

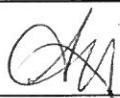
**QUEENSLAND CHILD PROTECTION
COMMISSION OF INQUIRY**

STATEMENT OF KELLY MAREE HARVEY

I, **Kelly Maree Harvey**, of c/- Mount Isa Police Station, Isa Street Mount Isa in the State of Queensland, *Officer in Charge, Mount Isa District Child Protection and Investigation Unit*, solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare:

1. I am a Detective Senior Sergeant of Police performing duties as the Officer in Charge (OIC) of Mount Isa District Child Protection and Investigation Unit (CPIU), with the Queensland Police Service (QPS). I was appointed to this position on 20 January 2011.
2. Prior to this appointment, for 3 years, I performed various roles such as District Support Officer; District Domestic Violence, Mental Health and Coronial Liaison Officer; and Shift Supervisor, in Mount Isa District. In my role as District Support Officer, I was required to organise travel for juvenile offenders and child victims within the district. This required regular consultation with the Regional Manager of Communities, providing briefings on investigations and travel needs, sourcing travel approval and making travel bookings in compliance with policy (Queensland Police Service and Department of Communities). In the preceding 6 months I performed duties as Shift Supervisor at Nambour (Sunshine Coast District).
3. Between January 2005 and June 2007, I performed duties as Detective Sergeant, OIC, of the newly established Thursday Island CPIU. Prior to this unit being established, child protection and youth justice investigations were performed by officers in the Criminal Investigation Branch (CIB), which had one female officer of Torres Strait Islander heritage. The approved strength of the Thursday Island CPIU strength was 2 (myself and another female), and in 2006 the approved strength was upgraded to 4 officers (2 females and 2 males).
4. My role as the OIC, Thursday Island CPIU, was to provide a specialist response to child protection and youth justice across the Northern Peninsula Area (NPA) and the Torres Strait, as the CPIU division covered police boundaries of Bamaga and Thursday Island. The CPIU office was based in the main Thursday Island Police station, with the old courthouse being redeveloped to house both CPIU and Child Safety. Child Safety

Signature of officer



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Officers were based in Cairns and attended the area on an irregular basis to conduct investigations.

5. Preceding this, I performed duties for 2 years as Senior Constable, OIC of Noosa Heads police shop front, 3 years as Detective Senior Constable, Sunshine Coast CPIU.
6. Between 1998 and 1999, I performed duties as Detective Senior Constable in the newly established Mount Isa District, CPIU (formerly known as the Juvenile Aid Bureau). In this position I also managed and coordinated the Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) team. Preceding that, between 1995 and 1998, I performed duties as Plain Clothes Constable/Senior at Mount Isa District, Criminal Investigation Branch (CIB). In this position CIB officers were required to complete child protection and youth justice investigations, as there was no designated CPIU.
7. During this 5 year period the combined CIB and CPIU staffing model was 10; comprising 1 Detective Senior Sergeant (OIC), 3 Detective Sergeants and 6 Detective/Plain Clothes Senior Constable/Constables. The main office was based in the Mount Isa local area. There was also one Detective Senior Constable based in both the Normanton and Cloncurry police divisions. CIB Officers based anywhere in the district would be called to respond to incidents / investigations occurring elsewhere in the district.
8. During this 5 year period, the Child Safety Service Centre (CSSC) was based in Mount Isa and Child Safety Officers (CSOs) attended communities within the district as required.
9. Preceding this I performed 3 years as Constable in the Cairns District.
10. I have 21 years policing experience, 12 of which have been as an investigator performing duties in the CIB and CPIU fields, and performing duties across Mount Isa, Cape York, Thursday Island, Cairns and Sunshine Coast areas.
11. In my role as the OIC, Mount Isa CPIU, I am required to lead, manage and supervise investigations in the child protection and youth justice fields. I am also required to lead, manage and supervise the SCAN representative and School Based Police Officer (SBPO). The OIC position requires me to identify issues pertaining to the CPIU area of responsibility, and respond by implementing and managing proactive activities and to

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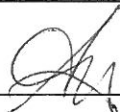


network and form partnerships with external stakeholders. Further, every second week (or as required), I am the on call Detective Senior Sergeant, where I am required to oversee and manage all incidents and investigations occurring within the District and have relieved as Acting Inspector, responsible for overseeing the CPIU and CIB.

