

MINISTERIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON CHILD PROTECTION

4862. Hon Robyn McSweeney to the Minister for Child Protection

I refer to the Ministerial Advisory Council on Child Protection, and I ask -

- (1) Is this Council still active?
- (2) If yes to (1), -
 - (a) name the members of the Council; and
 - (b) please detail the experience of the members
- (3) What are the terms of reference for the Council?
- (4) If the Council is not active, please give reasons as to why it is not in operation?
- (5) How often did this Council meet and what was achieved?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

1. Yes.
2. The Council's members are:

Independent Chairperson:

The Hon Hal Jackson

Mr Jackson is a retired District Court Judge and was the first President of the Children's Court (1989 - 1994). He has served on various government and non-government sector boards and committees relating to children's and youth affairs.

Deputy Chairperson:

Mr Darrell Henry

Mr Henry is a clinical psychologist with experience in the areas of Aboriginal counselling services, family counselling and addiction therapies. Mr Henry has previously worked at Yorgum Aboriginal Counselling Services and Palmerston Farm, and is a former member of the Gordon Inquiry (2002) and the Child Death Review Committee.

Community Representatives:

Mr Francis Lynch

Mr Lynch is the General Manager, Family and Community Services, MercyCare Family Services, however he has recently been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of Ruah Community Services.

Ms Anita Tan-Quigley Su Neo

Ms Tan-Quigley Su-Neo is currently employed in the corrective services system as a psychologist. Her areas of interest include personality psychology, social and abnormal psychology and cultural policies. She is a member of the Ethnic Communities Council (Women's Committee).

Ms Susan Ash

Ms Ash is the Chief Executive of CareOptions Inc and is a former Executive Director of Wanslea Family Services (1997 - 2004). Ms Ash has previously held positions at Curtin University and Edith Cowan University, as well as government positions in the Australian Capital Territory in the areas of children, youth and family support. She has been a member of a wide range of community associations and boards, including ACOSS, the Child and Family Welfare Agencies of Australia and Families Australia. She has a social work background.

Ms Sandra Spadanuda

Ms Spadanuda represents rural and remote and youth representative. She has held a range of community service positions, such as family and youth worker support officer, child protection worker and a youth suicide prevention training officer. Ms Spadanuda is currently a Youth Services Coordinator at the Palyalatju Maparnpa Health Service in the Balgo Community.

Ms Ruth Sims

Ms Sims has previously worked with the Association for Services to Torture and Trauma Survivors as a Community Bi-Cultural Support Leader. Ms Sims is a member of the Ethnic Communities Council of WA (Women's Committee and Management Committee), the African Community Management Committee and the African Communities Family Support and Domestic Violence Planning Group. Her previous experience has been predominantly in education.

Government Representatives:

Ms Pauline Bagdonavicius, Acting Executive Director, Policy and Planning, Department for Child Protection

Ms Lesley McComish, Manager, Legislation and Reform, Court Services, Department of the Attorney General

Det. Supt. Shayne Maines, Sex Crimes Division, Western Australia Police

Ms Mary Cowley, Principal Indigenous Advisor, Department of Indigenous Affairs

Ms Kerry Usher, Director, Inclusive Education Standards, Department of Education and Training

Dr Peter Winterton, Medical Director, Child Protection Unit, Princess Margaret Hospital, Metropolitan Health Services

3. The Council's terms of reference are:

- To provide the Government of Western Australian through the Minister for Community Development (now Minister for Child Protection; Communities) with timely and expert advice on protective systems for children and young people, and support for the families.
- To facilitate the coordination and exchange of expertise and information between government and non government agencies on matters relating to child protection.
- To identify research priorities that will assist in improving child protection outcomes for children and their families.
- To facilitate community awareness on matters relating to child protection.
- To advise on and facilitate interagency training needs on matters relating to child protection.
- To undertake projects and other tasks as requested by the Minister.

4. Not applicable.

5. The Council has 11 full Council meetings per annum as well as convening working party meetings and representing the Council in a range of forums including membership of the Minister's Community Advisory Committee for the Implementation of the Ford Review; the Gordon Inquiry into the Response by Government Agencies to Complaints of Family Violence and Child Abuse in Aboriginal Communities in 2002 evaluation reference group; the interagency reference group for the Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention Campaign and co-sponsoring professional development forums with a range of partners including UWA Centre for Vulnerable Children and Their Families; Curtin University of Technology; WA Association for Mental Health.

Council reports include:

- 2000 Child Death Review Model
- 2001 Best Practice Frameworks for Child Protection
- 2001 Child Protection Training in WA
- 2002 Handbook to Guide Child Protection Practices for Children and Families in WA
- 2002 Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse: Evidence and Options
- 2004 Caring Well - Protecting Well: Investing in systemic responses to protect children in WA
- 2005 Child Protection Training
- 2005 Myths & Realities: Sharing Information between agencies to enhance the safety of children and young people
- 2006 A Plan for Improving the Protection of Children and Children's Wellbeing in W A

Some of these reports are published on the Council's website at www.childprotectioncouncil.com.au