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, Delivery and Data**

Corri McKenzie is the Deputy Secretary, Delivery and Data.

**Group Manager, Data and Evaluation**

Kayelle Drinkwater is the Acting Group Manager responsible for:

* Danielle Aeuckens – Branch Manager, Data Reporting and Evaluation
* Sharon Stuart – Branch Manager, Data Governance and Use.

**Group Manager, Income Management Taskforce**

Patrick Burford is the Group Manager responsible for:

* Kirsti van der Steen – Branch Manager, Income Management Taskforce.

**Group Manager, Delivery**

Pia van de Zandt is the Group Manager responsible for Delivery.

**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, 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
* Gillian Beer – Branch Manager, Strategy and Analysis.

**Group Manager, Disability Employment**

Kellie Spence is the Group Manager responsible for:

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

**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).

**Branch Manager, Stream Delivery Office**

* Tasma Vyver – Acting Branch Manager, Stream Delivery Office.

**Group Manager, Family Wellbeing**

Jacqueline Hrast is the Acting Group Manager responsible for:

* John Riley – Branch Manager, Family and Adult Supports
* Janaya Cox – Acting Branch Manager, Early Childhood and Parenting Wellbeing
* James Steen – Branch Manager, Financial Resilience and Response
* Alexis Diamond – Branch Manager, Legislation and Liaison.

**Group Manager, Family Safety**

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
* Emily Devine – Branch Manager, Children’s and Youth Policy.

**Group Manager, Community Wellbeing**

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, Audit and Assurance**

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
* Rob Stedman – Branch Manager, Audit and Assurance.

**Group Manager, Redress**

Justine Fievez is the Acting Group Manager responsible for:

* Alison Hale – Branch Manager, Policy, Institutions and Governance
* Val Still – Branch Manager, Integrity and Information
* Kym Hemming – Acting Branch Manager, Operations and Outcomes.

**Group Manager, Community Grants Hub**

Kath Paton is the Acting Group Manager responsible for:

* Tamsin Jackson – Branch Manager, Hub Operations
* Veronica Westacott – Branch Manager, Hub Strategy
* Jessica Ballinger – Acting 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 and Information Services**

Thea Connolly is the Chief Finance Officer and Group Manager responsible for:

* Cheryl-Anne Navarro – Branch Manager, Budget Development
* Josephine Banchit – Acting Branch Manager, Financial Services
* Hitesh Rohra – Branch Manager, Financial Management and Property Services
* Alana Lundy – Branch Manager, Chief Information Officer.

**Group Manager, Corporate and Government Services**

Richard Baumgart 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
* Joanna Carey – Branch Manager, Government and Executive Services.

**Group Manager, Social Policy and Governance**

Andrew Whitecross is the Group Manager responsible for:

* Kraig Lowes – Branch Manager, Portfolio Governance.

**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 31 July 2025