

AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE

A core function of the Commission for Children and Young People is to promote a community culture that focuses on children and young people's interests, needs, rights and responsibilities.

One of the key challenges in fulfilling this function is to identify opportunities for the "authentic" voice of children and young people to be heard. We must also facilitate their contributions to significant decision making processes, community capacity building and the development of child friendly communities.

It is worthwhile noting that the characteristics of a child friendly community include:

- Children and young people are listened to;
- Children's rights are respected;
- Children and young people are valued;
- Children and young people are enabled to take responsibility and exercise independence;
- Children and young people are protected;
- Services are provided to meet children and young people's needs;
- Services are accessible and non-stigmatised; and,
- Professionals recognise, understand, and respond to the needs of children and young people.

It is my view that the adoption of such a philosophy will go some way to regenerating the sense of community that promotes child protection, supports parents and carers in their endeavours to nurture our youngest citizens and contributes to long term community well being.

Children's well being is everybody's business.

As the Children's Commissioner charged with protecting and promoting the well being of all children in Queensland I invite you to join me in responding to the challenge of connecting our community in ways that benefit our youngest citizens and our collective future. I look forward to your participation in Children's Week activities.

ROBIN SULLIVAN
CHILDREN'S WEEK AMBASSADOR