# 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](https://www.dss.gov.au/who-we-are/our-leadership/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:

* Kirsty Johnson – 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:

* 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, Strategy and Performance Office.

#### Group Manager, Family Wellbeing

Jacqueline Hrast is the Acting Group Manager responsible for:

* John Riley – Branch Manager, Child and Family Programs
* 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

Marnie Wettenhall is the Acting Group Manager responsible for:

* Mary Hodge – Branch Manager, Community Cohesion
* Georgina Alsop – Acting 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:

* Michael Byrne – Acting Branch Manager, Programs and Information Legal
* Heidi Kiekebosch-Fitt – Branch Manager, Governance, Litigation and Legislation
* Rob Stedman – Branch Manager, Audit and Assurance.

#### Group Manager, Redress

Grant Lovelock is the Group Manager responsible for:

* Alison Hale – Branch Manager, Policy, Institutions and Governance
* Val Still – Branch Manager, Integrity and Information
* Justine Fievez – 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:

* Melissa Evans – Chief Communication Officer and Branch Manager, Communication
* Sam Ursich – Branch Manager, People Services
* Joanna Carey – Branch Manager, Ministerial, Parliamentary and Security.

#### Group Manager, Social Policy and Governance

Andrew Whitecross is the Group Manager responsible for:

* Kraig Lowes – Branch Manager, Portfolio Governance
* Thomas Abhayaratna – Branch Manager, Strategy and Delivery.

## 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 1 October 2025