

## Additional Questions on Notice for the 2011 report reviews

- 1 The Committee notes in the Commission's answers to the previous Questions on Notice regarding the transfer of the Child Death Review Team to the NSW Ombudsman that:

*"... the way the data is reported in the 2010 CDRT Annual Report is different to the way it was previously reported, which limits comparability with previous published reports and has made updating A Picture of NSW Children challenging" (Answer to Question 8)*

Can the Commission elaborate on the differences between the 2009 and the 2010 Child Death Review Team Annual Reports?

2. The Commission's answer to Question 10 regarding anti-bullying initiatives states that:

*"The Commission's revised participation toolkit, which aims to build capacity of organisations to engage with children and young people, will be released throughout 2012 and this will be provided to the Department, Catholic Education Commission NSW and the Association of Independent Schools to assist them in consulting with children and young people about anti-bullying initiatives."*

Can the Commission provide a more detailed timeframe for the release of this toolkit throughout 2012?

3. With regard to the Built for Kids guide and the Child Friendly by Design Resource Toolkit, can the Commission provide information on how and where these resources were distributed and how they were advertised?

4. The Committee notes that the NSW Commission for Children and Young People made a joint submission to the Australian Law Reform Commission's National Classification Scheme Review, along with the Commissioners from Victoria, Tasmania, and Western Australia in July 2011.

How does the Commission work with and maintain relationships with Commissions in other jurisdictions?

What are some of the other issues the Commissions have discussed as a collective?

5. What are the Commission's functions with respect to youth employment practices and discrimination and how does the Commission aim to improve the well-being of young people in the workforce and promote its work in this area?

## **Further questions on notice**

### **Question 1**

While the 2010 Child Death Review Team Annual Report is broadly comparable with the 2009 Report, differences in the presentation of the two reports and the lack of tables in the 2010 report meant that the data required to update the Picture of NSW Children needs to be derived from the text of the 2010 report and not in the tables.

The one important omission that limits reporting is the lack of Standard Errors (SE) with Incidents Rate Ratios (IRR) which were previously reported in the picture. These Standard Errors allows us to review the precision of an estimated IRR and determine if the differing risk of a group is actual or likely the result of chance. It should be possible to calculate this even given the limited data for 2010 in the report. It is also odd that the report presents some of this information in the appendix for all years but not specifically for 2010.

### **Question 2**

We expect *Citizen Me*, the Commission's updated participation toolkit, to be ready for publication and launch by the end of June 2012. A further section on participation in the digital environment is expected to be ready for publication by the end of July 2012.

### **Question 3:**

The first Child-Friendly by Design Resource Toolkit was introduced at the launch on 19 November 2010 in Albion Park. Prior to this a news bulletin was made available on the Commission website which provided further details on the toolkit, on its content, how it was developed etc. The bulletin also included a YouTube video that the Commission developed to showcase the voices of children and young people and their views on the built environment.

The main function of the toolkit is to support and complement the regional Child-Friendly by Design workshops which is a joint venture between the Commission and Healthy Cities Illawarra and to complement the Built4Kids resource. The toolkits are distributed and used as part of the workshops. The toolkits are primarily a Healthy Cities Illawarra publication and they are therefore responsible for its promotion, which they achieve via the workshops.

Built4kids was launched by the Commission in partnership with Healthy Cities Illawarra on 22 June 2009 at the Child Friendly by Design Business Breakfast in Shellharbour. This was also accompanied by a Commission news bulletin as well as additional information on the Commission website including links to download an electronic version of the publication.

Built4kids is also regularly promoted through Commission events such as the current seminar series on children, young people and the built environment and is made available for viewing at Commission stalls at events such as the 2011 Youth Health Conference, *It's Totally Important* which took place at the Sydney Convention Centre. Hard copies of Built4kids were given to people who attended the launch of the Commission's seminar series of children, young people and the built environment and details regarding Built4kids are also regularly included in Commission

publications on the built environment such as in New Planner (the newsletter of the Planning Institute of Australia) and Network News (the peak for after-school care).

#### **Question 4**

The NSW Commission works with all the other State and Territory Children's Commissioners and Guardians through the Australian Children's Commissioners and Guardians (ACCG).

The purpose of the ACCG is to strengthen the quality and effectiveness of strategic advocacy to promote and protect the safety, well-being and rights of children in Australia, particularly the most vulnerable or disadvantaged.

The ACCG aims to:

- promote children's rights and participation as articulated in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- ensure the best interests of children are considered in public policy and program development
- give voice to the views of, and encourage direct consultation with, children and young people on matters that affect them
- encourage systemic improvement, and a robust evidence base, in areas that impact on the safety and wellbeing of children and young people
- raise the profile of Australian Children's Commissioners and Guardians, and
- be recognised nationally as an authoritative and credible source of advice and advocacy about children's rights and participation.

To achieve these aims, the ACCG:

- shares information, research and ideas at biennial meetings and through other processes such as the ACCG portal, email and teleconference
- identifies opportunities for collaborative action particularly in relation to matters of mutual interest and /or national significance
- maximises the impact of strategic and systemic advocacy by making joint submissions either proactively or in response to government and non-government consultation processes when it is appropriate to do so.

Membership of the ACCG is restricted to those individuals whose office or position of Commissioner or Guardian was established by Australian state, territory or federal legislation and who have a sole focus on promoting and/or protecting the rights, interests and well-being of children and young people within their jurisdiction.

Agreement to participate in joint State and Territory submission is considered on an issue-by-issue basis. As can be seen from the list of recent issues below much of the joint activity relates to federal initiatives and responsibilities.

Some of the recent issues considered by the ACCG include:

- Children in immigration detention
- Social inclusion for children leaving out of home care or who have already left under National Child Protection Framework 2012 Action Plan
- Interstate child protection transfers
- 17 year olds in adult prisons in Queensland

- Indonesian children in Australian adult detention centres
- Inquiry into Foetal Alcohol Syndrome
- Establishment of a National Commissioner for Children and Young People

### **Question 5**

In keeping with its broad mandate the Commission has the same functions in respect of any issue touching the wellbeing of children and young people 0-17 years of age, including youth employment practices and discrimination.

That said, youth employment practices and anti-discrimination also lie within other agencies' responsibilities including the NSW Industrial Relations Commission (which has a section dedicated to young people at work, the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board and the Fair Work Ombudsman.

The Commission has promoted the wellbeing of young people in the workforce through:

- A major research project and report on Children at Work (2005)
- A submission to the Inquiry into School and Work (2009)
- Working with the Department of Premier and Cabinet on the Youth Employment Strategy (2010).

The Commission continues to monitor the wellbeing of children in the workforce by collecting and publishing data on:

- Young people's employment, including combining education and employment, and impact of the changed school leaving age
- The individual income of children and young people
- Unintentional injuries in the workplace.