



*Annual
Report*
2010



Our Aim

TO PROMOTE THE INTERESTS OF
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
IN ANY DECISIONS AFFECTING
THEIR HEALTH, WELFARE, CARE,
PROTECTION, DEVELOPMENT
AND EDUCATION.



1st Floor, Stone Building,
ABC Centre, 1 Brooker Avenue,
Hobart TAS 7000
Phone (03) 6233 4520
Fax (03) 6233 4515
childcomm@childcomm.tas.gov.au
www.childcomm.tas.gov.au

21 September 2010

The Hon Lin Thorp
Minister for Children
Level 8, 10 Murray Street
HOBART TAS 7000

The Commissioner for Children is an independent, statutory office responsible to the Parliament of Tasmania. The Commissioner's functions include promoting the rights and well-being of children and young people, examining and advising Government on policies, practices and services provided for children and laws affecting their health, welfare, care, protection and development

Dear Minister,

In accordance with the requirements of section 83 (1) of the *Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997*, I have the pleasure of enclosing the Annual Report of the Commissioner for Children for the financial year ending 30 June 2010 for presentation to the Parliament of Tasmania.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Mason
Commissioner



Contents

Introduction	4
A Snapshot of Children and Young People in Tasmania	6
What does the Commissioner for Children do?	7
Requests from the Minister for Children, the Hon Lin Thorp MLC	8
Children and Young Persons Consultative Council	8
Children and Young Persons Advisory Council	10
Submissions and Reports produced by the Commissioner for Children	12
Australian Children's Commissioners and Guardians (ACCG) Joint Submissions	18
Comment from the Commissioner for Children on Bills and Legislation	20
Financial Statement	23
Appendix 1	24
Appendix 2	28



Introduction

Children are humans and have a human right to be heard and listened to seriously. This year we at the Commissioner's Office have turned a spotlight on the voice of children and young people.

This financial year saw on 19 November 2009 the 20th Anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCROC). Article 12 of the UNCROC, the Right to be Heard, is possibly its most central right:

States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.

Although the Commissioner for Children's statutory functions do not dictate a rights-based approach to the wellbeing of children, the Second Reading Speech of the *Children, Young Persons and Their Families Bill* on 1 October 1997 declared that the whole Act was to be based on the UNCROC. In debate that followed Tasmania's

Parliamentarians held out high and varied hopes for the capacities of the Commissioner to advocate – to speak – for the voiceless.

Giving children a voice is the work of the Ashley Residents' Advocate who has become part of residents' lives at Ashley. Not only is she there weekly to talk about anything the residents want to, she also feeds it back to Ashley management through the office. We have started to canvass residents for their views about management: the food, privileges, penalties and life in general.

In September 2010 we launch the Residents booklet "Views: Life Inside AYDC" which is a first and which we shall develop each year. The views in it are challenging but there is scope for change in young people who have grown up feeling un-heard having a voice.

The voice of children was the reason for our 12 month "Children's Visitors Pilot" of independent support for 18 kids aged 8-12 in Government and NGO foster care (with a small grant and a lot of professional support from the Disability, Children, Youth, Families Services Division of DHHS). After careful recruitment, screening and a training program, the first hour-long monthly visits



Paul Mason, Children's Commissioner trying out his new face paints on his birthday!

started in March 2010. An interim external evaluation of the value of the program for the children themselves will be public in October.

The voice of children in children's court proceedings is frequently token, filtered, muffled or even omitted. Research shows that difficult and unwelcome decisions "stick" better if the child at the centre is given full voice. I have persistently pursued the right

of children to engage with courts directly and for courts to take responsibility for decisions they make about children. The child protection legislation, the court's processes and ways of negotiating formal support for families of children living with disability are all under review at the time of writing.

It is only the voice of children that can protect them from bad experiences in alternate care and again this year my office has conducted a randomised desk audit of files to make sure kids in care do get time alone with their case worker. If kids are unhappy with anything in their care placement, it is essential that their concern is recorded, it is followed up and they are told of the outcome. Children can only follow a Care Plan if they know what it is and have taken an active part in writing it.

We have continued work towards a Tasmanian web-based Children's Participation Toolkit as a project of the Tasmanian Early Years Foundation. The toolkit when completed will enable State and Local Governments, non-government services, community groups like sports associations, and most importantly children and young people themselves to find out at a click how best to include kids not

only in informing adult groups how to suit services to young needs (consultation), but also in designing and running projects or taking part on the committees and boards of those organisations (participation).

In June 2010 I accepted an invitation to serve as an Inaugural Co-Patron (with Dr Comfort Momoh, MBE) of "GA" or "Genital Autonomy" an international charity founded in the UK for promoting the right of all children everywhere to protection from every kind of unnecessary genital surgery or cutting until they are of an age to voice their own free and informed consent or to withhold it.

The latest topic of research about the effects of physical punishment of children in the home has been what kids say about it. What does it mean to them and how does it affect what they think of parents who do it? This research is the most compelling reason of all to give children the same protections at law as adults and only allow striking children where the law would allow striking an adult. The "rod" of Proverbs 13:24 ought to be the guiding rod of the shepherd, not the rod of frustration and anger.

I sincerely thank for their boundless patience, their hard work, commitment to children and good humour all my staff, including our Youth Liaison Officer and our far-flung Ashley Residents' Advocate. I thank Tasmania's Foster Carers and those who joined their ranks in 2009-2010. And I thank our first volunteer Children's Visitors for the courage in stepping outside their ordinary lives to give our most vulnerable children a voice.



Paul Mason
Commissioner
21 September 2010



A Snapshot of Children and Young People in Tasmania

Population

- The total population of Tasmania, as estimated by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as at June 30 2009, was 503,300.
- The total number of children and young people (aged 0 – 19 years) in Tasmania was approximately 132,454 (26.3% of the population).

Education¹

- In 2009 there were 80,907 full time primary and secondary school students in Tasmania, including 5,419 Indigenous students.
- In 2009 71.1% of all full time school students in Tasmania attended Government schools.
- In 2009 the Year 12 retention rate for students in Tasmania was 64.1%. This is well below the national average of 76.7%, and is the second lowest rate of retention in Australia following the Northern Territory.

Child Protection²

- Between July 2009 and March 2010, 1372 notifications were referred to service centres for investigation.
- As at 31 March 2010, 879 children were in out of home care in Tasmania.

