

Youth and Family

ministry

*A SPECIAL MINISTRY FOR
YOUTH AND FAMILIES:
HOW DOES IT WORK?*

MORE INFORMATION

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Ministry for Youth and Families

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MINISTRY FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES: HOW DOES IT WORK?

INNOVATIVE AND ENERGETIC

The Dutch government has named a minister with special responsibility for youth and families to tackle current issues in society. The minister differs from cabinet colleagues in that he is in charge of areas of policy implemented by several other ministries: the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science. This means looking beyond the boundaries of these organisations, establishing links and cooperating fruitfully. As the Minister for Youth and Families, André Rouvoet has the remit of assuring an overarching policy that responds to present-day challenges.

TAILOR-MADE ORGANISATION

The Ministry of Youth and Families has its own portfolio with a dedicated budget of more than €5 billion. The ministry is structured like any other ministry, with a Minister, a Secretary-General and a Director-General at the top of the organisation. However, the Ministry for Youth and Families is special because it has no civil servants of its own. Staff who work for the ministry remain formally employed by other ministries. But they receive their instructions from the Minister for Youth and Families and the Director-General for Youth and Families. The Minister's offices are located at the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport. The staff directorates of this ministry coordinate those of the other ministries.

FIELDS OF POLICY

The Ministry for Youth and Families is responsible for the following fields of policy:

- ✓ family policy
- ✓ child allowances and child-dedicated budget
- ✓ local youth policy, including the establishment of Centres for Youth and Families
- ✓ youth care
- ✓ family guardianship
- ✓ youth protection
- ✓ policy on young people in the labour market
- ✓ electronic child records, referral index for young people at risk
- ✓ inspection, youth monitoring and harmonisation of indications
- ✓ mental health care for young people
- ✓ care for young people with minor mental disabilities
- ✓ preventive policy for young people (healthy lifestyle, alcohol, tobacco, drugs)

SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

The Minister for Youth and Families is also finally involved in other policy matters related specifically to young people. However, other ministers hold primary responsibility for these matters. They include childcare, non-profit work placements, preschool care, youth detention and probation, youth crime, pupil-dedicated financing and allowances towards the costs of looking after handicapped children living at home.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The Minister for Youth and Families has responsibility for the following directorates, inspectorates and services from other ministries:

MINISTRY OF HEALTH, WELFARE AND SPORT

- ✓ Directorate for Youth and Families and Directorate for Youth Care. Both work entirely for Youth and Families.
- ✓ Directorate for Nutrition, Health Protection and Prevention, Directorate for Public Health, Directorate for Long-Term Care, Directorate for Curative Care, Directorate for Community Support, Directorate for International Affairs, Directorate for Macroeconomic Issues and Employment Conditions.
- ✓ Inspectorate for Youth Care, Health Care Inspectorate, National Institute for Public Health and the Environment.
- ✓ Staff directorates:
General Administration and Governance Support, Information and Communications, Legislation and Legal Affairs, Financial and Economic Affairs, Information Management, Audit Services, Financial and Personnel Management, Facility Services.

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

- ✓ Directorate for Judicial Youth Policy, Legislation Directorate, Private Law Section.
- ✓ Child Protection Board.

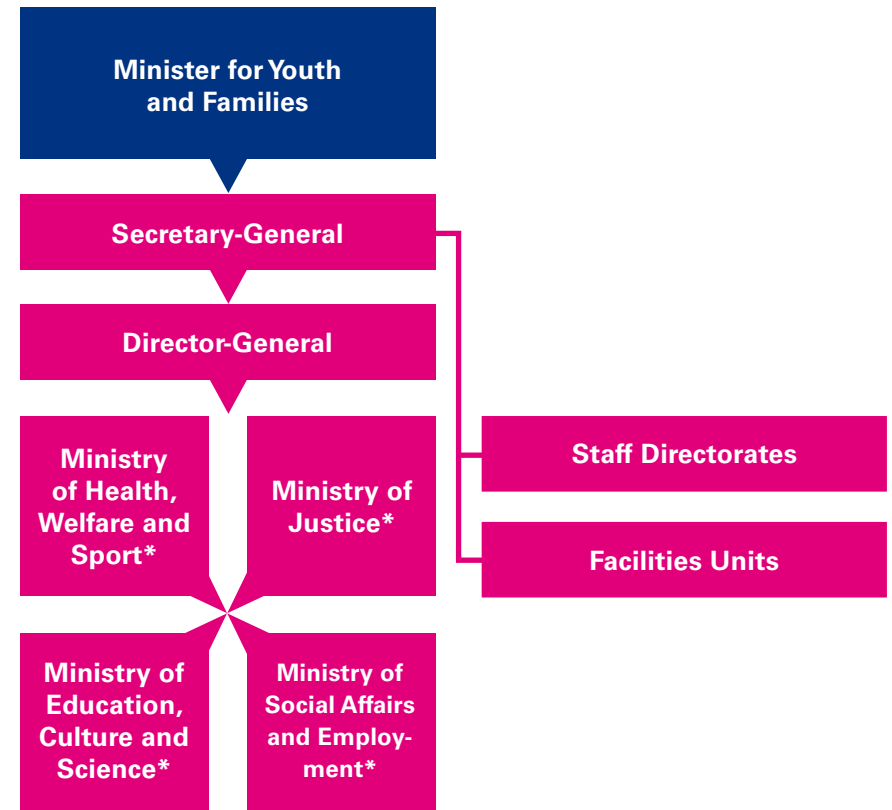
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SCIENCE

- ✓ Primary Education Directorate, Secondary Education Directorate, Vocational and Adult Education Directorate, Emancipation Directorate, Premature School-Leavers Directorate, Media, Literature and Libraries Directorate. This Ministry will shortly establish a new directorate to coordinate policy themes within the ministry related to youth policy and care.

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT

- ✓ Social Insurance Directorate, Labour Market Directorate.

ORGANISATION CHART



* Parts of policy directorates of the named ministries.