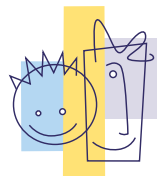




**NSW Commission for  
Children and Young People**  
Annual Report 2006–2007



nsw commission for  
children & young people

The Hon Peter Primrose MLC  
President  
Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

The Hon Richard Torbay MP  
Speaker  
Legislative Assembly  
Parliament House  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr President and Mr Speaker

In accordance with section 23 of the *Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998*, I am pleased to present the Commission's annual report for the 2006–2007 financial year.

The annual report has been prepared in accordance with the *Annual Reports (Departments) Act 1985* (as modified by the *Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998*), the *Annual Reports (Departments) Regulation 2000* and the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983*.

As provided by section 26 of the *Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998*, I hereby request that you make this report public forthwith.

Yours sincerely



Gillian Calvert  
Commissioner  
25 October 2007

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## Commissioner's foreword

One of the key elements of the Commission's work from day one can be summed up in a single phrase: ask the children.

This year has seen many strong gains – based on what children have told us – in how we understand kids' lives, and how we've used those understandings for kids' benefit.

It's ironic that most research into kids' well-being focuses on the things that go wrong, like health problems, abuse, or risk-taking. We know more about what we don't want for our kids than what we do want.

The Commission's research into children's understandings of well-being goes a long way to filling this gap. And it's an important gap to fill, because an increasing body of evidence shows that promoting well-being throughout their lives is the best way to prevent negative outcomes for our children.

One of the most direct ways of supporting children's well-being is to give them time with their parents. Kids thrive with the love and tenderness of their parents. Science shows us this contact is vital for how a baby's brain develops.

Love, support and security do more than put a smile on a baby's face, they open windows to learning and development that lay the foundation for strength and resilience into the future. Stress and uncertainty have the opposite effect – disrupting the natural processes of learning and developing.

All this makes an extremely strong case for Australia-wide paid maternity leave. Australia lags behind most developed countries (and many developing countries) in providing paid maternity leave. We at the Commission are part of a growing community pushing for this vital policy change, a change that will really benefit children in NSW.

At the Commission, we have also been looking at ways to improve how we consult with kids and bring their views to the attention of adult decision makers. The coming year will see this work come to fruition with the establishment of new Kids Advisory Panels, and online discussion forums for kids.

Our groundbreaking research into Children at Work has moved to a new level with the tabling in Parliament of our recommendations based on the research, and on the launching of a second wave of research responding to the changing landscape for kids who work.

Finally, the changes to the Commission's own legislation came into effect in January 2007, and we've been able to implement these changes right across our range of services, but especially in improvements to the Working With Children Check.

We are looking forward in the coming year to making the Working With Children Check even easier for employers and employees, by bringing the process online.

We at the Commission look forward to continuing to work with others in the community to improve the lives and circumstances of the children and young people of NSW.



*Gillian Calvert*

Gillian Calvert  
Commissioner

## Snapshot: year at a glance

Key Result Areas	Child related employers and the community adopt practices to keep children and young people safe	The community, opinion leaders and organisations take action to support children's and young people's development and well-being	Organisations and decision makers engage children and young people in decision-making		
<b>Intermediate results</b>	Networking with organisations and providing online Child-safe and Child-friendly resources and training	Organisations deter unsuitable people from working with children	Recommendations of the Child Death Review Team are adopted	Decision-makers use Commission resources to support children's and young people's development and well-being	Selected organisations include children and young people in decisions that affect their lives
<b>Results</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Child-safe Child-friendly resources accessed 16,643 times online</li> <li>■ Delivery of nine training programs attended by 154 people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 226,212 background checks conducted</li> <li>■ 607 risk assessments undertaken</li> <li>■ 88% of preferred applicants assessed as high risk were not employed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Developed a full data set for the Child Death Review Team's special research study</li> <li>■ Finalised the terms of reference of the Australian and New Zealand Child Death Review Teams (ANZCDRT)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Made 16 submissions to formal inquiries, including the NSW Legislative Council <i>Inquiry into the Impact of Commonwealth WorkChoices Legislation</i></li> <li>■ Released <i>Children at Work Recommendations</i></li> <li>■ Commenced second wave of <i>Children at Work</i> research</li> <li>■ 34 recommendations adopted by other organisations</li> <li>■ Conducted 56 presentations on children's issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Included kids' views in submissions, including NSW State Plan and Australian Law Reform Commission Review of Privacy</li> <li>■ Developed better ways to consult with kids and help them participate</li> </ul>
<b>Plans for the future</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Target family day care, local government and children's disability services organisations for support and development of Child-safe and Child-friendly practices</li> <li>■ Review and update training package</li> <li>■ Align Child-safe Child-friendly resources with AWARE</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Introduce e-Check so employers can apply for Working With Children checks on-line</li> <li>■ Roll out the updated risk estimate model known as AWARE</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Table special research study, <i>Trends in Child Deaths in NSW 1996-2005</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Complete <i>Children at Work</i> (second wave) research</li> <li>■ Work with local government on practical implications of developing a child friendly community</li> <li>■ Update Kids' Stats to reflect improved well-being indicators</li> <li>■ Complete first stage of research into children's use of mobile phones</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Conduct kids' advisory panels and online forums</li> </ul>
<b>Details</b>		3.3 Safety, pages 56–63		3.1 Children's issues, pages 49–55	3.2 Participation pages 55–56

## About the Commission



“The Commission promotes the safety, welfare and well-being of children and young people in NSW”



### Introduction

The NSW Commission for Children and Young People is an independent organisation that advocates for the children and young people of NSW.

The Commission influences and initiates positive change for children and young people.

The Commission promotes the safety, welfare and well-being of children and young people in NSW.

To achieve this we:

- hold inquiries and conduct research into important issues relating to children and young people
- make recommendations to Parliament, government and non-government agencies on legislation, policies, practices and services that affect children and young people
- promote children and young people's participation in activities and decision-making about issues that affect their lives
- provide information and conduct training for children and young people and those who work with them
- help organisations and communities improve and promote the safety and well-being of children and young people, including assistance to employers in recruiting suitable people to work with kids
- manage voluntary accreditation for counsellors and programs for people who have committed sexual offences against children.

The Commission administers the *Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998*.

The Commission has no powers to examine individual complaints about unfair, illegal or improper

conduct relating to children. Individual grievances by children and young people are referred to the appropriate body such as the Ombudsman, Health Care Complaints Commission or Independent Commission Against Corruption.

## Vision and principles

### Vision

Together making NSW a better place for children and young people.

### Principles

Guided by the *Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998* we:

- make the safety, welfare and well-being of children our paramount consideration
- listen to children and young people, take their views seriously and promote their interests
- believe strong relationships between children, families and communities are important
- focus on things that make a positive difference to children and young people, giving priority to vulnerable children and young people

- work cooperatively with other agencies and organisations to achieve our goals.

## Stakeholders

Our stakeholders in NSW are:

- children and young people under 18 years of age
- parents and carers of children and young people
- people who work in the interests of children and young people
- parliamentary committees, politicians, Ministers
- employers, employees, volunteers and unions
- complaints/watchdog bodies
- media
- Commission staff and committees.

