

Commission of Inquiry Brisbane hearings

11 January 2013

The Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry will next week hold hearings in the Brisbane Magistrates Court in relation to the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the Queensland child protection system.

The Commission has to date heard that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in Queensland are nearly nine times more likely to be subject to a protection order or an out of home care order than non-Indigenous children.

Nine witnesses will be called to provide evidence. They will be from a range of backgrounds including Indigenous elders, parents with experience in the system, academics and representatives from service providers and legal providers. A full list of witnesses will appear on the Commission website from Monday morning.

The hearing will be conducted in Court 17, level four of the Brisbane Magistrates Court, George Street, and will run from Monday to Thursday starting at 10am, unless specified otherwise. Anyone is welcome to attend and the proceedings will be live streamed through the Commission's website.

The Commission welcomes submissions from members of the public in the second round of submissions which is now open.

Anyone with an interest in the Terms of Reference is urged to contribute.

The Commission's Terms of Reference allow the Inquiry to investigate matters including the Queensland government 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.

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.

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