Organisational Structure

**Our Secretary**

Michael Lye is the [Secretary](https://www.dss.gov.au/overview-organisational-structure/secretary).

Ellen Fitzgerald is the Chief of Staff.

**Deputy Secretary, Social Security**

Matt Flavel is the [Deputy Secretary, Social Security](https://www.dss.gov.au/overview-organisational-structure/deputy-secretary-0).

**Group Manager, Participation and Family Payments**

Ben Peoples is the Group Manager responsible for:

* Katrina Chatham – Branch Manager, Participation and Supplementary Payments
* Dani Chatillon – Branch Manager, Carer, Disability and Student Payments
* Agnieszka Nelson – Branch Manager, Families and Payment Support.

**Group Manager, Housing and Homelessness**

Kath Paton is the Acting Group Manager responsible for:

* Sarah Peascod – Branch Manager, Housing and Homelessness Program Delivery
* Emma Lenthall and Julie McKenzie (job share arrangement) – Branch Manager, Social Housing and Homelessness Intergovernmental and Policy.

**Group Manager, Data and Evaluation**

Gemma Van Halderen is the Group Manager responsible for:

* Kayelle Drinkwater – Branch Manager, Data Access
* Danielle Aeuckens – Branch Manager, Performance and Evaluation
* Sharon Stuart – Branch Manager, Data Strategy
* Melissa Catania – Acting Branch Manager, National Disability Data Asset.

**Group Manager, System, Strategy and Seniors**

Jo Evans is the Group Manager responsible for:

* Gillian Beer – Branch Manager, Payment Structures and Seniors
* Andrew Seebach – Branch Manager, International Payments and Compliance.

**Deputy Secretary, Families and Communities**

Letitia Hope is the [Deputy Secretary, Families and Communities](https://www.dss.gov.au/overview-organisational-structure/deputy-secretary-1).

**Group Manager, Redress**

Mark Harrigan is the Group Manager responsible for:

* Tasma Vyver – Acting Branch Manager, Policy Strategy and Design
* Val Still – Branch Manager, Enabling Services
* Alison Hale – Branch Manager, External Engagement and Communications
* Justine Fievez – Branch Manager, Service Delivery.

**Group Manager, Communities**

Patrick Burford is the Group Manager responsible for:

* Patrick Boneham – Branch Manager, Income Management Policy and Data
* James Steen – Branch Manager, Financial Resilience and Response
* Kirsti van der Steen – Branch Manager, Income Management Engagement and Support Services
* Alexis Diamond – Branch Manager, Families and Communities Evidence.

**Group Manager, Children and Families**

Jacqueline Hrast is the Acting Group Manager responsible for:

* John Riley – Branch Manager, Family and Adult Supports
* Emily Devine – Branch Manager, Children’s and Youth Policy
* Janaya Cox – Acting Branch Manager, Early Childhood and Parenting Wellbeing.

**Group Manager, Ending Gender-Based Violence**

Anna Lutz is the Group Manager responsible for:

* Tim Crosier – Branch Manager, National Policy
* Eve Cordeiro – Branch Manager, National Programs
* Emily Hurley – Branch Manager, Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Specialist Policy.

**Group Manager, Community Policy and Engagement**

Chris D'Souza is the Group Manager responsible for:

* Mary Hodge – Branch Manager, Community Cohesion
* Marnie Wettenhall – Branch Manager, Community Partnerships
* Kate Hamilton – Branch Manager, Closing the Gap.

**Chief Operating Officer**

Patrick Hetherington is the [Chief Operating Officer](https://www.dss.gov.au/overview-organisational-structure/chief-operating-officer).

**Chief Counsel and Group Manager, Legal Services**

Bronwyn Worswick is the Chief Counsel and Group Manager responsible for:

* Emma White – Branch Manager, Corporate and Commercial
* Branch Manager, Public Law
* Heidi Kiekebosch-Fitt – Branch Manager, Legislation Development, Data Access and Governance.

**Group Manager, Community Grants Hub**

Emma Kate McGuirk is the Group Manager responsible for:

* Tamsin Jackson – Branch Manager, Hub Operations
* Veronica Westacott – Branch Manager, Hub Strategy
* Warren Pearson – Branch Manager, Client Grants
* Mike Mays – Acting Branch Manager, DSS Grants
* Tanya George – Branch Manager, Disability Employment Services Grants.

**Chief Finance Officer and Group Manager, Finance**

Cheryl-Anne Navarro is the Acting Chief Finance Officer and Group Manager responsible for:

* Hitesh Rohra – Branch Manager, Budget Development
* Josephine Banchit – Acting Branch Manager, Financial Services
* Cameron Shaw – Acting Branch Manager, Financial Management.

**Group Manager, Corporate**

Bruce Taloni is the Group Manager responsible for:

* Mardi Stewart – Branch Manager, Campaigns and Strategic Communication
* Melissa Evans – Branch Manager, Corporate Communication and Media Relations
* Sam Ursich – Branch Manager, People Services
* Chris Mitchell – Branch Manager, Property and Security
* Alana Lundy – Branch Manager, Information Management and Technology.

**Group Manager, Portfolio Coordination**

Richard Baumgart is the Group Manager responsible for:

* Kraig Lowes – Branch Manager, Portfolio Governance
* Janet Gavey – Acting Branch Manager, Government and Executive Services
* Rob Stedman – Branch Manager, Audit and Assurance.

**Group Manager, Social Policy**

Andrew Whitecross is the Group Manager.

**Deputy Secretary, Disability and Carers**

Robyn Shannon is the [Deputy Secretary, Disability and Carers](https://www.dss.gov.au/overview-organisational-structure/deputy-secretary-2).

**Group Manager, NDIS Markets and Safeguards**

Ross Schafer is the Group Manager responsible for:

* Natasha Shahidullah – Acting Branch Manager, Quality and Safeguards Policy
* Alex Abel – Branch Manager, Markets and Workforce Policy
* Louise O’Rance – Branch Manager, Disability Evidence.

**Group Manager, NDIS Participants and Performance**

James MacIsaac is the Group Manager responsible for:

* Sidesh Naikar – Branch Manager, NDIS Finance and Performance
* Neva Frecheville – Acting Branch Manager, Commonwealth/State Engagement
* Sarah Hawke – Branch Manager, NDIS Governance, Policy and Legislation.

**Group Manager, Disability Reforms and Royal Commission**

Luke Mansfield is the Group Manager responsible for:

* Jodi Cassar – Branch Manager, Australia’s Disability Strategy
* Lisha Jackman – Branch Manager, Foundational Supports and Early Childhood Reform.

**Group Manager, Disability Employment**

Kellie Spence is the Group Manager responsible for:

* Dylan Spanos – Acting Branch Manager, Disability Employment Programs
* Jacinda Still – Branch Manager, Disability Employment Implementation
* Alex Buckley – Branch Manager, Disability Employment Policy.

**Group Manager, Disability and Carer Programs**

Hope Peisley is the Acting Group Manager responsible for:

* Suzanne Muir – Branch Manager, Advocacy and Inclusion Programs
* Lydia Ross – Branch Manager, Decision Support and Inclusion Programs
* Kathy Dennis – Branch Manager, Carers and Early Childhood.

**Group Manager, Disability Royal Commission Taskforce**

Tarja Saastamoinen is the Group Manager.

**Portfolio bodies and statutory office holders**

Find out more about our [portfolio bodies and statutory appointments](https://beta.dss.gov.au/who-we-are/our-portfolio).

As at 5 May 2025