## History

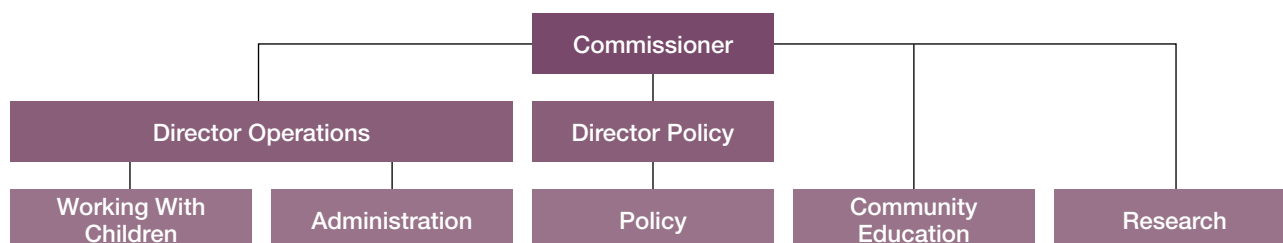
The Commission was established with bipartisan support in June 1999 by the *Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998*. Gillian Calvert was appointed the first Commissioner. In May 2004, Ms Calvert was reappointed for a second five-year term.

The Royal Commission into the NSW Police Service was a major catalyst for establishing the Commission. In its report to the NSW Government in August 1997, the Royal Commission identified serious, systemic failures that put children and young people at risk of abuse. It found there was no single voice speaking for the interests of children and young people in NSW and recommended the establishment of a Commission for Children to advocate for their safety and welfare.

Children, young people and others who were consulted about establishing the Commission felt that it should broaden its focus to encompass the broad range of issues that affect all children and young people in NSW and should focus on their well-being.

The Commission reports directly to the NSW Parliament and is overseen by the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Children and Young People.

## Structure and staff

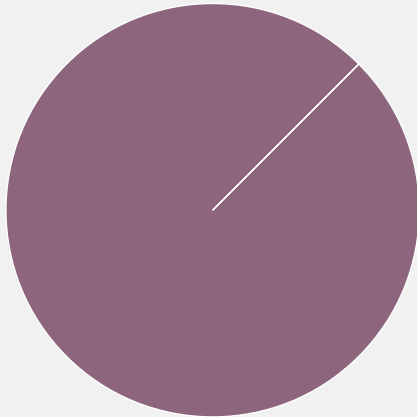


There were 47 staff employed in the Commission as at 30 June 2007 – a full-time equivalent of 43.7 positions against a staff establishment of 44.3. Of these staff, one is a Senior Executive Service officer, with all other staff employed under the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002*. More information about the human resource policies and practices of the Commission can be found on page 67.

# 02 About the Commission

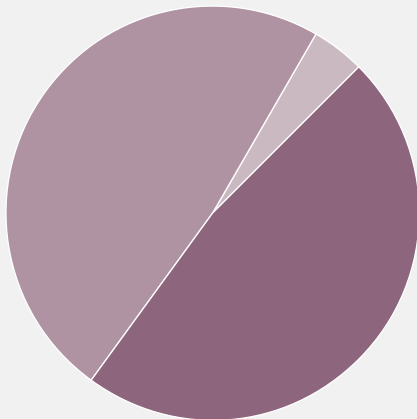
## 2.6 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

### Where the money came from



■ Grants and contributions \$8,090,000 (100%)

### How the money was spent



■ Employee related \$3,853,000 (47.6%)  
■ Maintenance and operating \$3,906,000 (48.3%)  
■ Grants and subsidies \$331,000 (4.1%)

Total Expenditure \$8,090,000

## Year in review

“The best way to prevent negative outcomes for children is to promote well-being throughout their lives, rather than only responding to vulnerability and crisis”



## Children's issues

### Introduction

The Commission works with other organisations and the community to promote children's well-being and influence the way our society grows up children and young people.

The Commission helps shape decisions made by governments, businesses, communities, professions and service organisations using a variety of methods including forming alliances, making comment through the media or presentations, providing formal policy advice through submissions or committees, undertaking research, running seminars and training, developing tools and modelling good practice.

### Children's understandings of well-being

#### Background

Most research on children's well-being defines well-being in terms of what is negative in children's lives, focusing on topics such as child health problems, child abuse and neglect, or risk-taking. We know more about what we don't want for our children than what we do want.

The Commission's research into well-being responds to an increasing body of evidence showing that the best way to prevent negative outcomes for children is to promote well-being throughout their lives, rather than only responding to vulnerability and crisis.

This research in collaboration with the University of Western Sydney involved 126 children aged between eight and 15 years from across NSW.

#### Results

In April the Commission published *Ask the Children: An Overview of Children's Understandings of Well-being*. Approximately 1,100 copies were distributed.

# 03 Year in review

The study findings have been used to inform several of the Commission's public submissions. These include:

- submission to the development of the NSW State Plan
- submission to the Australian Law Reform Commission's *Review of Privacy Issues*
- submission to the NSW Health's *Health Future's Project*
- "Commitment to Young Australians" developed with the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY).

### What is planned for the future

The research provided a previously missing understanding of what, from children's perspectives, are good child outcomes. This will inform how we monitor trends in children's well-being over time. We will adapt Kids' Stats to reflect our changing approach.

## Monitoring well-being

### Background

The Commission's Kids' Stats web pages provide key data about the well-being of children and young people in NSW.

The Commission developed Kids' Stats to monitor how well kids are doing in key areas of their lives. The key areas monitored are:

- Family
- Child care
- School and work
- Community
- Child health
- Crime and safety
- Economic security.

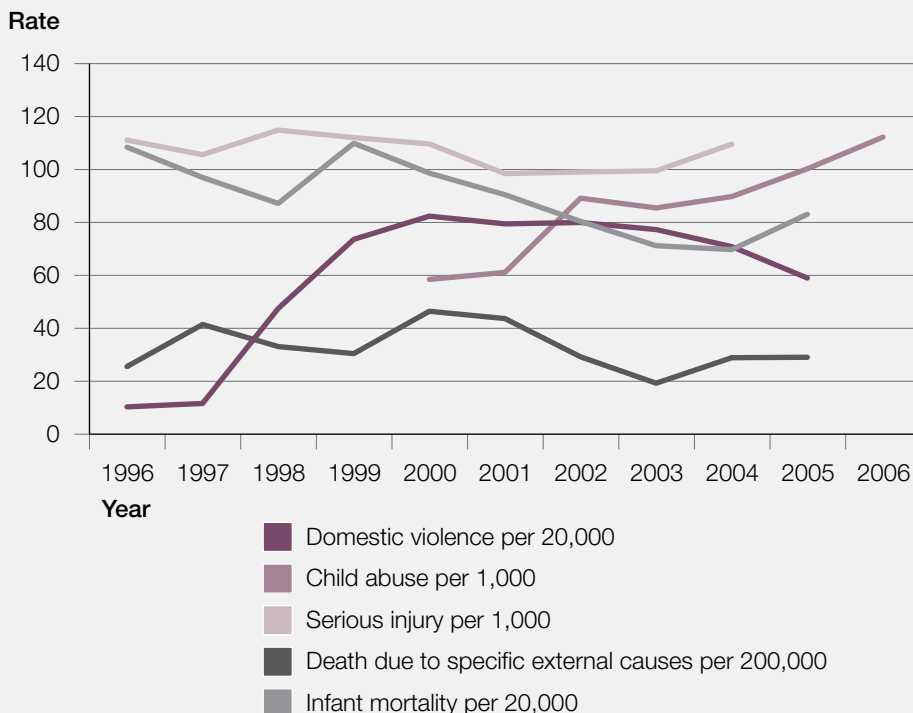
In the knowledge that children and young people rarely make formal complaints the Commission has focused its efforts on monitoring their safety, welfare and well-being.