MOUNT ISA CPIU

12. Mount Isa District has a population of approximately 23,000 permanent residents. Added to this figure is a large contingent of fly in fly out workers employed in the mining industry, and tourists during the winter months. This district covers 15 different policing divisions namely: Mount Isa, Doomadgee, Mornington Island, Karumba, Normanton, Burketown, Cloncurry, Julia Creek, Kynuna, McKinlay, Camooweal, Dajarra, Boulia, Bedourie and Birdsville. Approximately 30% of persons within the Region are under the age of 18 years which is above the state average of approximately 25%. Of the district population, approximately 16.9% or 3,752 people, identify as indigenous, compared to the state average of 3.6%.
13. Mount Isa CPIU area of responsibility is quite unique. The District is the biggest operational policing district in the state of Queensland, covering an area over 43,310 square kilometres, and covering 15 different police divisions. This area incorporates the area from Mornington Island, east to the Northern Territory Boarder at Camooweal, south to Birdsville and east to Kynuna.
14. Mount Isa District CPIU forms part of the Mount Isa District Crime Services portfolio, falling under the leadership of the Southern Inspector. Within the District structure, this inspector reports directly to the District Officer, Mount Isa District. Inspector Paul Biggin has held the Southern Inspector portfolio for approximately 3 years. The District Officer position has been held by Superintendent Russel Miller for approximately 1 year, prior to that Superintendent Ray Pringle held the position for approximately 2 years.
15. Mount Isa District CPIU has 3 designated CPIU offices. These are spread out across the district and the OIC CPIU has line control of all 3 offices. The main office is based in Mount Isa in District Headquarters, and the other 2 are based in Mornington Island and Doomadgee.

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16. Prior to January 2011, Doomadgee and Mornington Island were covered by one Plain Clothes Senior Constable/Constable, who was either based at Mornington Island or Doomadgee. This officer would be on rotation from Mount Isa CPIU staffing strength. The length of time this officer spent in this area was generally 6 months, but could be extended. This officer would spend time attending to investigations within both communities. In January 2011, the CPIU staffing model was increased to include an officer permanently based at both Mornington Island and Doomadgee. These positions were subsequently gazetted and have been filled.
17. Mount Isa CPIU has a dedicated office space on the second floor of Mount Isa Police Station. In this location there is a fully equipped child friendly (home look alike) room, which has the capacity to be externally monitored. Doomadgee and Mornington Island have office space within their respective stations. These offices are not equipped with child friendly rooms, but are equipped with digital electronic equipment which is easily transportable to record interviews away from the station. Mount Isa based CPIU is also equipped with this equipment.

Mount Isa Child Safety Service Centre

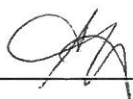
18. Child Safety provides a lead agency response across the Mount Isa District through the Child Safety Service Centre (CSSC) which is located in the Mount Isa local area. This office has two sections, 1 servicing Mount Isa and the other servicing the Gulf. Each section has a designated area of responsibility and incorporated within each office are the intake and assessment teams who are the initial responders as well as those teams responsible for the ongoing administration of child protection orders and case work with children in care.

Regional Intake Service

19. Regional Intake Service (RIS) is based in Townsville and is responsible for the intake and assessment of notifications concerning the Mount Isa Police area. RIS forward all correspondence relating to child protection matters through the Mount Isa CPIU office, either by e-mail or phone.

