

## QCPCI Beenleigh regional visit

28 September 2012

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

In Beenleigh the Commission will conduct a number of meetings with service providers with a particular focus on placement, interagency coordination and collaboration, and service innovation.

On Tuesday 2 October Commissioner Carmody will hold informal meetings with recognised entities and youth and family service providers before visiting Family Support Alliance to discuss the service provided as part of the Helping Out Families (HOF) program.

Public hearings are scheduled for Wednesday 3 October and Thursday 4 October in the Beenleigh District Court on the corner of Kent and James streets, Beenleigh.

The hearings will focus on local issues, interagency work, helping families earlier, and managing the demand and stresses in the out-of-home care system by speaking to a range of government based witnesses. Anyone is welcome to attend these hearings, which will also be live streamed via the Commission's website.

Commissioner Carmody will attend more site visits on Friday 5 October when he visits an Evolve Interagency Services early intervention office and a residential care house in the region.

While the first round of submissions closes today the Commission is encouraging public submissions in the second round from community members who have had experience with the child protection 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](http://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**

**Media Contact: 3405 9783 or 3405 9785**

<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 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.

Due to the media sensitivities in relation to children in care, media are not permitted to attend the site visits. However, images may be provided if requested.