### Results

This year we also monitored children's well-being across their "ages and stages" of infancy, toddlerhood, early childhood, middle childhood and adolescence.

Infants showed a recent upward trend against some of the indicators: infant mortality, reports of child abuse, and serious injury. We will continue to monitor infants to see if this upward trend continues. The good news is that reports of domestic violence, after rising dramatically in the late 1990s, are now in decline.

**Infant trends in domestic violence, reports of child abuse, infant mortality, serious injury and death due to fatal assault, transport fatalities and drowning, NSW, 1996-2006 (variable rates per infants).**



### What is planned for the future

Commitments in other projects have prevented Kids' Stats from being updated this year. Current data and the "ages and stages" option will be published in 2007–2008.

The Commission's well-being research will inform how we monitor trends in children's well-being. Kids Stats' will be adapted to reflect our changing approach.

## Children at Work

### Background

In 2005 the Commission released *Children at Work* which reported on the work experiences of children and young people in Years 7 to 10. A Task Force was then set up to examine the research findings and advise the Commissioner on the best ways of responding to them.

The Commissioner tabled a set of recommendations in the NSW Parliament in December 2006. These recommendations are designed to improve children's satisfaction with work, make work safer for children and improve access to work.

### Results

As the workplace environment has changed since the *Children at Work* survey was undertaken, the Commission has commenced a second wave of *Children at Work* research. This research will involve approximately 3000 children and will again provide a picture of children's work experiences and its impact on their well-being.

One of the most common jobs children do is babysitting. This is usually arranged informally, so the Commission will provide information to help children and parents plan for their babysitting experience. The Commission has developed a guide, informed by the babysitting experiences of young people.

The Commission has worked to achieve better workplaces for children and young people by highlighting the developmental needs of children and young people in relevant inquiries and forums. The Commission:

- made a submission to the *Inquiry into the Impact of Commonwealth WorkChoices Legislation* undertaken by the NSW Legislative Council Standing Committee on Social Issues
- gave evidence at the NSW Industrial Relations Commission hearings to establish principles for child employment
- addressed the Young Worker Safety Forum 2007 convened by Youthsafe
- made a submission to the Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Committee's Inquiry into the *Workplace Relations Amendment (A Stronger Safety net) Bill 2007*.

Advice provided by the Commission has been highlighted in a number of inquiries into matters concerning children in the workplace. For example, the Commission's proposal to examine changes to penalty and allowance rates in Australian Workplace Agreements on the wages of young people was highlighted as an important consideration in future research being planned by the Australian Fair Pay Commission.

The NSW Industrial Relations Commission also considered the Commissioner's evidence on the work experiences of children and their developmental needs in setting child employment principles under the *Industrial Relations (Child Employment) Act 2006*.

### Plans for the future

The Commission will continue to work with relevant agencies on the implementation of the *Children at Work* recommendations.

A Babysitting Guide will be released.

The second wave of *Children at Work* research will be completed.

## Health Futures

### Background

The Commission wrote a submission to NSW Health to inform the *Health Futures* project in 2006. This submission was based on the views of over 200 children and young people aged 4–18 years.

### Results

During 2006–2007, NSW Health published both its 20-year strategy *Future Directions for Health in NSW* and the five-year plan *State Health Plan Towards 2010*. Both reflect the issues and directions raised in the Commission submission.

The Commission published *Ask the Children: Children and young people talk about health* which presented the views of children and young people on health and important messages for those providing health services for children and young people. It highlights the importance children and young people give to feeling good and staying that way.

The views of children and young people on health were presented to the Children and Young People's Health Priority Task Force; the Youth Health Conference convened by the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth; the NSW Government's Childhood Obesity Senior Officers' Group and the Youth Health Forum – Youth and Creativity in the West.

### Plans for the future

The Commission will work with relevant agencies on promoting policies and services that meet the needs of children and young people, as expressed by them in this project, particularly in implementing the NSW State Plan.

## The built environment

### Background

The Commission made a submission to the NSW Parliamentary Committee Inquiry into Children and Young People and the Built Environment in 2006.

This submission drew on the views of children and young people as well as research and discussions with experts in the field.

The Committee released its report and recommendations on a future role for the Commission in relation to children and young people and the built environment in NSW.

### Results

In November 2006 the Commission participated in the Child Friendly Communities Conference which was co-hosted by the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth and the Urban Research Program at Griffith University. The Commissioner provided a keynote address at this conference.

We have commenced a partnership with Griffith University on a framework for developing child friendly communities. This work will assist governments and communities to include children and young people and their interests in local planning processes.

Our focus on the above projects meant that our Ask the Children publication on the built environment was deferred until 2007–2008.

## Plans for the future

In 2007–2008 the Commission will enter into a partnership arrangement with a local council in NSW to explore the practical implications of developing a child friendly community.

Release *Ask the Children: children and young people talk about the built environment*.

## BISI Australia

### Background

Business Initiating Social Impact (BISI) Australia was a consortium of some of Australia's leading businesses committed to driving and advocating for positive change for children and young people, as a way of building a stronger society and economy.

### Results

The Commission led the BISI project team on the early years, working with BISI's corporate members to educate their management and senior staff to understand the importance of support for their employees who are parents. A report, *Our kids and the early years: leading corporations leading change* outlined the case for business to invest in and promote family friendly employment practices.

The Commission led the team in developing resources for BISI members on understanding and negotiating child care options, a summary of tax system benefits for families and a return to work guide for new parents.

## What is planned for the future

In April 2007, BISI Australia decided to cease operating as a corporation. The Commission will continue to work with corporations in less formal ways to advocate for and assist them in developing more family friendly employment practices.

## Paid maternity leave

### Background

Paid maternity leave can provide major benefits for babies and their families as it gives them time with their mothers at a crucial phase in a child's early years of development. Supporting parents so they can nurture their babies and a young child has significant immediate as well as long-term benefits for children's well-being, their families and for our society. The Commission has been active in building support for paid maternity leave for some years.