Mount Isa District CPIU staffing

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20. Mount Isa District CPIU approved strength is 12 officers and an administration officer is shared with the CIB. 10 officers are based in Mount Isa, comprising: 1 OIC Detective Senior Sergeant, 1 Detective Sergeant - investigator, 1 Detective Sergeant – SCAN representative, 6 Detective/Plain Clothes Senior Constable/Constables – investigators, 1 Acting Senior Constable - School Based Police Officer. There is 1 Plain Clothes Senior Constable – investigator permanently based at Doomadgee, and 1 Plain Clothes Acting Senior Constable – investigator permanently based at Mornington Island.
21. Enhancing the CPIU staffing model is the Mount Isa Property team which has a staffing model of 1 CPIU officer, 1 CIB officer and 2 Constables from Mount Isa station. The team is based within the Mount Isa CPIU office, with the OIC CPIU having line control over this team. This team was established in January 2011, and placed under the control of the CPIU as 95% of property offenders were identified as being male Indigenous juveniles, with a large contingent of juveniles being Child Safety clients. Establishment of this team enabled the CPIU to concentrate on child protection investigations, which have been increasing at a rate of 20% per year.
22. Mount Isa CIB has the same staffing model as the CPIU, with the exception of having 2 designated Detective Sergeants as investigators, and having CIB officers based in Normanton and Cloncurry. The CIB has members who have previously worked in the CPIU, or have been trained in CPIU investigative methodologies and evidence requirements. The Detective Senior Constable based in Normanton previously worked in Logan and Mount Isa CPIU, and the Detective Senior Constable based in Cloncurry has been trained in various CPIU related investigative methodologies and evidence requirements.
23. Mount Isa CPIU works closely with Townsville District CPIU, which is also based within the Northern Police Region. Townsville CPIU provides support primarily around the ongoing management of reportable sex offenders and on occasions has assisted with staffing when members of the Mount Isa CPIU are involved in major investigations.

CPIU: Psychological Assessments

24. In 2012, officers wishing to become permanent members of the CPIU became mandated to undertake psychological assessments (psychometric testing and a psychological

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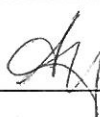
interview). This is a mandated process to reduce the risk of psychological harm to officers working in the specialist CPIU field.

25. In 2012, all members positioned in the CPIU became required to undertake yearly psychological health assessments. Whilst this has been voluntary, it is planned that this will be mandated by the Board of Management in the near future. This year several members of the Mount Isa CPIU have undertaken these assessments.

CPIU: Training

26. Officers in the CPIU are continually provided specialist training throughout their plain clothes career. Newly appointed officers are required to complete the Detective Training Program. Successful completion of this program qualifies officers for an Advanced Diploma of Public Safety (Police Investigation) and they may apply for their Detective appointment.
27. Newly appointed officers also readily attend training in the child protection area, to immediately enhance their investigative skill base. Such courses include Interviewing Children and Recording Evidence (ICARE), Child Protection Workshop, Investigative Interviewing, Australian National Child Offender Register (ANCOR), Blue Card Investigations, Child Death Investigations, Dealing with Volatile Substance Misuse.
28. Newly appointed officers also undertake an induction process and are then assigned to either the child protection or property team. In either case, officers are placed under direct control of experienced officers for a mentoring period which is designed to introduce them to the basic concepts of child protection and youth justice investigations. The period of direct mentoring for an officer is based upon an assessment by the OIC who consults with senior members of the office.
29. Officers relieving in the CPIU, from Mount Isa Station or the CIB, also undertake an induction process and are able to complete specific child protection training, but are not allowed to undertake child protection investigations without direct supervision by an experienced CPIU officer.
30. Having officers relieve from other sections has enabled a streamlined flow of increased officer skill, which they then take back to their respective positions. Further this has

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enabled a process of suitable officers for CPIU to be identified. To date 3 officers have remained in the CPIU past their relieving timeframes and have now taken up permanent positions in the CPIU.

31. Having specific skill and training in the area of child protection is crucial and the QPS ensures officers are fully equipped and trained appropriately. But, it is my experience that Child Safety Officers receive little training, which hinders investigations and the ability to successfully obtain disclosures from abused children.
32. Whilst members of the CPIU receive ICARE and Child Protection training as soon as possible when they commence in the CPIU, it is apparent that there are few trained Child Safety Officers in Mount Isa. Whilst Child Safety may find training difficult, due to remoteness and the high turnover of staff, QPS also experience the same issues but maintain a high standard in the training arena, ensuring officer skill sets are specific to the duties they perform.

