

To The Board of Inquiry

Please find the following dot points to be submitted.

- MOU across agencies (Education, Health, Housing, Centrelink, Corrections and non-government organisations (i.e. Catholic Care, Mission Australia, St Vincent de Paul, Kentish) to ensure streamlined services.
- Turnover of staff and case workers impede quality service delivery. Many cases of children & families not followed up and given adequate support to enable safe care and protection. Possible solution is to utilise school leaders in education as action officers for NTFC. (This is doable with the right policies and processes).
- Education leaders are denied professional two way decision-making between NTFC and DET. Consequently the partnership agreement lacks true collaborative approaches to improve well-being of children and their families.
- Definition of neglect needs to be addressed as children are faced with dire circumstances that they are unable to cope with socially and emotionally which creates generational cycles of neglect.
- When children are removed it should not be optional for parents to participate in rehabilitation programs. Conditions for parents to show that they have addressed/attempted to address the issues should be enforced to build capacity and knowledge so that there are strategies that can effectively reduce child neglect in all its forms.
- The inability to go directly to case workers and having to go back through the 1800 intake number often is detrimental to a child's safety.
- The process to make 3 reports before action/investigation of a known family is contrary to the mandatory reporting requirements.

Specific cases noted:

- Monitoring of NTFC services needs addressing. I.e. known sex offenders having indirect access to children that they have systematically sexually and physically abused.
- Reports made to NTFC where children are exposed to drugs, pornography and physical violence on a daily basis and no follow up with the family and/or school. This is often highlighted (can cite several specific cases in the last 18 months) when children are taken off the books and given back to the parent/carers.
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- Additional to this submission is the fact that NTFC hold access during school time either with parents at home or in jail. This is a clear contradiction of value. By denying a child the right to an education we limit their choices in life.

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