### Results

In June 2007 the Commission for Children and Young People, the National Foundation for Australian Women and the National Investment for the Early Years (NIFTeY) commissioned a nationwide Newspoll survey into paid maternity leave. The results showed widespread support by Australians for paid maternity leave (76%) for working women, with an overwhelming 78% of those in support of paid maternity leave in favour of the financial responsibility being shared jointly by employers, workers and the Federal Government. 71% supported a scheme funded by employers and employees. 93% agree that 'the most important thing for a baby in its first year of life is to have the full-time care of at least one parent'. 83% said 'financial pressure means that many new mothers have to return to work too soon after having a baby'.

### What is planned for the future

The Commission will continue to build support for paid maternity leave provisions for all working women, so all NSW babies benefit.



## Submissions to formal inquiries

The Commission made submissions to the following inquiries.

2005–2006 (17)	2006–2007 (16)
■ NSW Health's Health Futures Project	■ Inquiry into the Workplace Relations (Amendment) Bill
■ Inquiry into Children, Young People and the Built Environment	■ Inquiry into the Human Services (Enhanced Service Delivery) Bill
■ Review of National Standards for Child Care	■ Inquiry into the Exposure Draft of the Human Services (Enhanced Service Delivery) Bill
■ Inquiry into Civics and Electoral Education	■ Review of the <i>Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act</i>
■ Review of the <i>Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act</i>	■ Inquiry into the Health Benefits of Breastfeeding
■ Inquiry into Tobacco Smoking in NSW	■ Australian Law Reform Commission Review of Privacy
■ Striking the Balance: Women, men, work and family	■ Australian Fair Pay Commission Minimum Wage Determination
■ National Attorney-Generals' review of unauthorised photographs on the Internet	■ NSW State Plan
■ Inquiry into Dental Services in NSW	■ Review of the <i>NSW Swimming Pools Act</i>
■ Family Law Amendment (Shared Parental Responsibility) Bill 2005	■ Inquiry into the Impact of the Work Choices Legislation
■ National Inquiry into the Teaching of Literacy	■ Inquiry into Voter Enrolment
■ Inquiry into Teacher Recruitment and Training	■ Review of the <i>NSW Mental Health Act</i>
■ Review of the <i>NSW Occupational Health and Safety Act</i>	■ Review of the Child Maltreatment provisions of the <i>NSW Crimes Act</i>
■ Review of NSW Court Imposed Fines	■ Draft Industrial Relations (Child Employment) Bill
■ Review of the <i>NSW Adoption Act</i>	■ Draft Model Bill to regulate sterilisation of children with intellectual disability
■ Review of the <i>Police Powers (Internally Concealed Drugs) Act</i>	■ Draft Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Amendment Regulation 2007
■ Review of the <i>Children (Detention Centres) Act</i>	

### Mobile Me: Investigating children and young people's use of mobile telecommunications

#### Background

The Commission has had a long-standing interest in the impact of new technologies on children and young people. Mobile phone use amongst children has been a particular area of interest for many years. In 2004, the Wireless World Forum reported that

45% of Australian 13–15 year olds owned mobile phones, the highest rate in the world for that age group.

#### Results

We were successful in obtaining an Australian Research Council grant to jointly undertake research into children and young people's use of mobile telecommunications with the University of Technology, Sydney and the NSW Department of Education and Training.

The research explores the extent to which mobile phone ownership and patterns of use impact on young people's relationships with family and friends, their economic maturity, and their general well-being.

This study comprises both a quantitative and qualitative component and will run for three years with the same group of children and young people. This will allow us to identify any changes that occur over time.

We developed and piloted the survey instrument for use in data collection in schools.

#### What is planned for the future

The first of three survey collections will be administered to 5000 children and young people in NSW government schools. Focus groups with a smaller sample of children and young people will also take place.

The involvement of young people as researchers, not simply as research participants, is central to this study and opportunities will be provided to children participating in the study to be involved in the research process and to feed the study results back to their schools.

The first stage of the research will be completed.

### Children conceptualising poverty

#### Background

The Commission is interested in child poverty because children tell us it affects both their material and emotional well-being. It affects the living standards of their families, their ability to participate in social and cultural activities, and has emotional costs, including shame and exclusion. We think that policies aimed at reducing child poverty would be more effective if they included the voices of these children.

# 03 Year in review

## Results

The Commission, in collaboration with the Benevolent Society and RMIT University, was awarded a grant through the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) ARC/NHMRC Research Network – Future Generation Program of Support for New Collaborations to develop a research project to explore the dimensions of children's experience of poverty.

Our collaborators were the Benevolent Society and Dr Catherine McDonald from RMIT University.

We hosted a national roundtable to discuss approaches to children in poverty in Australia. Fourteen professionals from around Australia attended.

We consulted with 29 primary and secondary students to understand their perspectives and experiences of poverty, and the best ways for them to be involved in research on poverty.

### What is planned for the future

We will complete our review of the relevant literature and publish two issues papers. The first paper will discuss the key issues for children in poverty; the second paper will outline the theoretical and methodological issues to researching children in poverty.

An application will be submitted to the Australian Research Council for funding the project.

## Raising awareness of children's issues

### Background

The Commission receives and responds to numerous requests for information and advice. Enquiries are predominately from individuals, government and non-government organisations seeking advice on working with children and young people.

The Commission also proactively communicates with the people of NSW via publications, presentations and the Commission's website: [www.kids.nsw.gov.au](http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au).

### Results

The Commission conducted 56 presentations on major projects and children's issues. We reached a wide audience through media coverage on children's issues. In 2006–2007, 89% of media enquires were acted on, and 84 interviews were conducted by the Commissioner.

The Commission's redeveloped website went live on 16 December 2006. The first full quarter following the redevelopment recorded 338,888 page downloads, an increase of more than 20% for the same period in 2005–2006.

The NSW Commissioner for Children and Young People also participates in the Asia Pacific Children's Commissioners' Forum (APaCC). This forum raises shared interests and develops joint positions on issues that affect children across the region.

The issues APaCC has worked over 2006–2007 include: internet safety, computer games, the proposed Australian Government Access Card, the United Nations Report on Violence Against Children, reporting in children's well-being, young refugees and children's television standards.

### What is planned for the future

The Commission will continue to put forward children's issues as a matter

	Media summary			
	Enquiries received	Acted on	Interview conducted	Opinion piece
02–03	184	163 (88%)	107	1
03–04	237	160 (67%)	63	2
04–05	245	216 (88%)	105	7
05–06	208	195 (94%)	76	3
<b>06–07</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>179 (89%)</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>2</b>

“Enhancements will be made to TheZone, the section of the site for children and young people, to improve participation and increase awareness of issues important to them.”

of community education and public debate. We will continue to enhance our web-based communication, particularly in the area of supporting Child-safe Child-friendly resources and programs, as well as enhancing material and resources targeted at children and young people.

Enhancements will be made to TheZone, the section of the site for children and young people, to improve participation and increase awareness of issues important to them.

## Participation

### NSW State Plan

#### Background

The NSW Government released a state plan, *A New Direction for NSW* in 2006. The Plan sets strategic priorities for the NSW government for the next 10 years.