Role of Mount Isa CPIU

33. The role of the CPIU has changed quite dramatically over the years. During 1994-1999 Mount Isa CPIU focus was primarily youth justice investigations. However, being in charge of this section now, I have established that the unit's primary focus is on child protection investigations; historical sex offence investigations; reportable child sex offender compliance management; child death investigations including suicide of which Mount Isa has had an significant increase between 2011-12; investigations facilitated by technology (child exploitation material); missing children; volatile substance misuse and children suffering mental health issues.


Reportable Child Sex Offenders

34. Reportable Child Sex Offender management remains the responsibility of Townsville CPIU, and they work closely with Mount Isa CPIU. This ensures management and compliance of Reportable Child Sex Offenders across the Northern Region remains consistent. In general investigations relating to Reportable Child Sex Offenders are conducted by members of Mount Isa CPIU but members from Townsville CPIU attend Mount Isa CPIU during the year to assist with investigations and training, as staffing levels do not allow Mount Isa CPIU capacity to manage this alone.

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35. To date the number of Reportable Child Sex Offenders for Mount Isa CPIU district is gradually increasing. This increase is due to legislative changes and through enhanced intelligence, increases in offences such as child exploitation material (100% increase 2011-2012).

CPIU: Notifications

36. Child Protection notifications are reported to the CPIU through: QPS internal notifications policy (domestic violence, missing persons, criminal offences committed by or against children); Notifications from Queensland Health, Education Queensland, Child Safety or RIS; direct referral to CPIU from the public or police; or notifications from other police jurisdictions.
37. Immaterial of the location within the district that a notification pertains to, Mount Isa CPIU is a conduit for all notifications. This allows a coordinated response to all child protection investigations throughout the Mount Isa district.
38. As at 3 September 2012, the number of child protection notifications received by Mount Isa CPIU stands at 768. This is a 30% increase from 2011 notifications and there was a further 20% increase in notifications from 2010.
39. Officers in Mount Isa CPIU are rostered to monitor intake every day. A generic CPIU e-mail account was established and all notifications are forwarded to this account. The intake officer is responsible for monitoring this e-mail account and, in consultation with the OIC, they assess and prioritise every notifications to ensure an appropriate response is implemented in a timely manner. The rationale for this level of response is to ensure no child is left at further risk of harm and to secure any potential evidence that may support further investigations.

Joint Investigations

40. In that regard QPS investigators prioritise intakes and attend to investigations upon receipt of the notification. Joint investigations with Child Safety are hindered as Child Safety is not generally in a position to respond; due to other work commitments and/or to time frames being outside Child Safety working shifts (9am-5pm Monday to Friday).

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41. I consider this a major issue as I have personally requested Child Safety continue after hours, to conduct joint investigations, but have only experienced a few occasions when they have continued on after 5pm, leaving QPS to complete the investigation without their assistance. This situation has eventuated in police having to care for children until Child Safety After Hours can organise placements, which can take several hours. This creates a situation of officers not being able to continue with core business and at times overtime being incurred.
42. Tyranny of distance is another major issue affecting service delivery by all agencies in the Mount Isa district. In the majority of child protection investigations occurring anywhere in the District, QPS uniform officers or CPIU officers are the first to respond, with Child Safety engaging at a later date. The OIC CPIU or another senior officer coordinates the initial police response over the phone / radio with uniform police personnel in the respective areas and this coordination continues until CPIU investigators reach the location and commence investigations. CPIU investigators are then required to regularly brief the OIC CPIU on the status of the investigation and actions to be undertaken. In instances when CPIU investigators are not required to attend, the OIC CPIU or another senior member of the CPIU will co-ordinate the uniform police response over the phone, through to the investigation being finalised.
43. In all cases where QPS personnel are involved, officers are very mindful that children's safety is paramount and will ensure that children are not subject to, or at risk of, harm. CPIU personnel ensure Child Safety or Child Safety After Hours are engaged via the telephone or a notification is forwarded to RIS. This ensures Child Safety is fully appraised of the child/family situation and investigations undertaken by police.
44. When investigators are required to attend remote areas in the district, dependent on circumstances, travel is either via vehicle, commercial air, and Police Air Wing or charter flights. It is my role to coordinate and plan travel based on urgency of investigator attendance, time delays, cost effectiveness and weather conditions. For example, Doomadgee is approximately a 6 hour drive (one way), or 12 hours (return), but during the wet season, investigators would have to fly commercial or Police Air Wing or charter flight. Whilst this travel has a significant impact on resources to the QPS, the safety of children is always paramount and travel has been approved on each occasion requested.

