

QCPCI Discussion Paper released

18 February 2013

The Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry has today released a Discussion Paper to initiate a conversation about the significant child protection issues that the Commission has heard and examined to date.

Commissioner Tim Carmody SC said that the intention of the discussion paper is to give insight into the Commission's thinking.

"We want to test some proposals for improving the child protection system.

"To do this the discussion paper describes some critical pressure points in a system under stress, as outlined in statements and submissions provided to the Commission by individuals and organisations," he said.

Areas explored include:

- the increased need for funding preventative secondary services, particularly for families
- extending support for young people leaving the care system
- the need to provide better stability for children and young people in out-of home care
- the high level of over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the child protection system
- the need to provide supportive work places that invest in staff capability
- strengthening relationships between departments and tiers of government to ensure child protection is everyone's business
- exploring how to improve court and tribunal processes
- streamlining complaints and oversights processes.

"To date we have had a great response to our call for submissions but now we want the community to look at the Commission's thoughts based on the evidence provided and assist us in moving in the right direction to create a road map for the child protection system for the future.

"We seek further input from all interested people and organisations and urge everyone who reads the discussion paper to fill in a response form which is accessible on our website."

ENDS

Media Note: As the Commission is still in hearings Commissioner Carmody will be available for comment on the contents of this discussion paper only. Please contact the Media Manager on 3405 9783 or 0477 348 296 to arrange an interview.

Media Contact: 3405 9783 or 3405 9785

<http://www.childprotectioninquiry.qld.gov.au/>

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