The Commission arranged consultations with young people and prepared a submission on the discussion draft as part of the development of the plan.

#### Results

Several of the Commission's recommendations are reflected in the final plan, including an emphasis on prevention and early intervention, and the inclusion of participation in community activities.

### Australian Law Reform Commission Review of Privacy

#### Background

The Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) is undertaking a review of Commonwealth privacy laws to consider whether such laws provide an effective framework for the protection of privacy in Australia.

Commonwealth and NSW privacy laws apply to children and young people in the same way they apply to adults and there are no special provisions for the protection of children and

young people's personal information and privacy.

The protection of their privacy is important to children and young people.

Children and young people tell the Commission that they want to be involved in decisions about what information is collected about them, how it is collected and who receives the information.

#### Results

The Commission made a submission to the ALRC raising the privacy concerns of children and young people and helped the ALRC organise consultations with young people.

### Young People's Reference Group

#### Background

The Young People's Reference Group advised the Commissioner about issues that are important to young people and gave their opinions about the work that the Commission is doing and how to improve it.

The Reference Group was made up of 12 young people aged 12–18 years from city, regional and rural areas of NSW.

The Group met four times between July and December 2006. Papers were distributed to members the week before each meeting.

#### Results

In the second half of 2006, the Reference Group provided advice on 15 projects, policies and proposed legislation, including:

- the NSW State Plan
- the Australian and NSW Law Reform Commissions' reviews of privacy laws
- the criteria for the Child Friendly Community Awards made by the National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect

- making sporting organisations more child-safe and child-friendly
- the Australian Children's Television Foundation's proposal for a children's television station
- the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth's National Agenda for Young People



- the NSW Youth Alcohol Action Plan
- the redesign of the Commission's website
- the Courtwise website for young people who have been victims of crime
- the Cancer Council's proposed changes to the *NSW Public Health Act* about smoking in movies targeting young people
- The Commission's research project into children's lived experience of poverty
- The design and content of Commission publications, including *Feedback 2006* and our postcard to the young people of NSW.

The Reference Group also presented at the opening plenary session of the Fifth Australian and New Zealand Adolescent Health Conference. Members of the Group presented the findings of the Commission's consultations with children and young people about what health means to them.

The Reference Group ceased operating in December 2006.

### What is planned for the future

New consultation and participation mechanisms have been developed by the Commission, which will be implemented as outlined below.

## Kids Advisory Panels and Online Forums

### Background

In 2005–2006 the Commission undertook a review of its participation mechanisms. New participation mechanisms are being implemented from 2007.

### Results

The first two Commission Kids Advisory Panels have been appointed. These panels advise the Commissioner on issues of importance to children and young people and give comments on the Commission's work. The panels consist of groups of children and young people who already know each other. Meetings are held in the children and young people's local community.

The first two panels are:

- Koori and Advocacy Leadership Mates, a group of Indigenous young people aged 13 to 17 years in the Taree and Great Lakes areas
- Ellison Primary School Kids Advisory Group, a group of children aged 8 to 11 years from Springwood and Winmalee.

The review of participation mechanisms also recommended the use of Online Forums to enable children and young people to have a say about issues important to them. The Commission's website was upgraded so that these Forums can be conducted.

### Plans for the future

Regular meetings with the first two Kids Advisory Panels will begin.

Two Online Forums for the Commission will be conducted in 2007–2008.

## Safety

### Introduction

The Commission works to improve the safety of the children of NSW. We do this through the Working With Children program, and the Child Death Review Team.

### Working With Children

The Commission leads the Working With Children program, which includes Prohibited Employment (excluding inappropriate people), background checking, and building Child-safe Child-friendly organisations and communities.

### Child Death Review Team

The Commission provides research and other support for the Child Death Review Team. The Team maintains the Child Death Register, and provides information to prevent or reduce the number of deaths of children and young people in NSW.

### Working with Children

The Commission works to make children safer in child-related workplaces and organisations. We aim to help organisations become Child-safe and Child-friendly, identify risks to children at their workplaces and improve the way they manage these risks.

We offer training and online resources to help organisations learn what being Child-safe and Child-friendly means, and to give them the tools to identify and manage risks to children in their care.

One of the ways organisations can identify risks is by meeting their obligations under the Working With Children Check. This means they must:

- exclude people who are prohibited from working with children
- undertake background checking for preferred applicants for paid child-related employment, foster carers and spiritual leaders of religion, who have unsupervised direct contact with children as part of their role.

## Responding to applications for review of status for Prohibited Persons

Under the *Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998*, people who are convicted of serious sex offences, serious violence offences against a child, kidnapping or murder of a child, or who are registered under the *Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Act 2000*, are prohibited from working, or seeking to work, in child-related employment.

Some prohibited persons can apply for a review of their prohibited status. The Commission for Children and Young

People, the Administrative Decisions Tribunal and the Industrial Relations Commission can all make orders that prohibited status no longer applies to a person. They cannot make such an order unless the applicant can demonstrate that they do not pose a risk to the safety of children.

When considering an application the determining body must take into account the following matters:

- The seriousness of the offences which prohibit the person from Child-related employment
- The period of time since the offences were committed
- The age of the person at the time those offences were committed
- The age of each victim of the offences at the time they were committed
- The difference in age between the prohibited person and each victim
- Whether the person knew or could reasonably have known that the victim was a child
- The prohibited person's present age
- The seriousness of the prohibited person's total criminal record
- Such other matters they consider relevant.

## A BREAKDOWN OF ORDERS GRANTED FOR 2006–2007

2006–2007								
	New Applications	Application pending from 2005–2006	Final Order Granted	Final Order Granted with conditions	Refused	Application Dismissed	Application withdrawn	Pending
Section 33H: Commission for Children and Young People	48	14	34	0	13	3	2	10
Section 33I: Administrative Decisions Tribunal	15	15	6	3	5	2	4	10
Section 33I: Industrial Relations Commission	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>21</b>

### Results

Serious violence offences against a child were included as prohibiting offences in January 2007 when amendments to our legislation were proclaimed. These amendments also limited the circumstances in which prohibited persons could seek or obtain a review of their prohibited status. This resulted in a drop in the number of applications for a review of status.

In 2006–2007, 64 Prohibited Persons applied for a review of their status

under the *Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998*. This is 27 fewer than in 2005–2006.

### Orders granted by Commission

The Commission received 48 new applications and granted 34 orders.

When making a decision as to whether an order should be granted, the Commission takes into account the legislative requirements. The Commission will not grant an order unless satisfied that the applicant does not pose a risk to the safety of children.

In the 34 instances where an Order was granted the Commission found no indication that the applicant continued to pose a risk to children.

### Appeals

In 2006–2007, two appeals were made to the Supreme Court appealing decisions from the Administrative Decisions Tribunal. The decisions in both of these matters supported the Commission's representations.

# 03 Year in review

## What is planned for the future

Amendments to the *Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998* allow regulations to be passed requiring self-employed persons to obtain certificates to demonstrate they are not prohibited from child-related employment. We anticipate introducing certificates for self-employed people during 2007–2008.