Mission Australia Survey of Young Australians 2009³

Mission Australia conducted a survey of 47,725 Australian young people (aged 11 – 24 years) in 2009 including 2208 young Tasmanians . Of this sample:

- 93.8% of young people from Tasmania spoke only English at home. The most common languages spoken by the remaining young people were Japanese, German, Chinese, Korean, Italian, French and Cantonese.
- 93.2% of young people from Tasmania were living with family.
- 75.5% of young people from Tasmania stated that parents/family were their main source of income. This is comparable with the national rate of 73.1%.



Paul Mason, Children's Commissioner and the Hon Lin Thorp, Minister for Children and CCC Members at the Statewide CCC meeting, Saturday 31 October 2009.

- 27.3% of young people in Tasmania were unemployed and looking for work.
- Issues that most concerned young people from Tasmania included physical/sexual abuse (27.1%), suicide (25.9%), drugs (25.5%), body image (25%) and bullying / emotional issues (24.2%).
- Activities that young people in Tasmania were most likely to engage in included sports (74%), arts/cultural activities such as drama, music and dance (31%) and volunteering (21.9%).

¹Australian Bureau of Statistics, Catalogue 4221.0 (2009), Schools Australia.

²Department of Health and Human Services (2010) Your Health and Human Services Progress Chart, June 2010.

³Mission Australia, National Survey of Young Australians 2009.

What does the Commissioner for Children do?

The Commissioner for Children (CFC) was established under section 78 of the *Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997*, proclaimed in July 2000.

The philosophy of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCROC) is expressed in the fundamental principles of the Act, namely:

- that the best interests of the child are paramount;
- that the family is primarily responsible for the care of children unless it is not able to meet those responsibilities; and
- that children's views about their care and protection must be sought and given serious consideration.

Sections 79 & 80 Functions & Powers of the Commissioner

The Commissioner has the following functions:

- (a) on the request of the Minister, to **investigate** a decision or recommendation made, or an act done or omitted, under this

Act in respect of a child, other than a decision or recommendation made by the Court;

(b) to **encourage** the development, within the Department, of policies and services designed to promote the health, welfare, care, protection and development of children;

(c) on the request of the Minister, to **inquire** generally into and report on any matter, including any enactment, practice and procedure relating to the health, welfare, care, protection and development of children;

(d) to **increase public awareness** of matters relating to the health, welfare, care, protection and development of children;

(e) on the Commissioner's own initiative or on the request of the Minister, to **advise** the Minister on any matter relating to the administration of this Act and the policies and practices of the Department, another Government department or any other person which affect the health, welfare, care, protection and development of children;

(f) on the Commissioner's own initiative or on the request of the Minister, to **advise** the Minister on any matter relating to the health,

welfare, care, protection and development of children placed in the custody, or under the guardianship, of the Secretary under this or any other Act;

(fa) on the Commissioner's own initiative or on the request of the Minister, to act as an advocate for a detainee under the *Youth Justice Act 1997*;

(fb) to advise the Minister on any matter relating to the health, welfare, education, care, protection and development of detainees under the *Youth Justice Act 1997*;

(g) any other functions imposed by this or any other Act.

It is CFC policy to use these powers persuasively rather than by compulsion of legal process in recognition of the principle that the interests of children and young people are best served by the community acting collaboratively and with improved understanding of the paramountcy of those interests.

In carrying out these legislative functions, the CFC acts independently, impartially and in the public interest. Where there is a conflict



between the interests of children and young persons and the interests of Government and other groups in society the Commissioner considers it an obligation to advocate for the interests of the former.

Requests from the Minister for Human Services

Willing But Unable: State Partnering with families of children in need of formal Disability Care

On 27 August 2009 the Minister requested advice arising from my membership of the Disability Services Act Review Steering Committee. The Minister's questions arose from the problems previously discussed in my 2009 Advice "Parens Patriae: Who Will Take Responsibility?" about the families of children with disabilities whose needs may include some formal short or long term allocation or sharing of their legal parental responsibilities. The issues raised included the interaction of the Commonwealth *Family Law Act 1975* and the *Children Young, Persons and Their Families Act 1997* and whether such questions should rather be dealt with in the review of the *Disability Services Act 1992*.

On 8 January 2010 I provided my formal Advice to the Minister with 9 key recommendations for less adversarial ways to enable the needs of such families and children to be accommodated.

Request for Advice about the history and circumstances of the child and her immediate family up to 30 October 2009

On 18 May 2010 the Minister requested advice pursuant to s.79(1)(c) of the *Children Young, Persons and Their Families Act 1997* on the history and circumstances of a 12 year old child then under the guardianship of the Secretary under s. 42, whose story had become notorious. The Minister sought advice about the adequacy of government and non-government agencies to the child and her family and sought recommendations as to changes that may reduce the likelihood of a similar situation recurring.

I was unable to provide my formal Advice before 30 June 2010, within the period of this Annual Report, but preparation of that Advice was well underway by the close of the financial year.

Children and Young Persons Consultative Council (CCC)

It has been another busy 12 months for the Children's Consultative Council (CCC).

In July, the Children's Consultative Council presented their bullying report to the then Minister for Human Services, the Hon Lin Thorp. The bullying report was a collation of 11 schools' bullying policies and a number of interviews with members of their school community regarding the effectiveness of their policy and incidents of bullying at the school. CCC Members Marcus Chick, and Metika Claxton then led the Council in a brainstorming session through the CFC Online Forum and email developing potential solutions which were included in the report.

After the Statewide Meeting in July, two representatives from the CCC, Genevieve Henderson and Marcus Chick had the opportunity to present their work to the Premier and Minister for Education, David Bartlett MHA.

"It felt exhilarating to present the Bullying Report to Minister Thorp and then Premier Bartlett, as it felt like the issue of bullying might finally

get some of the recognition and attention it deserved. Both meetings weren't like I expected in that both Lin Thorp and David Bartlett discussed the issue frankly with us, and agreed it was of importance. What I have learnt from this experience is about the process in which reports are created and brought to the attention of those with the power to bring about change. This also led to the understanding that change doesn't happen overnight, it takes time, but things such as the Bullying Report are a step towards that change." Marcus

The CFC has been working in partnership with the Tasmanian Early Years Foundation, to develop a Children's Participation Toolkit, to try and encourage government and non-government organisations to involve young people in their work and for greater service delivery. Children's Consultative Council member Genevieve Henderson has been representing young people on the steering committee to ensure the toolkit is relevant and effective in ensuring young people are supported throughout any involvement.

Throughout this process Genevieve has learned meeting processes and has consulted

with other CCC members as to the key aspects in supporting young people to get involved in their community.

