

Media Release

21 April 2010

MINISTER FOR CHILDREN APPOINTMENT WELCOMED

The new Cabinet appointment of a Minister for Children has been described by the Tasmanian Early Years Foundation (TEYF) as a major advance for the welfare of young Tasmanians.

TEYF Chair Dr Sue Jenkins said the appointment of Lin Thorpe MLC as Tasmania's first Minister for Children fulfilled Premier David Bartlett's election commitment and was an exciting and welcome initiative.

"It recognises the importance of issues impacting on children and early childhood development. It will help to heighten the profile of children and the policies required to support health, development, learning and wellbeing for children and families," Dr Jenkins said.

"This is an exciting time for Tasmania and our children now have a much stronger voice to represent them at the highest levels of government.

"Government services for children are currently spread across a number of departments. This appointment means that that can be better coordinated and drawn together to deliver much better outcomes for the community.

"We are confident this will prompt the development of innovative policies, partnerships and initiatives to improve the lives of Tasmanian children."

Dr Jenkins said the TEYF will be launching a social marketing campaign this year to raise the awareness of children's issues across the community.

"This will complement the appointment of the Minister for Children and seek to further enhance the support for early years care and development in our community.

"TEYF will be seeking a meeting with Minister Thorpe at the earliest opportunity to brief her on our activities and forthcoming initiatives and events," Dr Jenkins said.

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