

Child Protection Department head lays out her vision for cultural change in the new department.

22nd March

On Tuesday 21st March, guest speaker at the World Social Work Day Breakfast, Cathy Taylor, spoke of the principles she aims to implement in the child protection department in taking up her role. Social workers will be key players in achieving this.



Ms Taylor commented that a first step in a change of culture in the Child Protection Department will be “openness being part and parcel of the way we work. Not just openness with other services and practitioners, but with families”.

Services across the community need to be “joined up” but in much more integrated ways and so “value is added”, in order to support vulnerable families in the community.

Implementation of a shared learning and development agenda for staff within the department and in all services involved in child safety was also a key to shared quality practice. \$10million has been allocated for this purpose.

Ms. Taylor said that across all aspects of the work, professional judgement needed to be reclaimed within a strong framework of ethical decision making and accountability. Social workers hold a depth of research and theory behind their work which needs to be acknowledged.

This leads to the need for employment of professionally trained staff and a commitment to some kind of professional accreditation of child protection social workers, as well as quality supervision to support their work.

SA President of AASW Mary Hood said:

“The AASW is very gratified to hear Cathy Taylor’s vision for change in the way child protection is undertaken within the department and across the community. We wholeheartedly support these goals. This is the way forward to better protecting children when needed but also supporting families to prevent breakup in the first place.”

To arrange an interview with SA President - Dr Mary Hood, please contact:

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