"The steering group for children's participation has been pretty much how I expected, and the adults there are interested in hearing my opinions. I'll take away experience in what some meetings with adults in the future may be like, how much work it takes to organise a document like the toolkit, and the knowledge that many adults actually are interested in what young people have to say." Genevieve

The CCC has also been proactive as peer researchers in their individual communities. In 2010 the CCC interviewed their friends and siblings with the responses collated and submitted to the Australian Parliament's Joint Select Committee Inquiry into Cyber Safety. The submission showcased the views of 45 children and young people, and was a fantastic group effort to pull together. CCC Member Catelyn Richards did exceptionally well by gathering 17 responses from friends!

As the ACCG was held in Hobart this year, we once again held our Commissioner for a Day competition. The CCC were asked to describe in words or artwork a time you or a friend



Paul Mason and Finn Bucchorn, Commissioner for a Day, Children's Consultative Council, Commissioner for Children, TAS, 12 May 2010.

stood up for another kids rights. The competition winner was Finn Bucchorn who was our Commissioner for a Day. Finn signed a confidentiality agreement, worked with the Commissioner to go through his inbox, and then spent the day at the ACCG, and got the opportunity to ask the Commissioners a number of questions:

"Hi, wondering what I did on Wednesday?... the Commissioners from Victoria and NT shouted me a drink at the ABC cafe. While we were sitting Paul showed up and took me up to the offices to read the emails of which there was only 3. After this we went down stairs to the meeting room, and I took my seat again.



You would think that being in a long meeting would bore you but it's not as bad as you think.

Along with meeting all the other Commissioners meeting Alison Jacob was one of the other highlights, and I thank Alison for having time to address us all. The day passed quickly by was very enjoyable, It was a wicked experience and you should enter next time.

I thank every one that helped and organised the day and I hope whoever goes next time I hope that they have as good time as I have had, so again thanks." Finn (on the CCC online Forum)

Children and Young Persons Advisory Council

The Advisory Council (AC) had been invited to participate in the ongoing work of the CFC through the Childcomm Web Forum established in 2008. Regular posting and discussion on the Forum was not taken up by the AC. Some AC members have participated with the Charter of Rights for Children in Out of Home Care project and on the reference group for the Children's Visitors Pilot Program.

The CFC is currently undertaking a review of the functions and role of the adults Advisory

Council, with a view to creating a direct link with the Children's Consultative Council. It is envisaged that the AC will mentor, facilitate and participate in the development of CCC members and that it will include former members of the Children's Consultative Council who have turned 18 years of age. Recruitment for the new Advisory Council will occur in early 2011 in tandem with CCC recruitment to better align the work of the two CFC councils.

Ashley Youth Detention Centre Residents' Advocate

The Residents' Advocate (RA) visits Ashley Youth Detention Centre (AYDC) on a weekly basis. There are on average about 30 young people, mainly males, resident in Ashley at any one time with a disproportionate representation of Indigenous young people. The RA connects with as many residents as possible each week through one to one meetings, group discussions, meals and informal discussions. Since the position was established in 2007 the RA has continued to establish successful relationships with both residents and staff at AYDC. The RA has advocated on behalf of the residents on

a number of issues and concerns that the residents have shared with her and liaised with Staff so the matters could be resolved.

The RA meets with Ashley Management on a fortnightly basis to raise resident issues as they arise. Some of the issues that have been successfully resolved by the RA in the past year include having dental floss made available to all residents, having curtains hung in residents' rooms for privacy and the development of a policy for working with residents from other cultures. In some instances the ability of the RA to resolve an issue for a resident when first raised has prevented escalation of the issue to a formal complaint.

During the past 12 months the RA has also conducted several consultations with residents including obtaining their views on topics such as the food/menu and the implementation of the new Behaviour Development Model. The results of these consultations have been provided to Ashley Management for use in ongoing planning and development. The CFC has also worked with other agencies such as DCYFS Youth Justice to assist in gaining the views of residents on projects involving residents of Ashley.

Recently the RA and CFC staff sought the views of the residents on their lives within Ashley including their feelings about how being in Ashley has helped them and what they miss from their lives outside Ashley. The results of this consultation, along with poetry and artwork completed by the residents, is currently being compiled into a publication entitled Views: Life Inside AYDC. This will be launched by the Minister for Children, Lin Thorp MLC at Ashley later this year and a copy given to each resident who contributed to the publication.

Children's Visitors Pilot Program

Following a Colloquium held by the CFC in May 2009 that provided an overview of some of the children's visiting programs operating across Australia and overseas and their benefits, Disability, Child, Youth and Family Services (DCYFS) agreed to fund the Commissioner for Children to commence a Children's Visitors Pilot in Tasmania for children in out of home care.

The Children's Visitors Pilot is being undertaken in the South of the state and will run for a period of 12 months from March 2010. Eighteen children aged 8-12 years agreed to take part

in the Pilot and twelve volunteer Children's Visitors (CVs) have been recruited, trained and are supported to visit each child for one hour a month. The primary role of the CVs in the Pilot is to provide opportunities for children in long-term out of home care to speak with an independent person about what might be happening in their lives (good and not). The CVs promote the child's wellbeing using the Charter of Rights for Tasmanian children and young people in out of home care as a framework.

CVs have received a positive response from the children involved with several children commenting that they look forward to the visits and enjoy planning what they might do at each visit. Other children have been surprised that the CVs are volunteers, commenting that they like that the CV "is visiting them because they want to and not because they are being paid to".

The Pilot is being independently evaluated to ensure that it is effective in meeting the needs of the children involved. The evaluator will be speaking with children, carers, DCYFS staff and the CVs to get their views on how the Pilot is meeting its goals.

Snapshot of 2009- 2010

Enquiries from Government Agencies, Non-Government Organisations and the Public.

In 2009-2010, the Commissioner for Children's office (CFC) received approximately 116 enquiries from individuals, organisations and Government agencies. The CFC receives enquiries by telephone, email and letter. Some enquirers simply request general information on issues related to children and young people or the role of the Commissioner, while others wish to make a formal complaint about a service or agency. This advice and referral work consumes a large fraction of the work time of the staff of the CFC.

The CFC does not have the power to investigate individual complaints, other than when requested to do so by the Minister. Where the office is unable to assist, enquirers are referred to relevant Government agencies or non-Government organisations that are able to provide further information or have complaints handling functions.



