

Advisory group members announced

31 October 2012

The Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry has today announced the members of its advisory group, which will meet for the first time on Friday 2 November 2012.

The advisory group has been formed to assist the Commission in its work. They will provide professional insight into the issues being considered by the Commission and debate early ideas for reform.

Members come from a range of child protection backgrounds including social work, medicine, advocacy and academia.

Members are:

Dr Anne Brennan

Dr Brennan is a Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist currently working in private practice in Brisbane. She is a graduate of the University of Queensland and spent her early medical career as a general practitioner in country Queensland and in the UK, subsequently training in both adult and child psychiatry. It was her experience working in the field of child abuse at the Mater Children's Hospital in the early 90s which inspired her career choice. Dr Brennan is a regular participant in national and international meetings.

Dr Jan Connors

Dr Connors is the Director of the Child Protection Unit at the Mater Children's Hospital. She is a paediatrician with a special interest in developmental and behavioural paediatrics and child protection, including paediatric forensic assessments.

Adjunct Professor Chris Goddard

Adjunct Professor Goddard has worked extensively in social services in the UK and child protection in Australia. His research career started in the child protection team at the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne where he undertook some of the earliest work connecting child abuse and other forms of family violence. He was Head of the School of Social Work at Monash University from 1998–2007. He established Child Abuse Prevention Research Australia, a joint initiative with the Australian Childhood Foundation and Monash University. As director of Child Abuse Prevention Research Australia, Professor Goddard is committed to preventing and reducing child abuse, neglect and murder in Australia.

Dr Scott Harden

Dr Harden is a Child, Adolescent and Adult Forensic Psychiatrist based in Brisbane. He divides his time between the Child and Youth Forensic Outreach Service as Senior Visiting Psychiatrist, his private practice with particular interests in ADHD and anxiety, and his private medico-legal practice in the family, civil and criminal court jurisdictions.

Ms Hetty Johnston

Ms Johnston is the Executive Director for Bravehearts. She has won extensive awards for her work with the child protection industry and has been an advocate for child protection since 1997 when she founded Bravehearts.

Ms Natalie Lewis

Ms Lewis is the Chief Executive Officer of the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak. Her professional experience has been acquired in Queensland and the United States in the areas of youth justice and child protection, providing direct service, program and policy development and organisational leadership over the past 16 years. Ms Lewis currently serves on the Board of Directors for QATSIHSC and has recently been appointed to the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC).

Dr Karen Martin

Dr Martin is a Noonuccal woman from Minjerripah (North Stradbroke Island – south-east Queensland) and also has Bidjara ancestry (central Queensland). She is a qualified early childhood educator who has taught for more than 20 years in Aboriginal community education services from early childhood, compulsory schooling to adult training in remote, regional and urban areas of Queensland. She is a University Medalist and has lectured in Indigenous Australian Studies, Indigenous education and early childhood education. Dr Martin has years of experience regarding Indigenous policy, research and programs regarding education, child care, and knowledge and culture.

Mr Garth Morgan

Mr Morgan is the Executive Director for the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Human Services Coalition (QATSIHSC). He continues to play a key role in sector reform through his position as a Queensland Compact Governance Committee member and through his involvement with initiatives and groups such as the Queensland Futures Forum, Inner Brisbane City Human Services Consortium, Health and Community Services Workforce Council Industry Reference Group and the Queensland Homelessness Intersectoral Forum. Mr Morgan also spent a number of years with the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council in roles including Workplace Planning and Development Officer, Acting Chief Operations Officer and Director of the QAIHC College of Health.

Associate Professor Stephen Stathis

Associate Professor Stathis has obtained a dual fellowship in paediatrics and psychiatry, and is a member of the Faculty of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry and Forensic Psychiatry. He is the Clinical Director of the Child and Family Therapy Unit at the Royal Children's Hospital in Brisbane, where he leads the Consultation Liaison Team and has extensive experience in adolescent forensic psychiatry, working with marginalised young people within the youth justice system. Associate Professor Stathis is on the Board of ACT for Kids, an Australian charity which works to treat and prevent child abuse. His interests include 'bridging the gap' between paediatrics and psychiatry, post-traumatic stress disorder, and adolescent forensic psychiatry.

Dr Clare Tilbury

Dr Tilbury has 30 years experience as a social work practitioner, researcher and educator. She has worked in a range of positions covering direct practice with children, young people and families. Her experience includes individual casework, group work and community work, research at universities and in government agencies, policy and program development and implementation, and management. Her research interests include child protection outcomes, accountability and performance measurement, with a focus on children's wellbeing in care systems and what they say would make a difference in their lives.

Ms Karyn Walsh

Ms Walsh is the co-ordinator of Micah Projects, President of the Queensland Council of Social Services, Chair of the Domestic Violence Resource Centre and a Director of the Board of Common Ground Queensland. She has 30 years experience working in the community sector in the areas of youth, domestic violence, homelessness, disability services, young parents, prison ministry, care leavers and social disadvantage. She is passionate about advocating for people who experience discrimination, disadvantage and abuse or violence.

Mr Lindsay Wegener

Mr Wegener is the Executive Director for PeakCare. He is a social worker by profession and has worked in various areas of child protection. Mr Wegener is highly regarded across both government and non-government sectors and has a sound reputation for bringing a creative and innovative flair to the services provided by PeakCare, grounded by the insight that comes from his extensive experience.

Ms Llewelyn Williams

Ms Williams is a Social & Emotional Wellbeing Counsellor. She has served on a number of boards and panels including the Indigenous Advisory Board and the Department of Families Housing, Community Services & Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) Indigenous Leadership Development, Community Engagement Group.

ENDS

Media Contact: 3405 9783 or 3405 9785

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

Follow us on Twitter @QCPCI

<http://www.twitter.com/QCPCI>