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45. In my opinion, having all Child Safety Officers based in Mount Isa and not in other areas of the district such as Mornington Island and Doomadgee, is not in line with child protection ethos and hinders the child protection process. In my experience at Thursday Island and in Mount Isa, I have observed this displacement reduces service delivery, placing children at increased risk of harm and results in Child Safety requesting QPS attend to their core business.
46. Such examples include being personally requested to have the CPIU member of Mornington Island serve correspondence on behalf Of Child Safety as Child Safety chose to return to Mount Isa, instead of staying in community for an extra day and completing their core business.
47. On another occasion Child Safety obtained warrants for apprehension for children in Doomadgee. Child Safety attended, could not locate the children, returned to Mount Isa and then requested police complete this retrieval, without Child Safety being present nor having Child Safety explain any details to the parents. Police attended the location regarding another matter and identified that a disturbance/riot would ensue, therefore they withdrew for their own protection. If the children had been recovered, there was a risk of harm to the children and police and there was an increased risk of harm as the children would have been placed at the police station for an unknown amount of time, as a charter flight would have to be organised and this could only occur during Child Safety business hours. In effect this could take 3 days if the children were recovered on a Friday night. Also this would limit police being able to attend to core business.
48. I personally discussed the implications of this matter with Child Safety and stated that CPIU officers from Mount Isa were able to attend as soon as possible, with Child Safety Officers on the Police Airwing, which would enable Child Safety to retrieve the children and immediately leave the community. Child Safety took a further 4 weeks to supply personnel to attend Doomadgee, placing the children at further risk of harm.

Regional Intake Service

49. The current process of RIS has caused delays in intakes being forwarded to the respective Child Safety Service Centre, limiting response timeframes as the CSSC is required to await receipt of the assessment.

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50. One example involved detectives attending a call for service regarding an intoxicated lady in the riverbed with a baby. Upon attendance CPIU officers had concerns for the immediate safety of the baby. CPIU had the lady voluntarily attend the local CSSC office with police. Upon attendance the Child Safety Officer (CSO) stated that the matter had to be reported to RIS before the CSO could legally intervene. This took some time and police had to wait in the foyer with the lady and baby. Upon assessment the CSO reviewed the matter and the baby was placed under the care of Child Safety.
51. On another occasion RIS assessed a matter for Child Safety to respond within 48 hours. As Child Safety could not respond within the timeframe (due to the weekend), QPS were asked to complete a welfare check to satisfy their statutory obligations (i.e. TR24 response time 24 hours; sight the child in 24 hours. On this occasion the Child Safety Officer bypassed the CPIU and faxed the request direct to the remote station. A Uniform officer, with no CPIU experience, then conducted an assessment and contacted myself at 10pm asking what he was required to do. This officer had no training in this area and it was inappropriate that the officer conducted this investigation.
52. As a result of the above mentioned matter and other requests, meetings were held between the Child Safety managers and I, with arrangements being implemented that all requests for assistance would be directed through the OIC Mount Isa CPIU. The OIC would then assess each request, advise Child Safety if police would assist and if QPS would assist, the OIC would coordinate a response with the relevant station. Whilst this has assisted, there are still occasions when the OIC CPIU is bypassed and requests still go to stations within the district. To reduce the risk of harm to children involved, all members in the district have been advised to contact the OIC CPIU to ensure the best response is undertaken.