## Background Checking

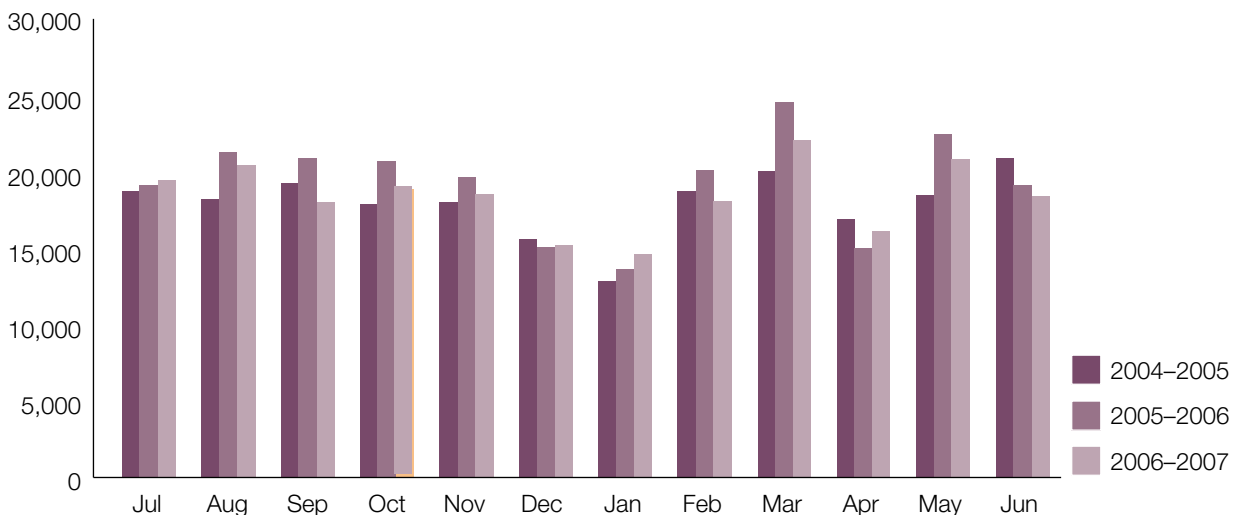
The Commission is one of five agencies performing the Working With Children background check for employers. The other approved screening agencies are the Department of Education and Training (DET); the Department of Arts, Sport and Recreation (DSR); the Department of Health (DOH); and the Catholic Commission for Employment Relations (CCER).

The Working With Children background check provides information to employers that helps them make decisions in selecting staff in primary child-related employment.

### Results

The bar graph below shows the total number of checks processed over the past four years. The Commission carried out 75,592 of the Working With Children background checks. This amounts to one third of the total checking done across NSW.

Background Checking Requests Processed by Approved Screening Agencies



The efficiency results for 2006–2007 are provided below.

To achieve targets, the Commission is dependent upon CrimTrac for the quick return of requests for background checks. The figures show an improvement over last

year's achievements for checks completed within two days. Increases in business for CrimTrac and the police departments around Australia that provide CrimTrac with records slowed the return of information to complete checks, leading to a slight decline in

our 10-day completion statistics. We worked closely with CrimTrac and NSW Police and response times were back on target by May. We provided results of checks within two weeks for 88% of requests.

Activity	Target	Result 05–06	Result 06–07	Outcome 06–07
Number of WWC checks to be processed	80,000 <sup>1</sup>	82,043	75,592	Achieved
80% of Working With Children checks completed on time	Within 2 days	79%	82%	Achieved
Remaining Working With Children Checks completed on time	Within 10 days	94%	88%	Almost achieved

<sup>1</sup> A review of this target indicates it is better represented as up to 80,000 checks.

In 2006–2007, 226,212 background checks were carried out for employers.

In January 2007 we published updated *Working With Children Employer Guidelines* and *Working With Children Operator Guidelines* that reflected the proclamation of amendments to our legislation. The new Guidelines improved the forms used by employers to obtain background checks and clarified the definitions of child-related employment.

The new Employer Guidelines also improved procedures for notifying and reviewing Relevant Employment Proceedings.

We also executed a new contract with CrimTrac for the provision of criminal records information. CrimTrac is the national criminal records authority and our contract sets the conditions under which they will provide us with criminal history information for background checks.

We also made significant progress towards implementing a new online checking service known as e-Check. We called for tenders

and entered a contract with McGirr Information Technology Pty Ltd for the development of this new system. By June 2007 the design phase was almost complete.

In addition, the Commissioner represented NSW on the COAG Working Group on the Inter-Jurisdictional Exchange of Criminal History Information for People Working With Children. The working group aims to improve information exchange of criminal histories between States and Territories on those working, or seeking to work, with children.

#### What is planned for the future

e-Check will be implemented in 2007–2008. This will streamline the registration process by allowing employers to register and apply for checks online.

Continue to progress the framework developed by the COAG Working Group on the Inter-Jurisdictional Exchange of Criminal History Information for People Working With Children.

Continue to assess options for improving Relevant Employment Proceedings processes.

#### Estimates of risk

We set our estimate of risk target on the basis of 120 risk estimates each year. In 2006–2007 we had nearly double that number and this continued the trend from 2005–2006. While the numbers of estimates of risk to be undertaken in any year are unpredictable, high numbers of risk estimates can slow completion times.

The other factors playing a role in completion times are the time it takes to receive information provided by CrimTrac and other agencies, including courts and employers. We experienced delays in receiving information from CrimTrac at times this year, as outlined above.

**Number of Estimates of Risk Undertaken**



# 03 Year in review

## Results

Of the 226,212 people background checked in 2006-2007, 607 (0.27%) candidates had a relevant record as defined in section 33 (1) of the *Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998*. The identification of a relevant record triggers the estimate of risk for employers.

Our results for 2006–2007 are provided below.

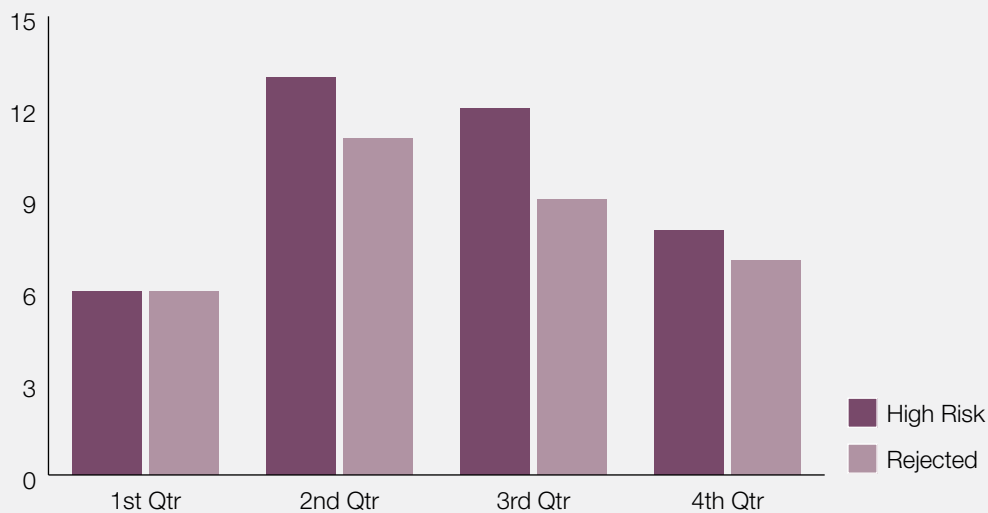
Activity	Target	Result 06–07	Outcome 06–07	Result 05–06
Number of estimates of risk to be completed	120	207	Achieved	186
75% of estimate of risk completed on time	Within 8 weeks	55%	Not achieved	70%

The Commission completed quarterly audits of the outcomes of risk estimates that indicated high risk during 2006–2007. The results are shown below.

