

QCPCI Options paper

26 October 2012

The Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry has today released an options paper which discusses some alternative approaches to child protection within Queensland, other Australian jurisdictions and overseas.

The six focal issues discussed in this paper are:

- investment in intake and secondary services
- increasing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander self-determination
- decision-making models
- effective coordination of services
- court models, and
- adoption as one response to permanency planning.

In its discussion on these topics the paper presents working examples of how Queensland, other Australian states and territories and international jurisdictions deal with the focal issues and presents child protection systems aimed to address these issues.

While this paper does not aim to solve the problems of child protection in Queensland, the ideas behind some aspects of child protection systems that have been trialled or which are in place in countries like Sweden, the UK and the US, can provide useful commentary on what might be worth considering for adoption in Queensland.

This paper follows the Commission's publication in September of an issues paper which identified some of the key areas of concern in Queensland's child protection system.

The Commission is drafting a discussion paper which is scheduled for release in December 2012 and will provide more details about reform options for Queensland. Following the release of this paper the Commission will call for a further round of submissions.

The publications can be found online at <http://www.childprotectioninquiry.qld.gov.au/publications>.

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