Information Sharing

53. Section 159M & 159N of the *Child Protection Act 1999* allows information sharing between prescribed entities (Child Safety, Queensland Health, and Education Queensland). A generic Mount Isa CPIU e-mail account was established and all requests for information from Child Safety are forwarded to this account. The officer rostered on intake is responsible for monitoring this account. Protocols ensure information sharing is completed within 48 hours of the request being received and that a system of electronically tracing all information sharing is maintained. In the event that the material is

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required urgently, direct communication is required from the prescribed entity to facilitate an immediate release.

54. In June 2012, Child Safety changed policy, only disclosing notifier details to police in specific circumstances. This hinders investigations being conducted by police. Prior to this occurring police would contact the relevant CSO and notifier details would be obtained. This enabled police to gather pertinent information and commence an investigation in a timely manner. Police are now required to complete a warrant, have it approved by a Justice or Magistrate and then execute same on Child Safety. I believe this is a major issue creating lengthy delays, placing children in situations where they are at increased risk of significant harm and undermines legislation responsibility to share information.

Residential Care Facilities

55. Mount Isa has several residential care facilities which are utilised by Child Safety to place children in care. These children are vulnerable, abuse substances, are displaced, self-placing and having suffered neglect and little supervision for lengthy periods, find it hard to be disciplined or take direction from carers. This brings significant challenges for QPS with increased calls for service relating to assaults upon carers, damage to facilities, missing children reports and volatile substance misuse which has led to increased harm upon these children, with mental health issues and attempted suicide.
56. Between 1 January 2012 and 31 August 2012, Mount Isa police received 216 calls relating to children, many of those from these facilities or in care of Child Safety in other placements, who were affected by volatile substance misuse and/or absconding and/or being reported as missing persons. There was also a further 20 calls for service regarding 12 children in care of Child Safety who were affected by volatile substance misuse and suffering mental health issues which involved attempting suicide.
57. The majority of these calls for service occur after 5pm when Child Safety or agencies funded by Child Safety, have finished for the day, leaving QPS frontline police to attend to each call for service. This causes a major issue for QPS as it is required to prioritise calls for service and this can increase the risk of harm to the children involved.

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58. One example was a child in the care of Child Safety who was reported missing by the residential facility around 10pm. This child had previously attempted suicide, was young and very vulnerable. At the same time police were required to respond to a siege involving children being locked inside a house and the mother being physically assaulted. This siege progressed through the night and all police crews were required. Upon commencing shift the next morning, I reviewed the missing person report and immediately called the Child Safety manager. As a result the Child Safety manager coordinated a response by Child Safety Officers and agencies funded by Child Safety, and not long after, they located this young person safe.
59. Specifically Child Safety or organisations funded by Child Safety should be available on a 24 hours basis to deal with and support their clients, especially in circumstances outlined above. They are specifically trained in these areas and hold information pertinent to locating these children.
60. One such agency funded by the Department of Communities is Young People Ahead. This agency is based in Mount Isa and aims to address and provide support to the young people of Mount Isa experiencing or at risk of homelessness, volatile substance misuse, youth justice issues pertaining to bail and reintegration from incarceration and those leaving care of the Department of Child Safety.
61. In my experience, having the services of this agency and Child Safety on a 24 hour basis, on the ground and attending to child protection matters, would reduce the risk of harm to children in care of Child Safety, and reduce calls for service which are currently diverted to the police as these agencies only work 9a-5pm Monday to Friday and not on public holidays.
62. As these instances occur outside Child Safety hours, Child Safety are unaware of circumstances affecting children in their care which increases the risk of harm to these children. The issue of volatile substance misuse (VSM) was identified in the '*Chroming Report, February 2012*' (*Commission for Children and Young people and Child Guardian*), which stated limitations faced by child safety in identifying and recording the number of children in care who are known to be involved with chroming (VSM). Ultimately this reduces the ability of Child Safety to adequately protect these children.

