



## Commission blitzes the Ekka



Visitors to this year's Ekka would have noticed the Commission's updated stand in the Government's Frank Nicklin Pavilion.

This year, the Commission's display was about building safe environments for children and young people through a range of fun activities.

The Ekka was a good opportunity for the Commission to promote its key messages by encouraging children to build their idea of a safe environment in Lego and drawing a picture about where they feel safe.

The resounding feedback was that most children feel safest in their homes, at school and with their parents and friends.

In addition, the Commission displayed artwork and masks produced by young Aboriginal people in detention, along with an original artwork by Torres Strait Islander artist Dennis Nona. His detailed lino-print, *Mamoose* tells the story of wisdom being handed down the generations by the elders.

The Commission's television advertisement on changes to the blue card was also playing on a large plasma screen to spread the message.

During the 10 days, over 9,600 Commission show bags were given away, containing activity books, stress stars, bubble pens and magnetic photo frames.

## calendar of events

- Oct 17 - 23 National Carers Week
- Oct 22 - 30 Children's Week
- Nov 19 World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse
- Nov 20 Universal Children's Day

To those who visited our stand, thank you and we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did!

## Community Visitor Program showcased at UN conference

The Commission's Community Visitor (CV) Program was introduced to an international audience at the first United Nations (UN) Conference on Engaging Communities held in Brisbane in August.

The Commission's display showcased the CV Program as part of a whole-of-government exhibition at the conference.

Assistant Commissioner Barry Salmon did double duty on day two of the conference, chairing a panel of experts at a session on engaging young people, before delivering a presentation on the CV Program.

The conference was attended by key figures in the international community, including former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson and East Timor Foreign Minister Jose Ramos-Horta.

## Community Visitor recognised

Community Visitor Bob Poyner has been recognised for his contribution to child protection in the Napranum Aboriginal community west of the Cape York Peninsula.

Bob received a certificate of appreciation from the Community Council during Child Safety Day in the area.

He has been actively involved in child protection issues on the Peninsula since becoming a Community Visitor in August late year.

Based in Cairns, he travels to the Cape and regularly visits children and young people living in out-of-home residential facilities.

He has also become an active member of the community and provides assistance for community initiatives that promote child safety.

## inside

- Risk Management training launch ..... 2
- SOSE module released ..... 3
- Assistant Commissioner appointed..... 3
- EKKA fun..... 4

## contact

Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian  
T&G Building  
141 Queen Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000

PO Box 12671  
Brisbane George Street  
Qld 4003

### Office Hours:

9:00 am – 5:00 pm  
Monday to Friday

Phone: (07) 3247 5525

Freecall: 1800 688 275

Fax: (07) 3247 5507

### Website:

www.ccypcg.qld.gov.au

### Email:

wmaster@ccypcg.qld.gov.au

## Annie's award for leadership in ESSU

The outstanding work of the Commission's blue card team has been highlighted by Annie Lindsey's High Commendation in the 2005 Department of the Premier and Cabinet Achievement Awards.



Annie, (centre) from Employment Screening Services was recognised by the Premier in the Leadership and Collaboration category for her hard work and dedication.

Annie has been a leader in ESSU since 2001 as one of the team's original members.

Over the years, she has helped improve organisational performance, productivity and client services as one of the unit's supervisors.

Annie said being nominated by her team for the award was an unexpected surprise.

"I am very honoured to be nominated," she said.

"The past four and a half years have been such a long and challenging time, to receive such a notable award is very rewarding."

Annie received a framed certificate from the Premier and Director-General, Leo Keliher, to mark her achievement.

## Blue card holders happy with services

The Commission's blue card system has been given a tick of approval from cardholders, with an independent client survey showing a high satisfaction rate.

Ninety-five percent of clients surveyed by the Office of Economic and Statistical Research in Queensland Treasury indicated they were satisfied or very satisfied with services provided by the Commission's Employment Screening Services Unit.

In addition, 85 percent were happy with the time it took to process their applications.

Importantly for ESSU staff, 97 percent of respondents thought staff were courteous in liaising with clients.

The survey shows an increase in satisfaction with the area since the first survey of its kind in late 2003 – early 2004, and shows how effective improvement measures have been in the past 18 months.

Premier Peter Beattie acknowledged ESSU's excellent work, recognising the Commission for the implementation of its blue card responsibilities.

"I congratulate staff of the Employment Screening Services Unit for these results," the Premier said.

"They have worked harder than ever in recent months, due to an expansion of the categories of regulated employment and business to improve the safety of Queensland children have expanded.