The office commonly refers callers to the following services:

- Child Protection Services, DHHS
- Tasmanian Ombudsman
- Legal Aid Commission of Tasmania
- Tasmania Police
- Department of Education
- Hobart Community Legal Service
- Kids Helpline.

Overview of Submissions, Reports and Projects produced by the office of the Commissioner for Children

Submissions and Reports

Preparation of the Non Government Shadow Report to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child about Australia's compliance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

Preparation of the next non-Government Shadow Report is moving into its final stages.

The Federal Government's Fourth Australian Report on Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Australia was released in 2008/2009. The NGO Shadow Report is being prepared by the Child Rights Taskforce jointly convened by the National Children's and Youth Law Centre and UNICEF Australia. The Commissioner for Children is participating in this process.

Tasmanian Law Reform Institute Non-Therapeutic Male Circumcision: Issues Paper No 14 June 2009

In June 2009 the Tasmanian Law Reform Institute released an Issues Paper which discussed the medical background, history and legal framework of non-therapeutic male circumcision in Tasmania.

The CFC's September 2009 submission was that if surgery on the genitals of a pre-pubescent child is not therapeutically necessary for the preservation of life or the treatment or prevention of serious illness, then the decision whether or not to operate, and what surgery should be undertaken, should be deferred until the child is old enough to express an informed opinion about

the options. If still then a minor, decisions should be made in a forum that addresses conflicts of interest. That age will depend on the intervention that is proposed.

After concluding that the statute and common law in relation to performance of a medically unnecessary circumcision on a minor in Tasmania is unclear and fails to protect the human rights of children, the CFC submission recommended amendment of the *Criminal Code Act 1924 (Tas)* to remedy the situation.

Tasmanian Law Reform Institute Evidence Act 2001 sections 97, 98 and 101 and Hoch's case: Issues Paper No 15 September 2009

In his February 2010 submission to the Tasmanian Law Reform Institute, the CFC made recommendations designed to address issues identified with specific aspects of the conduct of trials in sexual offences cases where an accused is charged with offences against several complainants.

Those recommendations propose changes to the rules about joinder and cross-admissibility of evidence based on a consideration

of their impact on child complainants and child witnesses. The CFC also made recommendations about the manner in which child witnesses may be cross-examined in sexual offences cases.

Consultation on Tasmanian Homelessness Plan 2010-2014

On 18 December 2009 the Tasmanian Homelessness Plan 2010 – 2014 was released for public consultation.

The CFC's March 2010 submission urged the Government to ensure that any plan to reduce homelessness in Tasmania should address issues of concern to children and young people, especially (but not limited to):

- young people leaving care
- young people leaving youth detention
- young people without bail options.

The CFC called on the Government to adopt a Standard that "No child or young person shall be discharged from State care or control into homelessness". The Commissioner also made specific recommendations about programs and initiatives designed to address factors that contribute to youth homelessness.

Joint Australian Law Reform Commission and New South Wales Law Reform Commission Inquiry into Family Violence: Consultation Paper April 2010

In April 2010 the Australian Law Reform Commission and the New South Wales Law Reform Commission released their Consultation Paper "Family Violence: Improving Legal Frameworks" for community input and comment.

The CFC submission comprised a number of other submissions and speeches by the Commissioner on issues of concern that were relevant to the Inquiry's Terms of Reference including:

- the legal position relating to physical punishment/corporal punishment of children
- children as applicants for family violence orders
- ensuring that the definition of "family violence" encompasses violence against children

- the importance of children being heard and being given the opportunity to express their views about legal proceedings that affect them
- the important role played by separate representatives in legal proceedings affecting children
- the need for less adversarial justice in proceedings affecting children, especially in child protection proceedings where the child the subject of the proceedings is at risk purely because of the inability of loving parents to provide the level of care required due to the child's disability
- evidentiary issues of particular relevance to children as complainants in sexual assault proceedings, particularly where allegations are made by multiple complainants against the same defendant.



Public consultation on an R18+ classification for computer games

In December 2009 the then Federal Minister for Home Affairs (the Hon Brendan O'Connor) introduced a public consultation on whether the National Classification Scheme (for films, some publications and computer games) should include an R 18+ classification category for computer games.

In his February 2010 submission the CFC opposed the R18+ classification for computer games, observing that the introduction of such a classification for computer games, by quantitatively increasing the availability of such material in the rental and retail markets, would increase the risk of children being exposed to material not currently legally available in Australia and thus to material likely to harm or disturb them and to depictions that condone or incite violence, particularly sexual violence.

Proposed Reforms to Commonwealth Child Related Sex Offences

In September 2009 the CFC considered a wide ranging Discussion Paper issued by the then Minister for Home Affairs detailing proposed

reforms to Commonwealth child-related sex offences.

The CFC responded by indicating his support for the initiatives canvassed in the Paper.

National Justice Mental Health Initiative

The CFC was invited to comment on the development of best practice guidelines for the diversion and support of people with a mental illness who have come in contact with the criminal justice system. It was submitted that young people within the criminal justice system and particularly those in detention are among the most vulnerable of young people. Any best practice guidelines must give specific consideration to the developmental differences between young offenders and adult offenders and provide appropriate protections for young people to ensure that the diversionary guidelines work in their best interests and do not expose them to further harm. As such there should be separate programs and units for children and young people to that for adults who come into contact with the justice system.

Responding to Complaints in Care: Worker Visitation of Children in Care Audit, October 2009

The Commissioner is a member of the DCYFS Complaints in Care Monitoring Group which meets quarterly to examine the efficacy of the DCYFS policy *Responding to complaints about the safety of children and young people who are in out of home care 2008* which sets out specific Standards for the visitation of children in care and their carers.

The 2009 audit was the second annual audit conducted by the CFC and examined four specific areas: frequency and privacy of visits conducted by Child Protection Practitioners with individual children, completed Care Plans and evidence of the child's involvement in the care planning process and current photos of children on their file. A sample of 190 children and 98 carers was included in the audit of children statewide in out of home care. Files for the period 1/07/2008 to 15/06/2009 inclusive were scrutinised by the Commissioner for Children and qualified staff in each of the three Area Service Centres over a period of three weeks in July and August 2009 using an electronic tool developed by the CFC office.

A Report was tabled which included data from the audit and recommendations for changes to practice to improve compliance with the Policy. The Audit 2009 report is available on the CFC website.

Bullying Report by the CCC (Children's Consultative Council), October 2009

The Children's Consultative Council prepared a bullying report, a collation of information including: 11 schools' bullying policies; a number of interviews with members of their school communities regarding the effectiveness of policies and incidents of bullying at schools; brainstorming through the Online Forum and emails developing potential solutions.