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63. To enhance Child Safety's ability, in June 2012, Mount Isa CPIU began notifying Child Safety of all QPS related calls for service, regarding missing children, children with mental health and abusing volatile substances.
64. In my role as OIC I ensure proactive intervention strategies are implemented. Such partnerships include:

- ***Mental Health Youth Stakeholders Group***

As a result of several youth making serious attempts to complete suicide, Mental Health called for stakeholders to develop a partnership to overview, manage and create case plans for each youth after presentation. This group formulated a community action plan and the CPIU work closely with stakeholders to discuss practical strategies. One outcome is Mental Health now calling stakeholder meetings (within 7 days), after the presentation of any child to Mental Health (EEO), to formulate a strategic intervention plan based on the needs of the child. Child Safety also form part of this partnership.

- ***Mount Isa Substance Misuse Action Group***

In July 2011 Mount Isa CPIU formed partnerships with the Mount Isa Substance Misuse Action Group. This group is led by the *Community Safety Officer, Petrol Sniffing Strategy Coordination Centre* (Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs). QPS provide this group with data pertaining to all QPS VSM calls for service (location, gender, age and date). This data enables the group to strategically formulate action plans to proactively respond to this issue. Outcomes of this group include partnerships with Dovetail (workforce development initiative for the youth and drug sector, funded by the Queensland Government), create a Community Action Plan, facilitate stakeholder meetings discussing target premises and aligning service provider responses to identified youth and target premises, and holding a retailers and community forum. Child Safety also form part of this partnership.

- ***Mount Isa Suicide Prevention Cross Agency Coordination Group and North West QLD Action Group 4 Suicide Prevention***

Mount Isa has sustained an increase in suicide, in particular youth. In response to this the CPIU and representatives from government and non-government agencies formed

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the North West Queensland Action Group 4 Suicide Prevention (NWQAG4SP) (2010). This group has formulated action plans, mission statements and a variety of suicide prevention strategies including training sessions for community and government agency personnel (including police), to enhance the community's abilities to deal with persons suffering mental illness. Training sessions include Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) and safeTALK (tell, ask, listen and keepsafe). QPS uniform and CPIU personnel have attended this training as they are generally first response to incidents involving mental illness, including those children in care of Child Safety who have attempted suicide (2012) . Child Safety are also part of this partnership.

The CPIU further partnered with Young People Ahead to implement the Standby Response Postvention Service in Mount Isa. This partnership created a community development plan and held community meetings, including supporting those bereaved embers of our community.

- ***Coordinated Panel for Repeat offenders and Young People at risk (formerly Project 200)***

The panel is in a similar nature to SCAN in which several stakeholders work in partnership to review and formulate case plans to recidivist juvenile offenders. Mt Isa CPIU formed partnership with this panel and have attended meetings in which several well-known recidivist offenders' case plans were discussed. These offenders were also in Child Safety care. Child Safety are also part of this partnership.

- ***Youth Alliance***

Youth Alliance is chaired and coordinated by Young People Ahead. Numerous stakeholders form this partnership, including Mount Isa CPIU and Child Safety. Youth Alliance addresses and provides support to the young people of Mount Isa experiencing or at risk of homelessness, volatile substance misuse and those leaving care of the Department of Child Safety. Any organisation can discuss individual cases in a confidential environment. Outcomes include individual case plan developments which had been applied to several youth.

- ***Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) Team***

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Mount Isa has a Detective Sergeant, SCAN representative, who works within the Mount Isa CPIU office. The SCAN representative is a core member of the SCAN team that services the Mount Isa District. SCAN meetings are conducted in the local CSSC. Core agencies include Child Safety Services, QPS, Education Queensland, and Queensland Health.

65. During the 2 years I have been the OIC of Mount Isa CPIU, the CPIU and Child Safety have established an excellent working partnership. These effective relationships have enhanced the effectiveness and working capacity of both the CPIU and Child Safety.


And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provisions of the *Oaths Act 1867*.

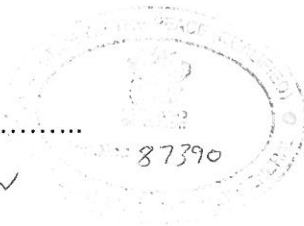
Signed.....

Kelly Maree Harvey

Declared before me at Mount Isa this 3rd day of October 2012.

Witness.....


Jaella V CHRISTENSEN



Signature of officer

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Witness Signature