other State Governments and Local Government
- The Judiciary and Magistrates, Statutory office holders and advisory councils in the justice system
- The Tasmanian community and users of our systems and services
- Tasmanian workers, consumers, businesses, industry and the legal community
- Various peak, representative and professional bodies, unions and associations.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE – CORPORATE DIRECTION 2019-20

OUR KEY PRIORITIES

We will support the Government to implement its Second Year Agenda and 2019-20 Budget commitments, including:

1. Commence delivery of significant court and prison infrastructure

- Progress the Burnie Court complex redesign and project framework
- Announce the preferred site for a northern prison
- Continue work on construction of a Southern Remand Centre
- Deliver new transitional and pre-release accommodation (the O'Hara Units)
- Progress the upgrade of shared facilities at the Risdon Prison Complex
- Progress infrastructure priorities in courts
- Implement a new prisoner telephony system utilising contemporary technology and finalise a significant upgrade of electronic security at the Hobart Reception Prison.

2. Develop the Government's key law reform priorities

- Continue to progress legislative reforms to keep Tasmanians safe
- Finalise the review of the Electoral Act
- Replace the outdated *Justices Act 1959* with a package of reforms to establish the Magistrates Court (Criminal and General Division) and to enhance access to justice
- Strengthen legislative frameworks to protect families and children through amendments to the *Family Violence Act 2004* providing courts with the power to declare repeat offenders as persistent family violence offenders
- Amend the Workplaces (Protection from Protesters) Act
- Progress reforms for the prevention of elder abuse
- Continue to develop law and policy to support the Housing Summit Agenda.

3. Implement key reforms

- Continue to implement the recommendations of the Royal Commission and coordinate Tasmania's role as a participating institution in the National Redress Scheme
- Develop options for a legislative child safety framework, including Child Safe Standards and the development and implementation of a Reportable Conduct Scheme
- Support the implementation of the State-wide planning system
- Refresh the Corrections strategic plan "Breaking the Cycle" with an enhanced focus on rehabilitation of offenders.

We will progress internal priorities to better support our people, systems and service delivery with a focus on improving access to justice and increasing our engagement with our clients and the Tasmanian community:

4. Improving access to justice services

- Continue a coordinated approach to reduce the criminal case backlog
- Advance work on law and colocation options for a Single Tribunal
- Continue to work with the legal assistance sector to ensure that it is equipped to provide assistance to the greatest number of Tasmanians

- Increase online information services and improve communication with clients
- Progress significant policies and procedures associated with new legislation affecting the Magistrates Court.

5. Coordination, stakeholder engagement and collaboration

- Continue to support the Administration of Justice Forum
- Improve the communications and stakeholder engagement strategy
- Create opportunities for the sharing of information and collaboration:
 - across government, particularly with key stakeholders
 - within and across the Department
- Explore the development of a departmental 'dashboard', providing headline indicators and supporting statistics.

6. Our people

- Launch our whole-of-agency People Strategy, with a focus on:
 - Recruitment
 - Leadership and management capability
 - Developing our people
 - Performance management
 - Managing significant change
- Commence implementation of the Family Violence Operational Plan 2019-20
- Launch and implement our Diversity and Inclusion Strategy
- Prioritise Workplace Health and Safety and wellbeing and increase our focus in high risk areas of the agency
- Manage significant relocation projects and improve security for our staff.

7. Our systems, projects, information and technology

- Implement our ICT Strategy 2017-2021, including:
 - Awarding the tender and commencing the development phase for Justice Connect
 - Improving ICT security and capability
 - Delivering the technology refresh program
 - Awarding the tender and commencing the development phase for the Planning and Building Portal
 - Delivering the WorkSafe Industry Safety solution
- Uplift corporate, programme and project governance in order to drive delivery of our Key Priorities.

MANAGING STRATEGIC RISKS AND ISSUES

To achieve our objectives we will undertake regular reviews of the Corporate Direction and we must continue to:

- Plan for and respond to changing demand
- Invest in developing our people
- Consolidate and refresh our ICT systems
- Focus on putting clients at the centre of our service delivery.