



Director-General's UPDATE

Deidre Mulkerin | Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women

Hello everyone

I hope you and your families are keeping safe and well. I still can't believe it's now October — where has this crazy year gone?

As you all know, 2020 has been like no previous year with the challenges that have been presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. Although Queensland has had some success in containing the transmission of the virus, we must continue applying due diligence to ensure you and your families, your children, our kinship and foster carers and our workforce remain healthy and well.

I'm writing to update you on a few things you might find useful.

Queensland Parents Advisory Council

Last month I met with the Queensland Parents Advisory Committee (QPAC) — a newly created group of 12 parents from across Queensland who have experienced the child protection system.

The committee, which is supported by the Family Inclusion Network South East Queensland (FINSEQ), gives parents an opportunity to have their voices heard and to have a say on policy and issues at a systemic level. It's very important to me that we continue to hear directly from parents and take a more inclusive and holistic approach to supporting families involved in the child protection system.

You can read a bit more about the September meeting in [a newsletter](#) written by the FINSEQ and QPAC.

Residential Care Services COVID-19 Guidelines

During this time of COVID-19, I know that you may have some extra concerns about how we are ensuring that your children are safe, including how we are working with Residential Care services to increase protection in what is often a shared environment.

With this in mind, we've developed [Residential Care and COVID-19 Guidelines](#) in collaboration with PeakCare and other key stakeholders to help residential care workers make the right decisions to keep young people safe and well.

These guidelines are not intended to replace existing plans and processes at each residence, but rather to reassure parents, their children and the staff working with them that we are prepared and ready to respond in the situation where a young person may be diagnosed with COVID-19 or required to self-isolate.

We also have helpful information on our [website](#) that explains what we're doing to keep children safe and how we're supporting parents and carers during COVID-19.

If at any time you are feeling worried about what's happening, please talk to your child safety officer or connect with your usual support network. You can also call Lifeline on 13 11 14.

As always, please take care of yourself, and stay safe.

Warm regards

Deidre Mulkerin
Director-General
Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women