



commission for
children and young people
and child guardian

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Media release

Commission report builds first statewide picture on children in care

Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian has released its first Child Guardian Report, providing an independent, child-focussed account of the state's child protection system.

Commissioner, Elizabeth Fraser, said the annual report will be pivotal in helping government and the community to assess the performance of child protection services.

"Our analysis of over 24,000 Community Visitors' reports on visits to children in foster care show one in four children requesting information and assistance from a Community Visitor.

"Most of these requests were for greater support from the Department of Child Safety, including better access to counselling and improved links with family.

"The report confirms many carers in the system are providing high-quality care to the children and young people, and I believe the reforms the Department has set in train will continue to improve conditions in future."

The Commission will keep listening to the concerns of children and young people in care and monitor the department's responsiveness to the issues they raise.

The Child Guardian Report 2005 has been informed by the activities of the Commission's new Child Guardian area over the past 12 months, including:

- visiting children in care
- assessing and resolving complaints about child protection services
- reviewing and researching child deaths in Queensland
- investigating the sexual abuse of children in care
- monitoring backlogs in child protection assessments, and
- collecting data on the reasons why vulnerable children enter foster care.

The report also details the Commission's implementation of the CMC recommendations from the *Inquiry into the abuse of children in foster care* within the deadline.

"I'm committed to building our external accountability role, including investigation, monitoring and audit activities, capacity building and the work of our Community Visitors and Complaints staff.

"For the first time, the Commission is asking how satisfied they are with the way the system is working," she said.

The Commissioner said the report also calls for a greater focus on early intervention and prevention services to prevent highly vulnerable children from entering the child safety system in the first place.

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