

Housing Services of the Department of Housing and Public Works does not wish to respond to the specific questions contained in the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry February 2013 Discussion Paper. However, the following is provided to the Commission to correct a statement relating to After Care Services, and to provide information on other matters of relevance to Housing Services.

Chapter 6: -Young People Leaving Care

- The Discussion Paper states (pg 143) that when there is not a physical presence of an After Care Service, the Department of Housing and Public Works (Housing Services) is required to engage with local NGOs to deliver the service. This is incorrect. As Child Safety Services' communiqué on After Care Services notes "*When a young person does not live close to one of these services, YHARS will negotiate with an appropriate local service to provide support to the young person.*"
- The Youth Housing and Reintegration Service is a program managed by the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (DCCSDS).
- Housing Services notes that Chapter 6 of the Discussion Paper canvasses issues in relation to the accommodation needs of young people, and makes a number of specific recommendations, including:
 - 'Ring fence' part of relevant government department's budgets to ensure there are enough resources to support 15-25 year olds leaving care
 - 'Ring fence' new funding for all government departments for new services for 15-25 years old leaving care
 - Maintain the requirement for all government departments to deliver some services to young people leaving care
 - Develop a variety of accommodation options for young people to meet diverse needs
 - Negotiate with the Commonwealth to expand Youth Housing and Reintegration Service (After Care Services) to enable all eligible young people to be appropriately supported into accommodation (*see comment above – DCCSDS program*).
 - Implement a model similar to the Tasmanian Transition Program allowing for the gradual handover of tenancy from Child Safety to the young person
 - All government departments delivering human services:
 - train and recruit specific case managers or teams for young people
 - implement a 'rapid response' to give young people in care priority access to services
- Housing Services will consider the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry when the final report is released. In the meanwhile, it should be noted that Housing Services will continue to take a proactive approach to assisting clients who are either in contact with the child protection system or who may require support or intervention services, and to improving coordination of services for young people exiting State care as part of transition planning.

QCPCI

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Exhibit number: 192

Chapter 7: Addressing the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children

- Chapter 7 identifies that the absence of housing options has an ongoing impact on families and that there is a need for appropriate housing options in discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
- The Commission may wish to note Queensland's efforts under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing, which aims to address:
 - significant over-crowding
 - homelessness
 - poor housing conditions; and
 - the severe housing shortage in remote Indigenous communities.

As at 30 June 2012, Queensland had delivered 171 new houses, and completed 871 refurbishments. The 2012-13 targets are to construct 150 new dwellings, and refurbish 311 dwellings.