

Commissioner's Foreword

The Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian protects and promotes the rights, interests and wellbeing of Queensland's children and young people. The Commission strives to promote a child-friendly community which values and respects its youngest citizens. The Commission has the Queensland Government's support for this review of child labour, which seeks to ensure that children and young people are receiving the best possible protections in the workplace.

This discussion paper provides an opportunity for young people, key stakeholders and the general community, to give feedback on ways to protect children and young people in paid and unpaid work. The emphasis on the need to protect children at work accords with the Government's current child protection reform priorities across the community.

To assist in this process, the Commission has researched child employment trends in Queensland and other jurisdictions, and identified potential child labour risks from the literature. These risk areas provide guidance on areas of focus for this review. The Commission is also committed to listening to the voices of children and young people on these issues, and so this paper includes information about complaints from young workers, and the results of student surveys conducted by the Commission.

This paper summarises information on potential risk areas, and the consultation process aims to provide the Commission with a better understanding of any specific issues which may exist in Queensland.

In addition to canvassing child employment, and child labour risks, this paper describes the range of existing workplace protections in Queensland. This system provides comprehensive entitlements and conditions for all employees regardless of age. The paper also describes alternative child-focussed protections which exist in other jurisdictions to encourage feedback on the options available.

I encourage you to have your say to help the Commission identify any child labour issues in Queensland, so advice can be provided to the Government on the best way to protect young workers.

Survey questions (attached in Appendix One) aim to gather specific information and experiences from community members and young people about child labour, and options for protecting young workers.

General consultation questions are also included throughout the paper to prompt more detailed submissions from key stakeholders. The closing date for survey responses and formal submissions is 1 October 2004.



BARRY SALMON

**A/Commissioner for Children and Young People
and Child Guardian**



Acknowledgements

The Commission extends its thanks to the Young Workers Advisory Service, Industrial Relations Victoria, and the Review of Child Labour Inter-departmental Reference Group, including the following Queensland Government agencies for assistance through their contributions to this paper:

- The Department of Industrial Relations
- The Department of Justice and Attorney-General
- Department of Education and the Arts
- Department of Tourism, Fair Trading and Wine Industry Development
- The Department of Employment and Training
- The Queensland Police Service
- Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy
- The then Department of Families
- The Department of Communities, Office of Youth Affairs, and Office of Rural Communities
- Department of Child Safety
- Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries
- Disability Services Queensland
- Department of the Premier and Cabinet

An electronic copy of this discussion paper is available at www.ccypcg.qld.gov.au

Submissions are due 1 October 2004.

Submissions may be addressed to:

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Any questions can be directed to

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Please indicate in your submission if you require all or part of your feedback to remain anonymous.