



24 April 2009

Media Release

Commission gathers evidence from 43,000 children in care

The Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian made 43,453 visits to 6,333 children and young people living in out-of-home care in 2007-08 to monitor their safety and wellbeing.

This significant contact has produced some key findings on the outcomes experienced by children and young people in the child safety system, as detailed in the Commission's *Child Guardian Report 2007-08* released today.

Acting Commissioner for Children and Young People and Child Guardian, Barry Salmon, said the new report shows a significant reduction in the number of instances of children and young people in care who experienced harm or found to be at risk of harm since the 2004 Crime and Misconduct Commission Inquiry into Foster Care.

In 2007-08, 3% of children and young people experienced substantiated harm or risk of harm in out-of-home care, compared to 9% in 2004-05.

"The children and young people we spoke to during the year, overwhelmingly reported feeling safe in care and this is a credit to their foster carers and the other support people in their lives," Mr Salmon said.

"We also assessed and responded to 2,684 complaints about child-related matters, including 1069 issues arising from our visits to children and young people in out-of-home care.

"Through our work, we are able to gather unique information directly from children and young people in care.

"Not feeling listened to or supported enough by the system are the main issues identified most often by children in care."

Mr Salmon encouraged child safety agencies to continue to work collaboratively to achieve better outcomes for vulnerable children.

For more information, please contact Chau Nguyen on 3247 5346.