Council presented their bullying report to the then Minister for Human Services Lin Thorp and two representatives from the CCC, Genevieve Henderson and Marcus Chick, had the opportunity to present their work to the Premier and Minister for Education, David Bartlett.

The Bullying Report 2009 is available on the CFC website.

Commissioner's Advice – reforms to the *Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997*, September 2009

As a result of the October 2006 "Report on Child Protection Services in Tasmania" (co-authored by the former Commissioner for Children, David Fanning, and Alison Jacob, Deputy Secretary, Human Services within the Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services) there is an ongoing program of legislative reform of the *Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997*. The CFC has been consulted about Phase 1 amendments to the Act, which were incorporated in a Bill introduced into Parliament in March 2009. The amendments contained in the Bill came into effect on 1 August 2009.

The CFC is a member of the Steering Group that was formed to consider what other amendments and reforms are required to the legislation. To assist the CFC's consideration of relevant issues in May 2009 he convened a Reference Group of members of the legal profession with expertise in Child Protection and Family Law.

After considering the deliberations of that group, in September 2009 the CFC put forward to the then Minister for Human Services a non-exhaustive list of possible areas for reform of the *Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997*. These reforms are designed to:

- remedy elements of the legislation that do not meet its objectives in a child-centred way or that do not promote and protect the best interests of children or reflect current legislative best practice in this jurisprudence,
- improve the extent to which the Act protects and promotes the best interests of children.

Joint Select Committee Inquiry into Cyber Safety

After developing a Bullying Report which was presented to Minister Lin Thorp and Premier David Bartlett the Children's Consultative Council continued this focus by undertaking peer research, interviewing their friends and siblings regarding cyber safety. The responses were collated and submitted to the Australian Parliament's Joint Select Committee Inquiry



into Cyber Safety. The submission showcased the views of 45 children and young people, all sought by members of the CCC. A major focus of this report was the development of potential solutions to ensure a safer environment for children and young people on the internet.

DCYFS Reform Processes

Government has continued its integrated reform of Child Protection and related systems in Tasmania including reform to several Acts: the *Mental Health Act 1992*, the *Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997* (Phase 1) and the *Disability Services Act 1992*. Tasmanian ‘Future Communities’ progress has seen focus in four primary areas to provide more streamlined services and to move toward:

1. Area based services
2. New Area Community Based Intake
3. Community Based Child Protection Intake
4. Responsive Case Management in Child Protection, Disabilities, Housing, Youth Justice.

The Commissioner’s work has intersected with these reforms at several points as he has

advised Government about the importance of obtaining and including the voice of children at each stage, including in the Common Assessment process for early preventative family support services, child protection and disability services.

Working with Children Checks

Work has commenced to establish a centralised background checking and risk assessment system for people working with vulnerable people to reduce the risk of sexual, physical, emotional or financial harm or neglect. Checking systems for people working with children have been established or are currently under development in all Australian jurisdictions. The need for a Tasmanian centralised system has been a priority for the Commissioner for Children for many years and the progress has been welcomed. The Commissioner is a member of the Working with Children Steering Group and has provided consistent comment both to the Consultation process and to proposed legislation.

Disability Services Act 1992

Following the request from Minister Lin Thorp for provision of Advice, the Commissioner continued his participation in the Review of the *Disability Act 1992* this year through his involvement in the project Steering Committee, including significant comment on the November 2009 *Directions Paper: Content and Structure of new Disability Services Legislation in Tasmania*. A consultation phase followed the public release of the Directions Paper, with the development of the new Act progressing following extensive stakeholder and public consultation.

Australian Children’s Commissioners and Guardians (ACCG)

The Commissioner is a member of Australia’s Children’s Commissioners and Guardians (ACCG) a group of nine State and Territory Children’s Commissioners and Guardians.

On 12-13 May 2010 ACCG met in Hobart, hosted by the Tasmanian CFC.



There were presentations from two guest speakers:

- Ms Alison Jacob Deputy Secretary, Human Services, DHHS who spoke on Tasmania's "Future Communities" reform of children's family and disability services;
- The Hon Alistair Nicholson AM who spoke on the links between violence against children in the home, bullying and family violence and about the human rights of children to equal protection from assault under the law.

Tasmania's Commissioner for The Day Finn Bucchorn was present all day on 21 May with support of the YLO (Youth Liaison Officer) and the Senior Policy Officer of the CFC. Finn asked a series of questions about ACCG and their work and the experience for him was unique: no other child in Australia has had this opportunity.

Finn asked about the following and received responses from the CFC's:

- Cultural change in light of Tasmania's publicised child prostitution case
- Queensland's model of Community Visitors

- The review of the NSW Commissioner for Children
- The differences between the various Commissioners' roles.

The ACCG discussed agenda items including:

- Posting members' details on Child Rights International Network (CRIN) website as part of CRIN's Global Network Project
- Progress with an optional communication protocol under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Distribution of the ACCG Book "How Australian Kids See The World" commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Promoting creation of a National Commissioner for Children in accordance with the National Framework for Child Protection
- ACCG contribution to developing National Standards for Out of Home Care (OOHC)
- Preparation of a Non-Government "Shadow" report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child in response to the

Australian Government's Fourth Report delivered in June 2009

- Joint Statement on legislative and other reforms to eradicate physical punishment in the home in accordance with the UN CROC.



Paul Mason, Children's Commissioner hosts the ACCG Meeting, 12 & 13 May 2010 in Hobart.

Attendees: (Back row, left to right): Caron Irwin, Executive Director, Commissioner for Children and Young People, WA; Catherine Branson, President Australian Human Rights Commission^a; Hilary Berry, Acting Commissioner for Children, Northern Territory; Bernie Geary, Commissioner for Child Safety, Victoria; Elizabeth Fraser, Commissioner for Children and Young People and Child Guardian, QLD; Kerryn Boland, Children's Guardian, NSW; Finn Bucchorn, Commissioner for a Day & Children's Consultative Council Member, TAS^b; Paul Mason, Commissioner for Children Tasmania. (Front row, left to right): Virginia Neighbour, Director, Child Safe Organisations, Commission for Children, NSW; Alasdair Roy, Commissioner for Children, ACT, and Pam Simmons, Guardian for Children and Young People, SA.

^a12 May 2010 only.

^b12 May 2010 only.

