



Chapter 6

The year ahead

This chapter outlines some of the priorities of the CDCRC in 2007–08.

New members

Under the *Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian Act 2000*, the Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner are permanent members of the CDCRC. However, all other members are appointed for a maximum of three years by the Premier.

The current members' terms are due to expire in November 2007.

Over the last three years, the inaugural members (Appendix 1) have been instrumental in building capacity within the department to conduct child death case reviews and in improving the delivery of services to children and young people in the Queensland child protection system.

An Expression of Interest seeking suitably qualified people to nominate themselves for appointment to the CDCRC is currently being progressed, with the new members to be announced on the expiration of the current members' terms. In appointing members of the CDCRC, the Premier looks to include people with investigative or analytical skills and also to reflect the diversity of professional services that children and young people in the child protection system may receive, including pediatrics and child health, mental health and child protection services.

The Commission, in its role of providing secretariat support to the CDCRC, will facilitate the induction of the new members, including the provision of detailed briefings on the outcomes of the CDCRC's work to date.

Building capacity through system-level data

Over the past three years the CDCRC has gathered information about the department's performance in a number of key years of service delivery. The CDCRC is now well positioned to identify trends and issues emerging from the system-level data generated by child death case reviews and to draw these to the department's attention in the form of 'early alerts'.

The system-level data also contain some valuable insights about the outcomes of the reform agenda across the child safety system generally.

As mentioned earlier, the CDCRC is working towards adopting the Child Guardian Key Outcome Indicators⁵⁵ to structure the capture and reporting of the system-level data in future reports. Specifically, the CDCRC will capture qualitative and quantitative information about issues emerging from child death case reviews and group this information for reporting purposes against each of the following Key Outcome Indicators:

- Effective Assessment
- Appropriate service delivery for children and young people who do not enter out-of-home care but require further intervention
- Safe and stable out-of-home care
- Individual needs are listened to, understood and met
- Best education possible
- Best health possible
- Specifically needs of Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander and culturally linguistically diverse children and young people are met.

The CDCRC has also agreed to provide this system level data to the Child Guardian for inclusion in the *Child Guardian Report 2007*.

In 2007–08 the CDCRC also intends to identify opportunities to share the system-level data emerging from child death case reviews with the department and other relevant stakeholders. Although the department is the lead agency for child protection, the CDCRC acknowledges that it is not the only agency responsible for delivering services to children and young people in the child protection system. In this context, the CDCRC considers that many of the findings of child death case reviews have practical implications for the practice of other agencies in the sector. The CDCRC therefore intends to focus considerable effort in 2007–08 on promoting the findings of its reviews within a range of forums.

55 The Child Guardian Key Outcome Indicators are the eight outcomes-based measures used by the Child Guardian to gather, assess and report information about the effectiveness of the child safety system. The Child Guardian developed the indicators in 2006 after extensive research and consultation with relevant entities, including the CDCRC. For further information, see the Child Guardian Report 2006 available at <http://www.ccypcg.qld.gov.au/about/publications>