



Media Release

Commission calls for public input on child labour review

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The Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian has released a discussion paper for public consultation about issues affecting Queensland children and young people in the workplace.

The Commission's *Queensland Review of Child Labour* was prompted by community concerns about a range of issues impacting on children at work.

These include reports of school-aged children working excessive hours, children being employed in adult entertainment, poor workplace conditions and issues such as workplace bullying.

Acting Commissioner Barry Salmon said children are a particularly vulnerable group in the labour market.

"We must have mechanisms in place to protect children from abuse and exploitation in the workplace, and maintain a balance between work and education," Mr Salmon said.

"While the Commission recognises there are certain laws that protect all Queensland workers regardless of age, we believe special protections are required for those under 18."

The discussion paper canvasses a broad range of issues relating to child labour in Queensland, including:

- wages
- the type of work suitable for children and young people
- maximum allowable hours
- minimum working age
- workplace health and safety issues
- age discrimination
- bullying, and
- sexual exploitation.

The Commission hopes the feedback received from the community will help it better understand the nature of children's employment in Queensland and identify the nature and extent of child labour risks.

This will enable the Commission to consider whether the current protections for children and young people are adequate and identify options which might improve the protection of children in the workplace.

The deadline for submissions to the Commission on child labour is 1 October 2004.

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