ACCG Joint Submission Contributions

National Standards for Out of Home Care

The ACCG strongly endorsed the focus on improving outcomes for children and young people in Out of Home Care. In particular, the aim of driving improvements in the quality of care so that children and young people can have the same opportunities as other children to live safe, happy, healthy and fulfilling lives, is strongly supported.

The ACCG endorsed the focus on positive outcomes for children and young people in Out of Home Care and recommended that the National Standards:

1. achieve nationally consistent benchmarks for all child protection decision making, including coming into care, and nationally consistent access to appropriate support services
2. recognise that a key driver for optimal health and well-being outcomes for many children and young people in Out of Home Care will be their access to

high quality, specialist, holistic support services. It needs to be recognised that this will require significant funding and cooperation from Commonwealth and State and Territory governments if children and young people in Out of Home Care are to receive the level of services they are entitled to

3. achieve appropriate supports for the transition from care process
4. include a requirement for systematic engagement with children and young people in Out of Home Care and for their views to be included in measuring and reporting on outcomes
5. include state or territory based independent monitoring of child protection systems and reporting processes, where the monitoring body is independent from Out of Home Care service providers and funding authorities.

Public consultation on an R18+ classification for computer games

In their February 2010 submission the Australian Children's Commissioners and Children's Guardians stated that their lack

of support for the introduction of an R18+ classification category for computer games was because of the:

1. increased availability of, and risk of exposure to, high impact content including violence, domestic and sexual violence and illicit drug use;
2. potential negative impacts of exposure to R18+ computer games, particularly for vulnerable or at risk children, and
3. difficulties parents and regulators experience in monitoring and controlling children's access to computer games.

Draft Model Occupational Health and Safety Act

In their November 2009 joint submission to Worksafe Australia on the exposure draft of the model OHS Act the NSW Commission for Children and Young People, the Commissioner for Children, Tasmania and Commissioner for Children and Young People Western Australia argued that the model Act did not take account of the particular needs of young workers.

Indigenous Juveniles in the Youth Justice System, House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

The January 2010 submission identified current issues for young indigenous offenders involved with the youth justice system across Australia. This included discussion about the over representation of indigenous young people within youth detention centres, the high levels of young people being held on remand and the declining rates of cautioning in many States, although cautioning rates have remained stable in Tasmania. Good practice examples of programs that support diversion of young people from youth detention centres were also identified. Tasmanian programs that were highlighted included Lungtalana operated by the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre for young aboriginal offenders that have been sent to Ashley and Project U-Turn a diversionary program for young people involved with motor vehicle theft.

Shared care arrangements for children after parental separation

The Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department requested that researchers from the Faculty of Law at the University of Sydney, the Social Policy Research Centre at the University of New South Wales and the Australian Institute of Family Studies, conduct research on shared care arrangements for children after parents separate, following the changes to the *Family Law Act in 2006*.

In January 2010, a survey link was placed on the Commissioner for Children Web Forum inviting the CCC to share their views about shared parenting and how they felt about going from one home to another. They were asked to send their responses to the Ethics Secretariat at the University of New South Wales and the responses could only be seen by the researchers. The responses were important in helping the government know how children and young people feel about their arrangements.

The full report, titled "Shared Care Parenting Arrangements since the 2006 Family Law Reforms", May 2010 is now available at www.ag.gov.au/cca.

National Indigenous Education Action Plan Draft 2010-2014, Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs (MCEECDYA)

The ACCG members welcomed the release of the Plan and supported in principle the targets and actions outlined in the priority domains. Specifically, the proposals to address the attendance and retention of students; ensure the active engagement of families and communities in supporting the education of Indigenous children; the flexibility for schools to tailor operations to the needs of local communities; and the implementation of culturally inclusive literacy and numeracy curriculum are all encouraging steps in raising the education attainment of Indigenous children.

The submission is available on the CFC website.



Comment on Bills and Legislation

Draft Right to Information Bill 2009

In his October 2009 submission to the Department of Justice on a draft Right to Information Bill 2009 the CFC made recommendations aimed at ensuring that the proposed scheme would operate in a manner that safeguarded the rights and interests of children and young people on the one hand as consumers of Right to Information laws and on the other hand as the subjects of personal information affected by such laws.

The CFC also recommended in the strongest possible terms that information in his possession should not be subject to the disclosure provisions in the Bill. This recommendation was based on the CFC's obligation to act independently, impartially and in the public interest and on the fact that the CFC is in possession of a large volume of sensitive information relating to both children and adults which he or she uses in the course of exercising his or her functions independently of the elected Government. Some of that information if released has the potential to cause

harm to and to undermine the best interests of individual children and groups of children. In the CFC's opinion, it would substantially impair the independence of the Commissioner if information in his possession were subject to the disclosure provisions of the proposed law.

Community Affairs Legislation Committee consultation: Exposure Draft Bill and Memorandum: Paid Parental Leave

In May 2010 the CFC made a submission to this Senate Committee which was tasked with inquiring into an exposure draft of legislation to implement the then Federal Government's announced paid parental leave scheme. The CFC used this opportunity to reiterate his strong view that a scheme of at least 12 months' duration is required to achieve optimum health and development outcomes for children. He also called for the Government's policy purpose to be clear so that if the Scheme is designed for the developmental benefit of babies rather than the economic "return to work" needs of parents or employers, then a longer period of eligibility is indicated.

Poisons Amendment Bill (No.2) 2009 and Poisons Amendment Regulations 2009 ("Section 47A Carers")

In October 2008 the CFC provided comment on an earlier version of the above Bill from the perspective of promotion and protection of the safety of children and young people. The CFC recommended that there be further detailed consideration of relevant issues via a Discussion Paper that would explain the proposed changes in more detail. In February 2009 the CFC provided further comment based on this Discussion Paper issued by the Department of Health and Human Services to facilitate debate on proposed amendments to the legislative scheme.

The CFC comment raised issues such as the level of training required of non-familial carers of children and young people, for example in out of home care or in detention under the *Youth Justice Act 1997*.

The CFC provided comment in August 2009 on a further draft of the Bill and accompanying Regulations, building on concerns and issues raised by him throughout the consultative process.



Police Offences Act 1935 – Amendment Bill

In August 2009 the CFC commented on proposed amendments to the *Police Offences Act 1935* (Tas). Although the CFC was broadly supportive of amendments designed to prevent under age alcohol consumption on private premises, he expressed reservations about the wide ranging powers proposed to target graffiti.

