



commission for
children and young people
and child guardian

Media Release

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Commission releases 'Snapshot' of children and young people

The Commissioner for Children and Young People and Child Guardian is calling on all levels of government to better target early intervention strategies to protect vulnerable children and young people from harm.

The Commissioner said these strategies need to engage and help at risk families look after their children's basic needs.

Launching the Commission's annual snapshot of children's health and wellbeing, Elizabeth Fraser said it shows ongoing high levels of disadvantage for Indigenous children and young people.

"Indigenous children suffer higher levels of abuse, mortality, morbidity and social disadvantage, and lower levels of health and education than other children and young people in the state," the Commissioner said.

A Snapshot: children and young people in Queensland 2005, draws together data from a range of state and national sources about the health and wellbeing of children and young people in this state.

Ms Fraser said such data is vital for future planning.

"We must rely on evidence-based thinking to make decisions about the services children and young people need for better lives," she said.

"Our report shows marginal improvements in the areas of education and detention among Indigenous young people, but further improvements are needed.

"The information in the Snapshot allows us to look at trends, so we have the information needed to plan ahead for a better future for our children."

In addition to issues around Indigenous disadvantage, the Snapshot shows ongoing high levels of childhood overweight and obesity; high rates of sexually transmitted diseases in young people; high injury and death rates for young people from transport accidents; and possible increases in binge drinking among young people.

On a more positive note, the rate of teenage pregnancies are decreasing; there have been falls in mortality rates for children and young people (including deaths from SIDS and drowning) and rates of smoking in 14-19 year-olds have dropped.

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