

# Department of Health and Human Services

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Senator Rachel Siewert  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Community Affairs  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
**CANBERRA ACT 2600**

Dear Senator Siewert

**Subject: *Inquiry into Violence, abuse and neglect against people with disability in institutional and residential settings, including the gender and age related dimensions, and the particular situation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability***

I refer to your correspondence addressed to Disability and Community Services Senior Practitioner, Ms Webb-Foss, dated 21 October 2015 regarding the inquiry into *Violence, abuse and neglect against people with disability in institution and residential settings, including the gender and age related dimensions and the particular situation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander people with disability, and culturally and linguistically diverse people with disability.*

The Office of the Senior Practitioner was established in Tasmania following proclamation of the *Disability Services Act 2011* (Tasmania). Under this Act, the role of Senior Practitioner was established to provide advice to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) about the provision of specialist disability services. This includes the regulation and monitoring of the use of restrictive interventions. Additional information is available on the DHHS web-Site at [http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/disability/senior\\_practitioner](http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/disability/senior_practitioner)

In relation to the specific questions you have asked I offer the following information:

*I Progress for the Tasmanian Government in implementing the 2014 National Framework for reducing and eliminating the use of restrictive practices in the disability sector*

The Tasmanian Government is committed to the implementation of the National Framework for Reducing and Eliminating the use of Restrictive Practices in the Disability Sector. Consistent with the National Standards, DHHS' Disability and Community Services in collaboration has an increased focus on person centred practices. Data is used to inform practice and workforce development opportunities. DHHS continues to have a strong focus on workforce development, including sector leaders, which includes the development of the sector's ability to use restraint and seclusion reduction tools.

2 *The role of the Office of the Senior Practitioner in providing guidance for and regulation of behaviour support and intervention services within relevant Tasmanian Departments*

As outlined above, the Office of the Senior Practitioner (OSP) in Tasmania provides guidance for, and regulation of, behaviour support and intervention services for Disability and Community Services.

3 *The development of behaviour support and interventions services within relevant Tasmanian Departments*

As outlined above, the development of behaviour support and intervention services occurs within the disability and community sector.

4 *The extent of interaction between your office and the Tasmanian Department of Education on these matters*

There is no formal interaction between OSP and the Tasmanian Department of Education on these matters. This occurs at informal level with staff seeking advice about practices and alternatives to the use of restrictive practices.

5 *The need to include schools and other similar institutions in the National Framework*

It is acknowledged other services are required to manage behaviours of concern of children. These services are required to manage behaviours of concern, often in children living with disability and a consistent, evidence based approach to doing this would be beneficial. In Tasmania this is currently managed under the provisions outlined in respective legislation.

Yours sincerely

Michael Pervan  
Secretary

9 November 2015