



Child Safety Planning and Partnerships Network

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

April 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 April Taskforce Meeting

The Taskforce held its 17th meeting on 12 April 2006 in Brisbane, the purpose being to progress decision making on Taskforce process and operation based on three models developed by small groups following the previous meeting. Common themes had been identified within each of the small groups' Taskforce Models.

Facilitated by Penny Gordon, Taskforce members worked through Taskforce model questions and agreement was reached on:

Decision Making

- Operational decisions are to be made concerning internal Taskforce protocols and operations;
- Members are to make explicit tensions and conflicts that impact upon them and may request to abstain from decision making;
- Development of a mechanism whereby recommendations can be put forward to external agencies;
- Facilitated sessions with the Child Safety Directors Network (CSDN).

Meeting Frequency

- The Taskforce is to hold six-weekly full day meetings with dates to be locked in for a year;
- If the agenda does not require a full day, meetings can be shortened;
- Zonal Planning and Partnerships Officers to attend every second meeting;
- Audit of Taskforce meeting attendance.

Chairing

- The Deputy Director-General, Department of Child Safety, will continue to chair Taskforce meetings as required by the Director-General;
- To provide consistency, either the Deputy Director-General or Executive Director, Service Delivery Partnerships, will Chair each meeting;
- An independent facilitator can be engaged to facilitate discussion on key critical matters, as agreed by the Taskforce members;
- Protocols will be developed in terms of what is expected of the Chair and other Taskforce members;
- The Chair will facilitate meetings between the Director-General and/or Minister and other members of the Taskforce to allow for broader representation of issues beyond the department;
- People outside the Taskforce can be invited to participate in relevant discussions on key issues.

Core Business

- A small group will meet to progress the refinement of purpose statements on:
 - facilitating partnership
 - building capacity
 - whole of continuum;
- Following the meeting the three draft purpose statements will be circulated by email to Taskforce members for comment;
- The purpose statements are to be ratified at the May Taskforce meeting.

Structural Linkages and Reporting

- Structural linkages need to be made with:
 - Child Safety Directors Network
 - Non-Government Organisations
 - Zonal Planning and Partnerships Officers and Principal Planning and Partnerships Officers
 - Department of Child Safety
 - Department of Communities;
- Development and implementation of a communication strategy;
- Accountability for carrying through and reporting back on recommendations recorded at meetings;
- Reports through Director-General, on to Minister and across government;
- Members are to be responsible for reporting to their own agencies.

Taskforce Attendees

- Attendance of non-government agency representatives was agreed;
- Requirement for consistent and committed representation at meetings by Executive Directors of Policy and Programs and Child Safety Services;
- CSDN to nominate one representative for the Taskforce, who would not represent their individual agency, and would communicate between the two bodies;
- The Department of Communities would represent prevention and early intervention issues in their own right and not as a representative of the CSDN.

Next Taskforce Meeting

The next Taskforce meeting is to be held on 19 May 2006

For further details contact Principal Planning and Partnerships Officers

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