



Child Safety Planning and Partnerships Network

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

July 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 July Taskforce Meeting

The Taskforce held its 20th meeting on 31 July 2006 in Brisbane.

Placement and Support Presentation

The Principal Planning and Partnerships Officers provided a powerpoint presentation which provided a broad framework about placement and support to facilitate discussion and elicit further input from members. There was reliance on Taskforce members to identify gaps, inconsistencies or complexities in the system.

An overview the presentation was broken down into the following:

- National level
- Queensland level
- Zonal detail

The following were discussed:

- Historical Context
- Contemporary Trends
- Understanding Need

State Comparisons:

- Substantiated Notifications
- Children subject to Protective Orders
- Children in Out-of-Home Care

Possible explanations were put forward for Queensland figures.

Statewide:

- Children and young people 0-17 years
- No of child protection orders per 1,000
- Number of placements statewide
- Summary of support services

Zonal:

- Each Zonal Planning and Partnerships Officer spoke about the uniqueness of their zone and provided explanations for anomalies in the figures relating to their zones.
- Demand and supply
- Challenges
 - Primarily all zones have reported issues associated with adequacy of placements particularly for:
 - Children with complex and extreme needs
 - Children of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent
 - Large sibling groups

- In part this is a consequence of new services not being fully operational and inadequate agreed assessment and determination of child and young person need.
- A number of innovative models were identified
- Perspectives were provided by:
 - Young People – CREATE
 - Families - Family Inclusion Network
 - Foster Carers – FCQ
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander – ATSI Child Protection Partnership
 - Culturally and Linguistically Diverse – ECCQ
 - Service Providers – Churches Community Services Forum, QCOSS

Placement and Support Workshop

The Taskforce was split into two groups to discuss:

1. What are the three most striking features of the placement and support service system?
2. What are three strategies that the sector could collaboratively focus upon?

A common issue which emerged is aligning need to service type.

Information Sharing

The Churches Community Services Forum member shared that PeakCare and the Department of Child Safety have collaborated on a project in Central Zone to look at capacity around building specialist care and support for children with complex and extreme needs.

Next Taskforce Meeting

The next Taskforce meeting is to be held on 11 September 2006 with a focus on needs assessment and flexible responses and service models around placement.

For further details contact Principal Planning and Partnerships Officers

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