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| Good Practice Bulletin |
| Spotlight on good practice stories  Office of Professional Practice, Issue 20, April 2019 |

# Chief Practitioner’s welcome

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**Tracy Beaton**

Part of building a learning culture is our ability to reflect on what has gone well in our work with children and families - to celebrate our successes. Some of the recent findings from the Commission for Children and Young People have highlighted good practice which has occurred within the context of particularly challenging circumstances for children and families including:

* comprehensive and prompt risk assessments
* meaningful relationships developed with family members and
* timely collaboration and information sharing with involved professionals.

It is that time of the year again when we ask you as practitioners to put forward examples of good practice. Like last year, the stories will be presented as short films.

# 2019 theme: voice of the child

This year our focus is on telling good practice stories *with* rather than *about* children and their families. We want to hear from you AND the children and families with whom you work – what opportunities are there for capturing their voices?

What do they say made a difference for them?

How did they contribute to positive change?

We can work together to present their views in a non-identifying way.

As you think about your good practice story, please consider opportunities for communicating the voice of the child and their family. Videos will not be able to identify children and families however we have a number of ideas as to how we can creatively facilitate sharing the voices of children and their families while remaining non-identifying.

# Our commitment to celebrating good practice

For more than ten years, the Office of Professional Practice produced an annual publication: *Good practice – a state-wide snapshot* celebrating the commitment of practitioners across Victoria to supporting vulnerable children and families.

Last year we renewed our commitment to recognising good practice by presenting the good practice stories in video format. You can view the selected stories here (ADD LINK) The video format has allowed for more flexible use of your stories. For example, the stories will be used in training, recruiting, presenting to students, on the intranet and internet, and used to support team and individual supervision. A selection of stories will be screened at this year’s Protecting Children Awards and promoted in Child Protection Week.

# How do I submit?

Please submit your story by **Tuesday 21st May 2019**. Complete the details below and return to: [officeofprofessionalpractice@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:officeofprofessionalpractice@dhhs.vic.gov.au)

Or call Elizabeth Callinan 9096 8633 or Judith Rose to discuss your idea.

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| **Your name and job title** |  |
| **Organisation/Division and Area** |  |
| **Email address and phone number:** |  |
| **Your managers name and email address** |  |

## Your good practice story:

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| **1. The child/ren and their family** | Please provide some dot points describing the children and family referred to in this good practice story.  Focus on how you can tell your good practice stories *with* a child and their family. What opportunities are there for capturing the voices of the child/ren and their family? Have a conversation about this opportunity to share their story. We can work together to present their views in a non-identifying way.  Consider letters, poems or drawings. This could be an opportunity to encourage feedback from the child/family about working with you. |
| **2. The practice** | Please provide some dot points such as:   * what the child and their family say made a difference for them * the presenting issues and challenges * what did you do that was an example of good practice * how did the child/family contribute to positive change * how were the best interests of the child promoted through your practice? |
| **3. The outcome** | If not clear within the story above, highlight the positive outcomes for the child, young person, or family. |
| **4. The professionals** | Please list the professionals who have worked with or are working with this child/ren and their family. Are they agreeable to being filmed? |

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