

QCPCI Rockhampton regional visit

19 October 2012

The Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry will next week conduct a public hearing in Rockhampton as part of a regional road show that will provide an opportunity for the Commission to meet with local people about local issues.

Public hearings will be held in Court 3 of the Rockhampton District Court, corner of East and Fitzroy streets on Tuesday 23, Wednesday 24 and Thursday 25 October starting at 9.30am.

The hearing will focus on seeking evidence on service delivery to the central Queensland region from departmental and health witnesses as well as private professionals in relation to their work in the child protection system.

Hearings are open to the public and will be live streamed via the Commission website.

A number of meetings will be held with service providers including various Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups and legal providers. The Commission, in partnership with CREATE Foundation, will also be conducting a focus group with young people who have been, or are, in out-of-home care.

While the first round of hearings has now closed the Commission continues to seek public submissions in the second round in December from those who have had experience with the child protection system. This includes people who have worked in child protection as well as those who may have been involved in the system.

The Commission's terms of reference allow the Inquiry to investigate matters including the Queensland Government's response to children and families in the child protection system, the transition of children exiting the system, and the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in child protection.

"Public submissions will be an essential part of the material considered by the Inquiry," said Commissioner Carmody.

"I'm interested in both good and bad experiences – we need to know what works and what doesn't," he said.

If anyone has information that could assist the Inquiry an online form can be accessed on the Commission's website. This is the preferred and most secure way of making a submission.

More information about making a submission is available at www.childprotectioninquiry.qld.gov.au/submissions. Further to this, an explanatory video can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eijah3NyZVU&feature=youtu.be>

The second round of submissions will open on 10 December 2012.

ENDS

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<http://www.childprotectioninquiry.qld.gov.au/>

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Media note: Commissioner Carmody will permit a pool camera to film opening remarks and submissions from counsel assisting for television broadcast, as well as still cameras. Please contact the Media Manager on 3405 9783 or 0477 348 296 to discuss arrangements.

Audio will be recorded and distributed for radio broadcast. If you would like to receive a copy of this, please contact the Media Manager to be added to the distribution list.