



Therapeutic AOD  
Rehabilitation Home

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President  
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Operations Manager  
Will Curtis  
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25<sup>th</sup> November 2012

To Child Protection Enquiry.

I am the Co-Director of Fresh Hope,

Fresh Hope' is a non-profit community based organisation with a family-orientated rehabilitation program designed for mothers and their children who have become dependent on the use of drugs and alcohol as a coping mechanism in response to crises in their lives. Fresh Hope is a member of Australasian Therapeutic Community Association.

As a residential rehabilitation home and the only home in Queensland that allows mothers to keep their children with them while accessing rehabilitation, Fresh Hope provides a safe haven for mothers and their children as well as strengthening the family bond.

It has come to my attention that children from lower threat families have been returned to their families due to financial difficulties rather than transformation of the parents.

I have also become aware of the plight of young families who have loving and stable relationships and would like to adopt children.

Perhaps there is a better solution rather than placing children at risk.

I would like to propose that children whose parents have shown they will not place their child's needs before their own , and are currently under an long term guardianship order, be given the opportunity to settle in a loving stable home permanently with these foster families.

I am constantly working with second and third generation mothers who have been in and out of foster care all their lives. Child safety take their babies at birth and place them in foster care even when the mother has actively sort help for her addiction.



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I have also worked with hundreds of mothers who have no intention of placing their child's needs before their own addiction and have constantly made phone calls to Child Safety reporting the situation. These children deserve the right to have a stable home, without substance abuse.

I have seen first-hand the effects of long term transient foster care on children. I therefore request that the Government give these children the opportunity to settle with their foster families.  
1: providing the children with the stability to heal  
2: providing the Government with greater funds to assist the children needing 1-2 year Care and Protection orders.

Yours Sincerely,



**Karen Bartlett** MA Counselling

Senior Counsellor

Director

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