The Children's Commissioner has hosted several work placements over the past year including Department of Premier and Cabinet Public Policy Internship program; the TAFE Industry Release Program and the DPAC/Multicultural Tasmania Immigrant and Humanitarian Entrants Work Placement Program. Their participation and contribution to the work of the Commissioner is greatly appreciated.



Committee Memberships

Common Assessment Referral and Support (CAARS) Taskforce (National) (Member)

Tasmanian Early Years Foundation Board (Member)

Kids Come First Steering Committee (Member)

CRIN (Child Rights Information Network) (Member)

ISPCAN (International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect) (Member)

Paediatric Mortality and Morbidity Sub-Committee (Member)

Council of Obstetric and Paediatric Mortality and Morbidity (Member)

Child Death Review Steering Committee (Member)

ANZCRT (Australian and New Zealand Child Death Review Team) (Member)

ACCG (Australian Children's Commissioners and Child Guardians) (Member)

APACC (Asia Pacific Association of Children's Commissioners) (Member)

Review of the *Youth Justice Act 1997* Steering Committee (Member)

Review of *Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997* Reference Group (Member)

Family Law Practitioners Association Tasmania (Member)

Separate Child Representative Training Steering Committee (Member)

Childhood Injury Prevention Coalition (CHIP) (Member)

Ashley Advisory Group (Member)

Complaints in Care Monitoring Group (DCYFS) (Member)

Disability Legislation Review Steering Committee (Member)

2009/10 Financial Statement
Commissioner for Children Tasmania

	\$'000
Income	
Revenue from Government	
Annual Appropriation	646
Retained Revenue	0
Total	646
Expenditure (Direct Costs)	
Employee Entitlements	
Salaries and Wages	437
Other Employee Expenses	53
Operating Expenditure	
Property Services	59
Communications	13
Travel and Transport	33
Other Supplies and Consumables	20
Other Expenses	31
Total	645
Net Operating Outcome (Deficit) / Surplus	1

Notes:

1. All amounts have been rounded to nearest \$1 000.
2. The Financial Statement has been prepared on a cash basis.

Prepared by: Robyn Symons, Senior Business Analyst

Approved by: Penny Egan, Chief Financial Office

Dated: 13 July, 2010



Appendix 1

Speeches, Meetings, Conferences, Forums & Workshops and Launches

SPEECHES

Family Law Practitioners Association of Tasmania Conference 2009 – 17 & 18 July 2009 (*Cradle Mountain*) “Tasmania’s Child Protection Reforms”

5th World Congress on Family Law and Children’s Rights – 23-26 August (*Halifax, Nova Scotia*) “Pink or Blue: A Rights Based Framework for Medical Intervention with Intersex Infants”

Family Law Pathways Network Forum – 22 September 2009 (*Hobart*) “50/50 – Was that the meaning?”

National Men’s Health gathering – 6-9 October 2009 (*Newcastle*) “Right of Genital Autonomy”; and “It is Legal to Hit People Smaller Than Yourself”

National Councils of Women Coalition (Tas) Annual General Meeting – 29 October 2009 (*Hobart*)

8th ISPCAN Asia Pacific Regional Conference on Child Abuse & Neglect incorporating the 12th Australasian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect – 15 November, 2009 (*Perth, Western Australia*) “How early? A Child’s Right of Genital Autonomy”

Separate Child Legal Representative Course – 20 November 2009 (*Launceston*) – “There Is No Palm Tree – Appointment of Separate Representatives under the CYPATF Act 1997”

International Human Rights Day – 10 December 2009 (*Hobart*)

Childhood Injury Prevention Coalition Forum – 8 February 2010 (*Launceston*) and 15 March 2010 (*Glenorchy*)

Australian Institute of Judicial Administration Non-Adversarial Justice – 4 May 2010 (*Melbourne*) “Parens Patriae Partnered Parenting – The Case of Less Adversarial Justice for Children in Need of Formal Disability Care.”

CHILD AND YOUTH SECTOR MEETINGS

National NGO UNCROC Shadow Report Child Rights Taskforce teleconferences – 2 July, 10 September 2009 (*Hobart*)

Child Rights Taskforce Teleconference – 2 & 7 July 2009 (*Hobart*)

Children’s Participation Resource Steering Committee meeting – 7 July, 20 October 2009 (*Hobart*)

Tasmanian Early Years Foundation strategic planning meeting – 15 July 2009 (*Hobart*)

Children’s Participation Resource Steering Committee – 4 August, 22 September 2009 (*Hobart*)

Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997 reference group meeting – 5 August 2009 (*Hobart*)

Kids Come First Steering Committee meeting – 11 August 2009 (*Hobart*)

Ashley Advisory Group Meetings
– 12 August 2009, 19 February 2010 (*Deloraine*)

National Child Protection week – NAPCAN presentation, Glenorchy Actions Information Network (GAIN) – 9 September 2009 (*Glenorchy*)

Paid Parental Leave consultation
– 17 September 2009 (*Hobart*)

Separate Child Representative Training Program Planning Committee
– 23 September 2009 (*Hobart*)

Tasmanian Early Years Foundation Board meetings – 24 September 2009, 11 March, 24 June 2010 (*Hobart*)

Paediatric Mortality and Morbidity Committee of the Council of Obstetric and Paediatric Mortality & Morbidity (COPMM) – 28 September 2009, 15 March, 10 May 2010 (*Hobart*)

Youth Justice Act Review Steering Committee
– 6 October 2009 (*Hobart*)

National Disabilities Services Leadership Forum – 7 October 2009 (*Hobart*)

Disability Services Act Review Steering Committee – 8, 28 October 2009, 17 February 2010 (*Hobart*)

Consultation with ABS on child-related projects and census planning issues Trevor Sutton (Deputy Australian Statistician, Social Stats Group) and Lisa Wardlow-Kelly (Tas Regional Director) Aust Bureau of Statistics – 15 October 2009 (*Hobart*)

GAIN Meeting – 29 October 2009, 18 February 2010 (*Glenorchy*)

Relationships Australia 60th Anniversary – 29 October 2009 (*New Town*)

CREATE Halloween Party – 29 October 2009 (*North Hobart*)

Complaints in Care Monitoring Group Meeting – 11 August 2009, 30 October 2009, 1 March 2010 (*Hobart*)

Statewide Children's Consultative Council (CCC) Meeting – 31 October 2009 (*Campbelltown*)

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren – 2 November 2009 (*North Hobart*)

Relationships Tasmania – Celebration of 'English through playgroup 09' – 26 November 2009 (*New Town*)

Childhood Injury Prevention Coalition Meetings – 31 July 2009, 3 December 2009, 21 January, 25 February 2010, 29 April 2010 (*Hobart*)