Activity	Target	Result 06–07	Outcome 06–07	Result 05–06
Employment following high risk estimate	95% not employed	88%	Almost achieved	98%

There were six applicants with high risk estimates who were employed in child-related employment. Five of these applicants were further assessed by their employer who made an informed decision. Employers reported they were able to take the risks into account and determine supervision and support that would mitigate against risk. One employer employed the applicant before receiving the estimate of risk.

Figure 3: Working With Children Check Estimates of Risk Audit Results 1 July 2006 – 30 June 2007



The Commission developed A Workplace and Applicant Risk Estimate (AWARE) following an evaluation of the Working With Children Check Risk Assessment model. AWARE is made up of three instruments for estimating risk. The first specifically assesses the risk an individual may bring with them to the workplace, the second assesses the risks associated with an employment position independently of who might fill it, and the third assesses the organisation's level of control over risks. This is a ground-breaking advance for child protection in the workplace.

AWARE will provide employers with better information to help them make employment decisions, but will also develop and support their understanding of risks to children in the workplace and how those risks might be better managed. The end result is workplaces that are more Child-safe and Child-friendly.

We have developed software to support agencies that use AWARE. In addition to its direct operations, the software will also collect information for future research.

The Commission started using AWARE in May 2007. The remaining Approved Screening Agencies began their training in AWARE.

#### What is planned for the future

Support all Approved Screening Agencies as they implement AWARE.

## Child Sex Offender Counsellors Accreditation Scheme

The NSW Child Sex Offender Counsellors Accreditation Scheme promotes the well-being of children and young people by establishing a public register of counsellors with the necessary knowledge and skill to work with people who sexually offend against children. We publish contact information for accredited counsellors on our website to help the community locate counsellors.

#### Results

In 2006–2007, 48 counsellors were accredited. There are 18 at associate level, 11 at clinical level and 19 at the supervisor level.

During 2006–2007 the Commission simplified the process of becoming accredited by:

- extending the period of accreditation from one year to two years
- simplifying the application forms
- extending the range of activities that can be counted towards professional development requirements for accredited counsellors.

Amendments to the *Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998* allow the accreditation of programs that provide treatment of sexual offenders.

Development of a new accreditation program for the scheme did not proceed as planned, as we were unable to recruit a suitable officer to undertake the work.

#### What is planned for the future?

The development of program accreditation will begin in 2007–2008.

## Child-related conduct declarations

#### Background

Responsibility for the Commission to audit child-related conduct declarations of elected members of Parliament was established in amendments to the *Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912*.

#### Results

All elected members' child-related conduct declarations were audited. The Commissioner's report on these checks was tabled in Parliament on 29 May 2007.

An internal audit of the Commission's processes for checking child-related conduct declarations was conducted.

#### Plans for the future

Implement recommendations of the audit.

“e-Check will be implemented to allow employers to register and apply for checks online.”

## Child-safe Child-friendly organisations

### Background

Our Child-safe Child-friendly Organisations project has two aims:

- build awareness that organisations have a moral and legal responsibility to reduce the risk of harm to children and young people
- achieve behavioural change among targeted organisations so they implement Child-safe Child-friendly practices.

### Results

Amendments to the *Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998* gave the Commission an additional function: to encourage organisations to develop their capacity to be safe and friendly for children.

Our target to increase the download of our Child-safe Child-friendly resources by 5 cent annually was exceeded. We achieved an increase of more than 36%, with 16,643 downloads on this section of our website. The key resource, "Getting Started" was downloaded 6996 times, an increase of more than 34% on 2005–2006.

We delivered nine Child-safe Child-friendly training courses attended by 154 people during the year. This exceeded our target of equalling the numbers of people trained in 2005–2006.

We continued our work with sporting organisations, such as the Department of Arts, Sport and Recreation and national sporting bodies on influencing change in the children's sport sector.

We were less successful in reaching our other target group: tutors. Only two of the six planned training courses for private tutors were delivered due to a lack of enrolments.

We also worked with World Youth Day 2008 and the NSW Public Libraries Child-safe Child-friendly Working Group assisting them in the development of their policies.

Additional resources planned to help organisations reduce risks through better design of staff positions and more effective and responsive complaints mechanisms were deferred so that what we learned in developing AWARE could be taken into account.

The CDSMAC working group: National Framework for Creating Safe Organisations for Children completed its guidelines program and has been disbanded as it has completed its work program.

### What is planned for the future

In 2007–2008, the Commission will target three new sectors with training and awareness raising activities to build their capacity to manage their risks around their work with children and young people:

- Family day care
- Local government
- Children's disability services.

We will also work with these groups to influence service standards in their respective sectors.

We will work with the Children's Guardian to incorporate Child-safe and Child-friendly principles in the review of out of home care standards.

We will also continue working with the Industry Training Advisory Body to include Child-safe Child-friendly principles in the review of the Community Services Training Package, which includes children's services training.

We are reviewing and updating our workshop training package and developing a licensing agreement for other organisations to deliver the workshop package.

We will update the current set of Child-safe Child-friendly online resources to include best practice risk management standards and reflect AWARE, the Commission's new risk estimate model.

Publish resources to help organisations reduce risks through better design of staff positions and more effective and responsive complaints mechanisms.

## Child Death Review Team

### Background

The Commission provides secretariat support to the Child Death Review Team. The Child Death Review Team currently has 14 members, consisting of independent experts appointed by the Minister for Youth and nominees from NSW Government Departments.

The Commissioner chairs the Australian and New Zealand Child Death Review Teams (ANZCDRT). The aim is to standardise reporting to improve comparisons between jurisdictions.

### Results

The Child Death Review Team met on five occasions during 2006–2007.

The Child Death Review Team Annual Report 2005 was tabled in line with the legislative requirements.

The Commission monitored 14 recommendations made in previous reports and progress in relation to 12 of these recommendations will continue to be monitored.

The Commission convened the second annual meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Child Death Review Teams (ANZCDRT) in March 2007.

The ANZCDRT agreed its terms of reference and developed a work plan including:

- achieving consistent definitions and classifications of causes of death for national reporting
- establishing an online discussion forum

- developing a classification framework for system failures
- establishing a national data dictionary
- exploring funding options to support the work of the group.

