



The Commissioners
NT Child Protection Inquiry

As a personal submission to the Inquiry, I wish to make the following points;

I support the recommendations of the NT Coroner of 19/01/10 in respect to reform of FACS.

Such reform includes review of the appropriate legislation to ensure it's resilience in the care of vulnerable children and families in the NT

It also includes the establishment of a workable policy framework to assist FACS staff in the care of vulnerable children and families.

FACS needs to establish measurable benchmarks (such as the qualifications of carers and standards of suitable accommodation) that are incorporated into it's policy framework.

FACS workers require formal and measurable education into their duties under the law and policy.

FACS needs to be properly funded and resourced to allow sufficient workers to be supported to care for the anticipated volume of need in addition to the education duties that all staff will have to undertake

I feel strongly that an external advocate be appointed to independently measure FACS's continuing performance against it's legislative duties and policy requirements. Such a legislative advocate could perform a similar function to the one currently performed by the Community Visitor in Mental Health, including an annual report to the NT parliament on FACS's performance against it's legislative and policy responsibilities.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions regarding the above issues. I am also happy to give oral confirmation to support the above statements if the Commissioners feel that this would be an advantage.

Yours sincerely

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