



Media Release



Commission's new book sparks debate on role of fathers

Friday 19 March 2004

The Commission for Children and Young People is launching a new book, **Focus on Fathering** which explores the debate about men's place in the family and society today.

It's been argued that biologically, fathers are in danger of becoming obsolete, with media images reinforcing stereotypes of fathers as figures of fun, struggling with the fathering role, or absent.

Launching the Commission's new book, Premier Peter Beattie admits that being a father is challenging.

"Many factors shape the way fathers behave, and it is sometimes hard to pin down a clear definition of a father's role," the Premier said.

"Yet we want to be good fathers, and have no intention of relinquishing the role."

Commissioner for Children and Young People, and Editor of **Focus on Fathering**, Robin Sullivan, said the book focuses on new ways to explore masculinity and re-think fatherhood.

"This book encourages fathers to examine their place in the family, contribute to the caring of children and household tasks and be more emotionally connected to their children," she said.

"It brings together the sometimes conflicting views of the concept of fathering, and our understanding of fathers' roles."

The book originated from a series of papers given at a forum run by the Commission. Contributors come from a range of diverse disciplines and from throughout the country.

The launch is at the Playground and Recreation Association, 10 Love Street, Spring Hill at 10.30am, Friday 19 March. Fathers and their children will be present for picture opportunities.

In addition to the Premier, authors will be available for interview at the launch, including:

- Robin Sullivan, Editor and Commissioner for Children and Young People
- Sue Howard, Manager Research, Commission for Children and Young People
- Dr Carol McVeigh, Associate Professor in the School of Nursing, Griffith University

For more information contact:

Sam Keegan, Principal Communications Advisor
Ph: 07 3247 5346 Mob: 0412 246 499