



Commission for Children and Young People
Annual Report

02-03



Commission for
Children & Young People
Queensland Government



Acknowledgments

The Commission thanks Rebecca Hassett for the photographs on pages 34, 39 and 43.

annual report



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Commission for Children and Young People

The Honourable Peter Beattie MP
Premier and Minister for Trade
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Mr Beattie

The Commission for Children and Young People is pleased to present this Annual Report for the 2002-2003 financial year.

The report outlines the Commission's key roles and functions and details its performance, including key achievements and outcomes for 2002-2003. It is in accordance with the provisions of section 46J of the *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977*.

I wish to commend this report to you. It shows how the hard work and commitment of the Commission's staff contributed to the ongoing promotion and protection of the rights, interests and wellbeing of Queensland's children and young people in 2002-03.

Robin Sullivan
Commissioner for Children and Young People

Letter 1



Communication objectives

This report provides the Premier, Members of Parliament, key stakeholders and all Queenslanders with an account of the Commission's key functions, priorities and achievements in the 2002-03 financial year.

The report provides interested parties with the means to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the Commission over this time, and ensures its openness and accountability.

It covers the Commission's key outcomes, highlights and outlook by reporting against each key operational area:

- communications
- community visitors
- complaints and investigations
- corporate services
- employment screening
- policy, and
- research.

Further information can be found in the Commission's Strategic Plan 2001-05, the 2002-03 Ministerial Portfolio Statements and on the Commission's website - www.childcomm.qld.gov.au

Readers are welcome to provide feedback on this report through the Commission's website (as above).

Vision

To promote and protect the rights, interests and wellbeing of all Queensland's children and young people, now and for the future.

Principles

The guiding principles underpinning the Commission's operations are:

- every child and young person is a valued member of society
- in decisions involving a child or young person, their best interests are paramount, and their views and wishes should be taken into account with regard to their age and maturity
- children and young people are entitled to:
 - have their dignity and privacy respected
 - be cared for in ways that protect them from harm and promote their wellbeing
 - express concerns and grievances and have them dealt with in a fair, timely way that promotes their participation
 - receive information and help to exercise their entitlements
 - access services necessary to meet their needs.
- the family has primary responsibility for a child's upbringing and development and should be supported in that role.

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