



Child Safety Planning and Partnerships Network

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

October 2006

This newsletter provides an update on the progress of the Child Protection Statewide Partnership Taskforce. For more details visit www.childsafety.qld.gov.au



Update from October Taskforce Meeting

The 22nd meeting of the Taskforce was held on 23 October 2006 with a particular focus on Indigenous issues.

Child Placement Principle

Powerpoint presentations provided:

- an Overview of the Child Placement Principle from a Community Perspective;
- Department of Child Safety implementation of the Indigenous Child Placement Principle; and
- the monitoring project of compliance with the Child Placement Principle being undertaken by the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian.

Recognised Entities and the functions they are funded to provide was discussed. It was acknowledged that additional functions provided by the previous AICCAs, are not within the funding mandate of the Department of Child Safety as the department is responsible for providing funding for children and families in tertiary child protection.

The Taskforce agreed to:

- establish a shared understanding on the Child Placement Principle;
- develop a joint policy statement reflecting contemporary legislation around the Child Placement Principle between the Department of Child Safety and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Partnership; and
- convene a small working group to review compliance with the Child Placement Principle, with a particular focus on identifying critical success factors and what strategies need to be applied broadly across the system with a view to augmenting the Indigenous Child Placement Principle Project being carried out by the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian. The working group will meet with Commission staff to determine whether there is scope to broaden the project in this way.

Creating Culturally Competent Organisations

Powerpoint presentations were provided on:

- Towards a Culturally Respectful Child Protection Framework;
- Creating Culturally Competent Organisations; and
- Department of Child Safety Foundation Studies in Culture "Indigenous Engagement" Training Program.

Issues were raised relating to training for foster carers and Recognised Entities.

Zonal Challenges and Innovations

Common themes which the Zonal Planning and Partnerships Officers had reported across all zones included:

- Recruitment and retention of Indigenous staff;
- Shortage of Indigenous carers/placements; and
- Level of cultural competence in non-Indigenous agencies and the impact that this has where there are no Indigenous services.

Examples of strategies to address these issues are:

- Indigenous specific forums looking at over-representation of Indigenous children in statutory system;
- Action Plans from local networks to look at the issues of cultural competence and Child Placement Principle;
- Development of protocols between Indigenous community and Child Safety Service Centres;
- Foster Carer support groups linking between Indigenous carers and Indigenous Elders; and
- Specific working parties addressing Indigenous Services with focus on cultural competency, increased training and recruitment of Indigenous staff across the sector.

Needs Assessment Project Plan

The Taskforce agreed to:

- find out how the Structured Decision Making tools will be integrated in common needs assessment;
- Principal Planning and Partnerships Officers to further consult on changes required to the project plan, which is to be endorsed out of session.

Next Taskforce Meeting

The next taskforce meeting will be held on 4 December 2006 with a focus on:

- Placement Models for Indigenous children;
- Intensive Family support; and
- Intentional Capacity building of indigenous services.

Zonal Planning and Partnerships Officers are to investigate the three areas above and provide local intelligence.