



Reforming the Queensland Child Protection System

February 2006

Structural Changes (the new model)

child safety...
our first priority

- dedicated ministry for child safety at the whole of Government level
- stand alone department focussed on child protection
- pre CMC budget was \$182m; 2005-06 budget was \$395m
- dedicated senior level directors of child safety in thirteen key departments

Structural Changes Con't

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- Child Guardian powers within the Commission for Children and Young People
- Department of Communities - early intervention and prevention
- cross-agency governance mechanisms
- cross-sector partnerships



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Child Protection Act 1999

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- Amendments included:
- Child Guardian and Child Death Review functions
- expanded role of the Community Visitor and the Children Services Tribunal
- strengthened mandatory reporting, including reporting of risks to unborn children

Legislation Con't

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- improved regulation of carers
- strengthened Indigenous Child Placement Principle and Indigenous Recognised Entities
- legislation of Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) teams

Quality of Practice

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- 46 Child Safety Service Centres (CSSCs) and seven Zones
- additional Senior Practitioners and Team Leaders appointed
- additional 470 Child Safety Officers
- new ten week Child Safety Officer induction program

Quality of Practice con't

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- Child Safety Practice Manual
- Structured Decision Making (SDM)

SCAN

- enhanced two tier Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) system
- 20 multi-disciplinary interagency SCAN teams across the State



Quality Placements

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- Strengthened screening, training and support for foster carers
- Respite options for foster carers
- Significant enhancements to foster carer remuneration



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Quality Placements con't

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- Foster carer recruitment campaign
- 140 new and enhanced out of home residential care places
- additional 222 places in 2005-06

Partnerships

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- Child Safety Coordinating and Implementation Committees
- Child Safety Directors Network (CSDN)
- Statewide Partnership Taskforce
- SCAN Teams
- The Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Partnership

Quality Assurance / Standards and Licensing

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- quality assurance strategy to clearly define acceptable standards
- compliance with standards assessed and monitored.
- licensed care services provided by the non-government sector

Indigenous Children

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- 28 Indigenous Recognised Entities
- Indigenous Support and Development Branch
- Indigenous Child Safety Officer cadetships
- Certificate IV in Community Services (Statutory Child Protection) for all Child Safety Support Officers

Quality Support Services

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- Education Support Plans (ESP)
- 99% of children in out of home care in the state school system now have an ESP
- 71% of children in out of home care attending Catholic Schools have an ESP
- Specialist disability assessments and behaviour support services
- Enhanced funding for sexual abuse counselling services

Quality Support Services Con't

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- Multi-Systemic Therapy research project
- nine Mental Health-Child Safety Therapeutic Support Teams across the state
- a baseline health assessment tool and health plan
- family re-unification services



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Integrated Services across the Child Safety Continuum

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- access to services families need
- *Early Years Strategy*
- safe haven model will provide a place of safety for children affected by family violence



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Integrated Services Con't

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- negotiation table process and child safety networks
- priority housing to foster carers
- enhanced capacity of the Juvenile Aid Bureau
- training and education of nurses in regard to mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse

Child Safety Operating Environment

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- Upgrades to desktop computer software
- improve the quality of departmental record keeping
- Carer Directory
- Integrated Client Management System (ICMS) over 2006



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Accommodation

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- New or upgraded facilities have been rolled out across the state.



PROPOSED OFFICES
AT IPSWICH
FOR
RENARD DEVELOPMENTS

NEYLAN
GROUP
ARCHITECTURE & URBAN DESIGN

Internal Accountability

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- Critical incident reporting management system
- Child Death Review Committee
- Complaints, Case Review and Investigations Branch
- Operational Performance Review
- Ethical Standards Unit

External Accountability

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- 'Child Guardian' functions within the Commission for Children and Young People (CCYPCG)
- Independent Child Death Case Review Committee (CDCRC)
- Report progress of reforms to CMC

Positive outcomes for children in care

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- case plans and family group meetings
- Child Safety Officers and Community Visitors
- Education Support Plans
- therapeutic care and counselling
- range of placement options



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Positive outcomes for children in care con't

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- foster carers are better screened, training and supported
- priority access to social housing
- supported transition from the child protection system to independent living
- more better trained and supported staff
- family reunification

CMC and DChS - where to from here?

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- Report was presented to the CMC on 6 January 2006
- 91 of 110 CMC recommendations completed



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