COPMM Council Meetings – 3 December 2009, 25 February, 29 April 2010 (*Hobart*)

Youth Action Priorities (YAP) Meeting – 7 December 2009, 15 February 2010 (*Hobart*)

National Early Childhood Development (ECD) Strategy Teleconference – 17 December 2009 (*Hobart*)

Review of the *Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997* Steering Group Meeting – 23 February 2010 (*Hobart*)

CfC Children's Visitors Pilot – Visitors, Carers and Children's BBQ – 28 February 2010 (*Bellerive*)

Social Marketing Campaign with Fenton Communication, Tas Early Years Foundation – 1 March 2010 (*Hobart*)

KPMG Consultation National Standards Out of Home Care – 10 March 2010 (*Hobart*)

Steering Committee Working With Children Checks – 17 March, 17 June 2010 (*Hobart*)



Australian and New Zealand Child Death Review Team teleconference – 19 April 2010 (Hobart)

Kids Come First Steering Committee – 14 April 2010 (Hobart)

Disability Services Ethics Committee – 27 April 2010 (Hobart)

Review of the Disability Services Act Steering Committee – 20 May, 28 May 2010 (Hobart)

Senator Catriona Bilyk, co-convenor of PACAN, hand over of ACCG Child Rights Books, for distribution to PACAN and fundraising by PACAN for NAPCAN – 11 June 2010 (Hobart)

Jacqui Petrusma MHA Shadow Minister for Human Services and Children meeting – 25 June 2010 (Hobart)

CONFERENCES ATTENDED

Family Law Practitioners Association of Tasmania Conference 2009 – 17 & 18 July 2009 (Cradle Mountain)

5TH World Congress on Family Law and Children's Rights – 23-26 August 2009 (Halifax, Nova Scotia)

Foster Carers State Conference – 28 August (Hobart)

Association of Children with Disabilities Annual General Meeting – 29 September 2009 (Hobart)

National Men's Health gathering – 6-9 October 2009 (Newcastle)

PCYC/Blue light Australasian Conference – 4 November 2009 (Hobart)

8TH ISPCAN Asia Pacific Regional Conference on Child Abuse & Neglect incorporating the 12th Australasian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect: Looking through the lens of prevention – 15 November, 2009 (Perth, Western Australia)

Australian Children's Commissioners and Guardians (ACCG) Meeting – 18 November 2009 (Perth, Western Australia) and 12 and 13 May 2010 (Hobart)

Annual Rainbow Dinner and Awards – 5 December 2009 (Hobart)

TEYF Forum Guest Speaker Dr Paul Dworkin – 12 March 2010 (Hobart)

Foster Carers Big Day Out – 21 March 2010 (Perth, Tas)

FORUMS & WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

Youth Leadership and Participation course – 13 July 2009 (Glenorchy)

Australian & New Zealand Child Death Review and Prevention Group workshop – 17 July 2009 (Brisbane)

National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children meeting – 30 July 2009 (Melbourne)

National Child Protection Framework: Common Approach to Assessment, Referral and Support (CAARS) consultant selection & briefing meeting – 3 August 2009 (ACT)

National Child Protection Framework: Common Approach to Assessment, Referral and Support (CAARS) workshop – 2 October 2009 (Hobart)

Service delivery model for 'at risk' young people community consultation – 8 October 2009 (Glenorchy)

Imagining a 21st Century Public Transport System for Southern Tasmania Public Forum – 3 November 2009 (Glenorchy)

Centrelink Community Engagement Meeting – 10 November 2009 (Hobart)



Separate Child Legal Representative Course
Planning Committee – 23 September 2009
(Hobart)

National Child Protection Framework:
Common Approach to Assessment, Referral
and Support (CAARS) Taskforce meetings
– 30 November 2009 (ACT), 24 February 2010
(Melbourne)

International Human Rights Day Reception
– 10 December 2009 (Government House, Hobart)

Agola Kapuk Festival – 31 December 2009
(Kingston)

Working With Children Check Forum – 14 May
2010 (Rokeby)

LAUNCHES

Early Childhood Intervention Service DVD
Launch – 8 July 2009 (Hobart)

Book Launch “Getting Real: challenging the
sexualisation of girls” by Melinda Tankard-Reist
– 15 October 2009 (Hobart)

Reception to mark bi-annual meeting of the
Australian Health Complaints Commissioners
– 26 October 2009 (Government House)

South West Region Gateway Services
and Integrated Family Support Services
– 5 November 2009 (Hobart)

Alannah and Madeline Buddy Bags Launch
– 13 November 2009 (Hobart)

5th National Indigenous Education
Conference welcoming Reception
– 22 November 2009 (Hobart)

Tasmanian Launch of CREATE Foundation
National Report Card – “Transitioning from
Care” – 26 November 2009 (Hobart)

DPAC Work Placement Certificate Presentation
– 11 December 2009 (Hobart)

Launch into Learning, Learning Services South
– 12 March 2010 (Hobart)

CREATE Foundation Easter Party for under
12 year olds – 27 March 2010 (Zoodoo,
Richmond)

Breastfeeding...every drop counts
– 16 April 2010 (Glenorchy)

Book launch “Physical Punishment in
Childhood. The Rights of the Child” by
Dr Bernadette Saunders and Professor
Chris Goddard – 28 April 2010 (Melbourne)

EPOCH (TAS) Oration “Choose to Hug not to
Hit” – 30 April 2010 (Hobart)

Anti Discrimination Commission – “New
incident report form” – 31 May 2010 (Hobart)

UTURN Graduation Ceremony – 17 June 2010
(Glenorchy)



Appendix 2

Media Releases

10 AUGUST 2009

CAREER PATHS FOR SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS

12 NOVEMBER 2009

COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCES KIDS IN CARE VISITORS SCHEME

20 NOVEMBER 2009

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTIONS ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

25 FEBRUARY 2010

ELECTION 2010 – CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER CALLS FOR TEAMWORK

3 MARCH 2010

CHILDREN'S VISITORS PILOT LAUNCH

1 APRIL 2010

COMMISSIONER FOR CHILDREN URGES RULE OF LAW

17 MAY 2010

INDEPENDENT INQUIRY





1st Floor, Stone Building
ABC Centre, 1 Brooker Ave
Hobart TAS 7000

Phone (03) 6233 4520
Fax (03) 6233 4515

childcomm@childcomm.tas.gov.au
www.childcomm.tas.gov.au