



**Department for Education, Children and Young People**

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To families,

It is with a heavy heart that I address you all for the first time as Principal.

With permission from family, I am deeply saddened to advise that our friend and colleague, Karen Harrland, passed away last week as a result of an accident.

Karen's passion and love for teaching could be felt across the school community. Her connection to students through her literacy programs has created a long-lasting impression for all students past and present. Karen was a much-loved member of our team and highly respected by all staff. She was also an extended member of the school community with her three children previously attending the school. Her loss will be felt deeply by all who knew her.

Our thoughts and condolences are with Karen's family and loved ones at this difficult time. Our priority will be supporting those affected by this incident, including staff, students, and families. This is a distressing situation for our whole school community. We understand that your child may have some feelings and questions. You can assist them by discussing the situation in an age-appropriate way, listening and encouraging them to express their feelings.

Below are links to some more information around support available for your child and yourself.

Please be assured that we will also be providing on-site support when students return from school holidays.

- [Adult Mental Health Services](#) – 1800 332 388
- [A Tasmanian Lifeline](#) - 1800 984 434
- [Lifeline](#) - 13 11 14
- [Headspace youth mental health support](#) - 1800 650 890
- [Beyond Blue](#) - 1300 22 4636
- [Head to Health](#) - 1800 595 212
- [Black Dog Institute](#)
- Your GP or health care provider

If you have any questions or need further support, please reach out. My email is [kumudu.stewart@decyp.tas.gov.au](mailto:kumudu.stewart@decyp.tas.gov.au). You can also contact the office and ask to speak with me in person or via phone. Please take care of yourselves and each other.

Kind Regards

Kumudu Stewart

Principal