

QCPCI Aurukun regional visit

4 October 2012

The Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry has today announced that it will next week visit Aurukun, in the state's far north, as part of its regional hearings, following the postponement of a visit arranged for September.

A public hearing is scheduled to commence at 10 am on Wednesday 10 October 2012 at the court house on Kang Kang Road, Aurukun.

The hearing will focus on child protection service delivery in the remote indigenous community by speaking to witnesses from police, education, health and community backgrounds.

During the visit to Aurukun the Commission will meet with the Mayor and councillors from the Aurukun Shire Council and conduct private meetings with both government and non-government representatives who work within the community.

While the first round of submissions has closed the Commission is encouraging public submissions in the second round from community members who have had experience with the child protection system.

The Commission's terms of reference allow the Inquiry to investigate matters including the Queensland Government's response to children and families in the child protection system, the transition of children exiting the system, and the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in child protection.

"Public submissions will be an essential part of the material considered by the Inquiry," said Commissioner Carmody.

"I'm interested in both good and bad experiences – we need to know what works and what doesn't," he said.

If anyone has information that could assist the Inquiry an online form can be accessed on the Commission's website. This is the preferred and most secure way of making a submission.

More information about making a submission is available at www.childprotectioninquiry.qld.gov.au/submissions. Further to this, an explanatory video can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eijah3NyZVU&feature=youtu.be>

The second round of submissions is due to open on 10 December 2012.

ENDS

Media Contact: 3405 9783 or 3405 9785

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

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Media note: Commissioner Carmody will permit a pool camera to film opening remarks and submissions from counsel assisting for television broadcast, as well as still cameras. Due to the

remoteness of Aurukun the Commission will be taking photographs from the visit that can be distributed to media organisations upon request. Please contact the Media Manager on 3405 9783 or 0477 348 296 to discuss arrangements.

Audio will be recorded and distributed for radio broadcast. If you would like to receive a copy of this, please contact the Media Manager to be added to the distribution list.