

# Child Safety Planning and Partnerships Network

Newsletter update on progress of the Child Protection Statewide Partnership Taskforce

May 2007

## Update from Taskforce Meeting held 23 May 2007

The 26<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Taskforce was held on 23 May 2007 with a particular focus on Prevention and Early Intervention (P&EI).

### Meeting between Taskforce NGOs and Minister Pitt, Department of Communities

Non-government Taskforce members had raised a number of issues which had been identified in Taskforce meetings, with Minister Pitt and advocated for a forum to progress issues around targeted support for families and family support services.

### Child Safety Directors Network (CSDN)

The value of the CSDN is in work undertaken in members' own organisations to improve service of their agency to children in the child protection system and also the Network has identified areas of focussed work including:

- Child responsive communities
- Building effective local child protection systems
- Young people at risk
- Placement stability
- Schools as community hubs
- Indigenous service delivery.

Reaching agreement on shared priorities is a major concern of the sector. The Taskforce has an opportunity to identify gaps to Child Safety Directors who can champion within their agencies.

### CEO Reference Groups

The Premier has identified a number of risk issues and wants to identify risk issues early. CEO Committees report directly to the Premier and drive priority areas for government. The current CSDN workplan has been aligned with the new CEO key committee structure chaired by Ross Rolfe, Director-General, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, with CEOs who can drive focus:

- Prevention and Early Intervention Sub-Committee (DG DChS is on this committee) - co-chaired by Uschi Schreiber, Director-General, Queensland Health
- Stronger Indigenous Communities Committee (DG DChS is on this committee) co-chaired by Director-General, Justice and Attorney General
- A Safer and Fairer Queensland Committee – co-chaired by Linda Apelt, Director-General, Department of Communities.

### ZPPO Linkage

Two main areas were highlighted:

- Network arrangements have been established across the zones. These networks have identified P&EI as a key priority to progress.
- ZPPOs are able to identify service gaps in the P&EI field, as well as what models are working and what they are achieving through collaboration. Many ZPPOs are on the Action Network Team (ANT) for the Referral for Active Intervention (RAI).

All ZPPOs are working to increase linkages. The arrangements are there, but a culture change is required. ZPPOs can also identify blockages. They will continue to report to Peaks and feed up comprehensive reports through internal mechanisms, which can be used as intelligence. More formal reporting to CSDN is envisaged in future.

## Position Paper

Jill Lang provided a paper summarising previous Taskforce discussions around P&EI and proposing recommendations to move forward. This included:

- Definition of P&EI
- Causal factors underlying the abuse and neglect of children
  - combination of social factors
  - impact of mandatory reporting
  - should notification relating to neglect be addressed by entry into the child safety system.
- What will work
  - system issues
  - alignment with other systems
  - learning from programs that have worked

## Key P&EI Priorities and how to progress

Discussion occurred in regard to taking the agenda in the position paper to government.

- Through new DOC advisory committee.
- A gap in the process between DOC and DChS was identified.
- It is possible that some of the issues will fit in the new DOC forum.
- Issues were identified around integrated overall continuum of care process to fit together.
- Issue identified as to how DChS has involvement and input into new DOC forum.
- need for involvement beyond two departments was identified.

There is a need for more money linked to:

- research (what leads to and could prevent children coming into the system);
- identifying service gaps through mapping existing services; and
- return on investment.

The P&EI Agenda requires a multiple range of approaches These issues are for whole of government.

There is an excellent opportunity to investigate P&EI through the CEO committees:

- Taskforce members could reflect perspectives to their respective Directors-General
- An invitation is to be extended to the three SES officers who form the secretariat from each of the three CEO committees to hear Taskforce members' perspectives.
- A number of these issues could be raised through the DOC Child Care Forum being reconstituted by Minister Pitt.
- Possibility to present these issues through CSDN who can give response through their individual agencies.

With new CEO committees being formed, Minister Boyle is revisiting the focus of the Taskforce so that it is absolutely on the tertiary end. She wants to position her stakeholder group where she can drive. DChs will influence the broader agenda through the DG on CEO committees and CSDN.

**For further details visit the website at [www.childsafety.qld.gov.au](http://www.childsafety.qld.gov.au)  
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