



commission for
children and young people
and child guardian

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Media release

The Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian has supported calls for better farm safety following five child deaths in rural areas in the last month.

Commissioner Elizabeth Fraser, said the key to preventing unnecessary deaths of children was being aware the risks of children's activities and acting to minimise them.

"This holiday period we have seen a number of tragic deaths in regional areas," Ms Fraser said.

Those deaths include the drowning of two children in a dam on a family farm before Christmas and the deaths of two boys on motorbikes since New Year's eve.

The Commission reports annually on the causes of child deaths in Queensland, and has consistently identified rural hazards, such as dams and farm vehicles - including motor cycles and quad bikes - as significant risks to children.

The Commission's 2006-07 report identified drowning as a key issue, and is working with Queensland Health and the Departments of Emergency Services and Local Government, Sport and Recreation to develop strategies to raise awareness about the importance of supervision in preventing drownings.

"Parents on regional or remote properties should consider building fenced play-safe areas for young children, ensure they are supervised around water and always wear the correct safety gear when they are on motor bikes or quad bikes," the Commissioner said.

"They should also check manufacturers' age guidelines before allowing children to ride motor bikes and quad bikes without supervision."

The Commission is currently completing a detailed study about preventing rural deaths which will be published later this year.

The Commission's Annual Report on the Deaths of Children and Young People in Queensland 2006-07 is available at

www.cypcg.qld.gov.au/about/publications/reports.html

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