"Since the introduction of the Working with Children Check on 1 May 2001 up to 31 July 2005, the Commission has issued 437,098 blue cards."





>>continued from page 1

Commissioner Elizabeth Fraser congratulated Annie as well as all staff in ESSU on the excellent survey results, saying the dedication of the unit to providing high quality services is much appreciated.

The next target for the unit is to achieve improved access to niche groups, including people living in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The survey had a sample of 800 respondents.

A copy of the report will be available on the Commission's website [www.ccypcg.qld.gov.au](http://www.ccypcg.qld.gov.au) in coming weeks.

## ESS breaks processing records

In another milestone, ESSU and their counterparts from the Queensland Police Service celebrated a record in June by issuing over 66,000 blue cards in three months.

The "hat-trick" was the unit's best processing result yet, with 20,447 cards issued in March, 21,673 in April and an impressive 24,481 for May.

## New training to manage risks



The Commissioner (2nd left) with members of Qld Youth Alliance

The Commission's new *Child Protection – Managing the Risks* workshop is up and running to educate people working with children and young people on how to provide child safe environments.

The workshops were developed following the introduction of new legislation requiring regulated businesses and employers to have risk management strategies to protect children in their care.



Anne Jamieson delivers new training

The Commission's 'Risk Management Framework' aims to help organisations comply with the legislation and work to create safe environments where children can learn and thrive.

Commissioner Elizabeth Fraser said the workshop will help regulated employers and businesses comply with new laws, which require them to have a written risk management strategy in place by 16 January 2006.

"We often think of 'child protection' as the responsibility of advocacy groups, government and social workers, but everyone in our community who affects the lives of children and young people is responsible," she said.

"Our new legislation recognises the pivotal role regulated businesses and employers play in creating safe environments for children and young people.

"A failure to provide safe environments can result in devastating consequences for them, their families, and the wider community.

"Organisations can help prevent this by having effective strategies in place which consider the risk of harm from employees, volunteers or external risks to children's wellbeing.

"Most organisations recognise that providing child-safe environments is a shared commitment, and are making sure their staff have the skills and training to provide safe environments."

Ms Fraser said she hoped the workshops help organisations assess whether their current strategies comply with new requirements, and how to build on and strengthen their risk management systems.

Guests at the launch of the workshop in late June were the first to undergo the training and learnt how to assess their organisation's risk management strategies and address any gaps in policies, training or risk management systems.

The project team responsible for the training will spend the next 12 months travelling the state to deliver the workshops.

Each workshop runs for three to four hours and is free of charge. Those interested in taking part can visit the Commission's website at [www.ccypcg.qld.gov.au](http://www.ccypcg.qld.gov.au) to download a registration form and get more information.

## Commission launches child rights SOSE module

Children and young people are learning more about their rights and place in society thanks to the Commission's new Studies of Society and Environment (SOSE) module

*Children's rights, children's lives.*



Commissioner Elizabeth Fraser launched the module at Parliament House in late July, and it was well received by attending teachers and education administrators.

Many who attended have already implemented the module within Queensland schools.

*Children's rights, children's lives* engages upper primary school students in conversations about children's rights, the principles underlying these rights and how they are enacted in government and society.

While the module's resources and activities are designed to promote learning outcomes for Years 6 and 7 students, trials revealed that many are also suitable for early secondary year students.

The launch was attended by key education administrators including Assistant Directors-General Lesley Englert and Ken Rogers from the Department of Education and the Arts.

In launching the module, the Commissioner said helping children and young people learn about their rights was important in developing a sense of belonging and interdependence that contributes to their wellbeing.

"It is important for children and young people to understand the contribution they make to our society's future," she said.

The module meets the Commission's legislative responsibility to promote understandings about children's rights among young people and the community.

Copies are available on the Commission's website at [www.ccypcg.qld.gov.au](http://www.ccypcg.qld.gov.au)

## Barry Salmon is appointed Assistant Commissioner



Barry Salmon has been appointed as Assistant Commissioner after acting in the role since early this year.

Barry has demonstrated a strong commitment to promoting the strategic objectives and legislative mandate of the Commission.

His dedication to advancing the safety, wellbeing and rights of children and young people, particularly those most vulnerable, is evident to all who work with him.

His role is to oversee services to children known to the Department of Child Safety and advocate for individual children and young people in the child protection and juvenile justice system where necessary.

Commissioner, Elizabeth Fraser said Barry's networking and leadership skills and management experience are great assets in helping the Commission work through the changes needed to further the interests of children and young people.

"Barry's leadership has been instrumental in advancing the role," she said.

"He will continue to oversee the complaints, community visitor and systemic monitoring and auditing work of the Commission.