

QCPCI Mount Isa regional visit

11 October 2012

The Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry will travel to Mount Isa next week as part of its regional visits, to ensure that local voices are heard.

In Mount Isa the Commission will meet with a range of service providers to discuss child protection issues in Mount Isa and surrounding communities.

Public hearings are scheduled for Tuesday 16 and Wednesday 17 October in the Mount Isa District Court on Isa Street.

The hearings will focus on child safety services in the local area, and will call on government witnesses to provide information. Anyone is welcome to attend these hearings, which will also be live streamed through the Commission's website.

The Commission will visit facilities in Mount Isa which provide key services to young people and their families who may be involved with the child protection system, conduct focus groups with front-line workers and meet with a range of government and community based support services.

The Commission will hold a public information hour at 10 am on Monday 15 October, at the Mount Isa Civic Centre on West Street. This session will give the public an opportunity to meet with Commission staff and receive information on how they can contribute to the Inquiry.

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 first round of submissions closed on September 28 2012, and a second round of submissions will be accepted in December and January.

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 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.