

Department for Community Welfare, State Government of Tasmania

1983 – 1989

Details

The Department for Community Welfare replaced the Social Welfare Department in 1983. It provided financial and other assistance to people with inadequate incomes and managed children's services, including the supervision of state wards. In July 1989, the Department was amalgamated with the Housing Department and Corrective Services to form the new Department of Community Services.

The name change from Social Welfare Department to the Department for Community Welfare reflected a shift towards preventative and supportive programs.

Like the Social Welfare Department in its later phase, the Department for Community Welfare placed an increasing emphasis on keeping children with their families whenever possible. They used a range of measures to do this. Two of these were introducing interim orders, which delayed making a child a ward of state, and the establishment of the Homemaker Service, which supported families in crisis. Increasingly the Domestic Service Assistance Scheme was used to give parents experiencing problems with their children a respite.

The Department for Community Welfare used family support to help families who sought help for their difficulties but whose children were not neglected or youthful offenders.

Family support involved providing the knowledge, skills and practical help that could enable people to sort their problems out. According to the Department's Annual Report of 1983, this assistance was probably the reason that the numbers of children coming into the care of the Department declined at this time.

The primary objective of the Department for Community Welfare was:

to enable individuals and families who require help to function in society to the best of their ability and to preserve, strengthen and where possible restore the family unit, by counselling, advising and assisting families and individuals in need, and by identifying and developing community support.

By 1983, the Department had a strategy for meeting this objective. It had three parts:

- 'Primary assistance' which involved providing a 'remedial' or 'rehabilitative' service to a family or child after the crisis had already happened. This included residential care, foster care, 'custody and control' or remand of youthful offenders, legal supervision of children considered to be neglected or who were youthful offenders, and welfare counselling.
- 'Secondary assistance' which meant preventing a crisis by helping families and children through the family assistance scheme, food orders, temporary admission of children into care, the homemaker service, childcare subsidies, preventive supervision of children, referral and information, and grants to organisations that provided emergency relief and welfare counselling.

- ‘Tertiary assistance’ which was intended to make families and communities stronger through social activities and better resources. Two examples of these were the neighbourhood houses and child care.

The Department of Community Welfare had up to 2 placements for state wards in a boarding school between 1983 and 1985.

More info

Chronology

- Social Welfare Department, State of Tasmania (1961 - 1983)
 - **Department for Community Welfare, State Government of Tasmania (1983 – 1989)**
 - Department of Community Services, State of Tasmania (1989 - 1993)

Related Entries

Ran

- [Ashley Home for Boys \(1926 - 1999\)](#)
Date: 1983 - 1989
- [Domestic Service Assistance Scheme - Tasmania \(1947 - c. 1989\)](#)
- [Wybra Hall \(1956 - 1988\)](#)
Date: 1983 - 1988
- [Kanaganra Hostel \(1975 - c. 1985\)](#)
- [Launceston Reception Prison \(1976 - current\)](#)
Date: 1989 - 1992
- [Omaru Community Youth Centre \(1977 - c. 1995\)](#)
- [Lucinda Family Group Home \(1980 - 1986\)](#)
- [Miranda Family Group Home \(1980? - 2005?\)](#)
- [Mosley Family Group Home \(c. 1981 - 1991\)](#)
- [Casablanca Family Group Home \(c. 1981 - c. 2011\)](#)
- [Malmesbury Family Group Home \(c. 1981 - 2009\)](#)
- [Binnowee Family Group Home \(c. 1981 - c. 2001\)](#)
- [Mardon Family Group Home \(c. 1981 - 2000?\)](#)
- [Connellen Family Group Home \(c. 1981 - 2005?\)](#)
- [Cornwall Family Group Home \(c. 1981 - 2005?\)](#)
- [Danbury Family Group Home \(c. 1981 - c. 1987\)](#)
- [Eastville Family Group Home \(1981 - c. 1987\)](#)
- [Monomeeth Family Group Home \(c. 1981 - c. 2011\)](#)
- [Rochebank Family Group Home \(c. 1981 - 2009\)](#)
- [Abermere Family Group Home \(c. 1981 - c. 2000\)](#)
- [Gilburn Family Group Home \(c. 1981 - 1985?\)](#)
- [Laroona Family Group Home \(1983 - c. 2009\)](#)
- [Garthfield Family Group Home \(c. 1983 - 1990?\)](#)
- [Naramarrindi Family Group Home \(c. 1983 - c. 2005\)](#)
- [Independent Living Unit \(1983? - 1990?\)](#)
- [Glynhyfryd Family Group Home \(1984 - 2005?\)](#)
- [Summerhill Family Group Home \(c. 1985 - c. 1990\)](#)
- [Kiah Family Group Home \(1985 - c. 2000\)](#)
- [Woodlands Family Group Home \(c. 1985 - 2000?\)](#)
- [Haldon Family Group Home \(c. 1985 - 2000?\)](#)

Related Glossary Terms

- [Homemaker Service - Tasmania \(1976 - 1992?\)](#)

The Homemaker Service was one of several policies used by the Department for Community Welfare to keep families together.

- [Family Assistance Scheme - Tasmania \(1980 - current\)](#)

The Department for Community Welfare ran the Family Assistance Scheme.

- [Aboriginal Child Placement Principle \(1983 - current\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Wardship Review Committee \(1977 - 1997?\)](#)

The Guardianship Review Committee was a part of the Department for Community Welfare.

- [North-West Regional Resource Unit \(1986 - 1995?\)](#)

The Department for Community Welfare opened the North-West Regional Resource Unit.

Related Concepts

- [Adoption in Tasmania \(c. 1920 - current\)](#)

Resources

- [Jane Monaghan interviewed by Caroline Evans for the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants oral history project](#), 30 August 2012
- *Department for Community Welfare: annual report for the year ended 30 June 1986*, 1986
- *Department for Community Welfare: annual report for the year ended 30 June 1988*, 1988

Records

Records held by other organisations

- [Register of Wards of State \(1897 - 1989\)](#)
 - [General Welfare Case Files \(1915 - 1994\)](#)
 - [Case Files of the Child Welfare Division \(Northern Office\) \(1932 - 2003\)](#)
 - [Record Cards of "Non-Citizen" Children Including Children Arriving Under the Child Migration Scheme \(1950 - 1989\)](#)
 - [Correspondence, Applications & Associated Records Relating to the Custody & Welfare of Children \(Southern Regional Offices\) \(1950 - 1996\)](#)
 - [Record Cards of Wards of the State \(1955 - 1990\)](#)
 - [Record Cards of Children Organised by the Type of Order They Received \(1955 - 1990\)](#)
 - [Master Index to Case Files \(1920 - 1989\)](#)
 - [Record Cards of Children Who Have Come Under the Notice of the State But Who Are Not Declared Wards of the State \(1982 - 1990\)](#)
 - [Case Files of the Child Welfare Division \(North West Office\) \(1943 - 2002\)](#)
 - [Correspondence Files \(1919 - 1998\)](#)
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