



Child Safety Planning and Partnerships Network

A joint initiative between the Department of Child Safety, government and community stakeholders

February 2006

This communique provides an update on the progress of the Child Protection Statewide Partnership Taskforce and Zonal Planning and Partnerships Networks. For more details visit the website at: <http://www.childsafety.qld.gov.au/partnerships>



Update from February Taskforce Meeting

The Taskforce held its 16th meeting on 17 February 2006 in Brisbane. Items of discussion included:

Taskforce Workplan

Following the review of the Taskforce, the workplan is to be revised to clearly reflect Taskforce roles, links and strategies.

Quarterly Budget Report

The Budget Report reflecting actual expenditure as at 31 December 2005 was tabled. It was agreed that Zonal Planning and Partnerships Officers are to provide submissions and approximate costings for projects proposed to be funded by non-recurrent savings. A proposal will then be circulated out of session to seek Taskforce approval.

Zonal Planning and Partnerships Quarterly Reports

- The newly appointed Zonal Planning and Partnerships Officer (ZPPO) for Logan and Brisbane West Zone was introduced to the Taskforce.
- Key areas of work for the ZPPOs over the last quarter have included:
 - Developing and consolidating network arrangements;
 - Participating in the rollout of the Referral for Active Intervention Services (RAIs); and
 - Continuing to strengthen relationships between child protection stakeholders.
- Taskforce members raised questions regarding:
 - the range of stakeholder participation;
 - engagement of foster carers and natural parents;
 - evidence that those agencies with Child Safety Directors are beginning to filter information on the ground.

Draft Queensland Child Protection Strategy 2006-09

Input was sought from the Taskforce around the consultation period and how Taskforce members' agencies will be involved. Taskforce members agreed to raise awareness and encourage consultation on the draft strategy. Dates of meetings scheduled will be posted to the website. Following a request from the Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland, information sessions are also to be tailored for culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

Draft Queensland Early Years Strategy

The Department of Communities Early Years Strategy discussion paper had been launched by the Premier on 17 February 2006. A consultation period is to be held over February and March to firm up the strategy.

Referral for Active Intervention (RAI)

RAI is a service model which will be created in ten locations across the state. It will provide an assertive, outreach based service with families referred from the Department of Child Safety and will coordinate access to a range of other services. An Action Network Team comprising key government agencies will also be resourced in each area.

Taskforce Review

Penny Gordon facilitated the four step review process:

1. A survey had been sent to Taskforce membership, with at 56% return
2. Data from returned surveys was analysed
3. A summary of results was presented to the Taskforce meeting
4. A report inclusive of results and outcomes from discussions to be written up.

Meeting attendees were divided into three small groups to discuss the following questions:

- What is the key/core business – why are we here, what are we trying to achieve?
- What are the structural linkages – who do we relate to and who do we report to?
- Who is represented in the Taskforce – who attends?
- What decisions can the Taskforce make?
- How often do we meet?
- How is the Taskforce chaired or facilitated?

The models proposed are to be further developed and disseminated prior to the next meeting.

Next Taskforce Meeting

The next Taskforce meeting is to be held on 12 April 2006 and the entire meeting will be devoted to further progressing the Taskforce Review.

For further details contact Principal Planning and Partnerships Officers

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