#### What is planned for the future?

Complete the *Trends in Child Deaths in NSW from 1996 to 2005* study.

Maintain the Child Death Register.

Seek national funding to support the work of the ANZCDRT work plan.

### Child Death Register

In 2006–2007 the Child Death Register was updated with the deaths of children and young people in NSW registered in that period. The deaths were classified according to cause of death, demographic criteria and other relevant factors.

The Register was improved to allow collection of information about post mortem findings for infants, factors associated with risk-taking behaviours and additional measures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status.

The Child Death Review Team Annual Report 2005 was tabled. It described the Team's activities for each of its functions and reported on the extent to which its previous recommendations had been accepted and implemented.

#### Results

The Team monitored and reported on the implementation of recommendations on sudden unexpected deaths in infancy and further developed its data set for its *Trends in Child Deaths in NSW: 1996 to 2005* research study.

The Team has continued its effort to enable reporting of all deaths of NSW children and young people 0 to 17 years regardless of where their death is registered.

- Information on these deaths was obtained from Victoria, ACT and Queensland.
- Negotiations commenced to develop Memorandums of Understanding with Victoria and ACT for the receipt of the detailed information.

#### What is planned for the future?

The Child Death Register will be further developed based on the findings of the *Trends in Child Deaths in NSW: 1996 to 2005* research study.

The format and contents of the Child Death Review Team Annual Report will be redeveloped. This will be informed by the findings of the *Trends in Child Deaths in NSW: 1996 to 2005* special research study.

### Trends in Child Deaths in NSW from 1996 to 2005

#### Background

In 2005 the Minister approved the Child Death Review Team to undertake a special research study examining trends in child deaths over the 10-year period 1996–2005.

The statistical study will investigate the extent to which child deaths have significantly increased or decreased over the past decade for particular causes of death based on different demographic characteristics and age categories.

#### Results

Throughout 2006–2007 the Commission has:

- established population datasets required for the analysis
- developed analytic protocols for research involving often very small numbers of deaths for small and poorly measured populations
- improved identification of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the Child Death Register

- coded the cause of death for all children according to the current Australian version of the International Classification of Diseases.

The Subcommittee established to support the study met on three occasions.

#### What is planned for the future

Table the *Trends in Child Deaths in NSW from 1996 to 2005* special research study.



## Additional statutory requirements



“Kids from culturally and linguistically diverse communities participate in the Commission’s research projects”

Statutory reporting required in accordance with the *Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Act 1984* concerning the functions of the Commission for Children and Young People are provided below. Reporting requirements for functions provided to the Commission for Children and Young People by the Office for Children are contained in the Office for Children Annual Report.

### Action plan for women

Refer to information contained in the Office for Children Statutory Reporting Requirements on page 12 of this report.

### After balance date events

There were no after balance date events having a significant effect in the year 2006–2007.



## Chief and senior executive officers

### Numbers of executive officers

Bands	30 June 2005	30 June 2006	30 June 2007
Level 6	0	0	0
Level 5	0	0	0
Level 4	1	1	1
Level 3	0	0	0
Level 2	0	0	0
Level 1	0	0	0
Total	1	1	1

### Numbers of female executive officers

CES/SES staff 30 June 2005		CES/SES staff 30 June 2006		CES/SES staff 30 June 2007	
Total staff	Women	Total staff	Women	Total staff	Women
1	1 (100%)	1	1 (100%)	1	1 (100%)

### Performance statements

#### Ms Gillian Calvert

Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Social Work, Master of Business Administration

#### Commissioner

Contract appointment from 31 May 1999, renewed 31 May 2004

SES Level 4

The Minister has expressed her satisfaction with Ms Calvert's management of the Commission for Children and Young People throughout 2006–2007.

As Commissioner for Children and Young People, Ms Calvert has overall responsibility for the Commission's performance in working with others to make NSW a better place for children and young people.

A record of the many significant matters handled by the Commission in 2006–2007 appears elsewhere in this report. Key results achieved by Ms Calvert during 2006–2007 included:

- new legislation implemented
- Office for Children established
- Children at Work Recommendations report tabled in Parliament.

### Consultants

During 2006–2007, the Commission for Children and Young People did not engage any consultants at a cost equal to or more than \$30,000.

Two consultants were engaged during 2006–2007 to provide specialist management advice at a total cost of \$32,000 (excluding GST).

### Cost of annual report

Refer to information contained in the Office for Children Statutory Reporting Requirements on page 14 of this report.

### Disability action plan

The *Disability Services Act 1983* requires all government agencies to publish a Disability Strategic Plan.

### Summary of 2006–2007 Outcomes

Children and young people with a disability were represented on the Commission's Young People's Reference Group.

### Key Disability Action Plan Priorities for 2007–2008

Continue to explore ways of involving the disability sector in the Commission's programs.

Child-safe Child friendly initiatives targeting disability services.

### Ethnic affairs priority statement

The *Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000* requires all government agencies to report on their key initiatives in ethnic affairs.

### Summary of 2006–2007 Outcomes

The Expert Advisory Committee, Young People's Reference Group

# 04

## Additional statutory requirements

and the Child Death Review Team have a membership that reflects the principles of equity and the Government's commitment to cultural diversity.

Kids from culturally and linguistically diverse communities participate in the Commission's research projects.

### Key Ethnic Affairs Priorities for 2007–2008

Explore opportunities in culturally and linguistically diverse community media.

### Equal employment opportunity

Refer to information contained in the Office for Children Statutory Reporting Requirements on page 13 of this report.

### Freedom of information

Refer to information contained in the Office for Children Statutory Reporting Requirements on page 16 of this report.

### Human resources

The Office for Children provides personnel services to the Commission for Children and Young People.

### Employees by classification

The numbers reported are equivalent full-time (EFT) employees (EFT numbers as at 30 June 2005 represent employees of the separate agencies that existed prior to the creation of the Office for Children).

There were no exceptional movements in salaries during the year. Consistent with the provisions of the Crown Employees (Public Sector Conditions of Employment) Award 2002, staff were paid a 4% salary increase from July 2006. Senior Executive Service Officers were also paid a 4% increase in accordance with the determination of the Statutory and Other Officers Remuneration Tribunal.

### Personnel Services provided to the Commission for Children and Young People

	EFT 30 June 2005	EFT 30 June 2006	EFT 30 June 2007
Clerk Grade 1/2	0.6	1.6	4.2
Clerk Grade 3/4	7.5	6.5	4.5
Clerk Grade 5/6	5	5	4
Clerk Grade 7/8	9.6	14.2	11.6
Clerk Grade 9/10	9.8	7.8	9.2
Clerk Grade 11/12	4	4.6	6.6
Legal Officer Grade IV	1	0.6	0.6
Senior Officer	2	2	2
Senior Executive Service	1	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>40.5</b>	<b>43.3</b>	<b>43.7</b>

There were no industrial disputes within the Commission during 2006–2007.

### Legal change

#### *Commission for Children and Young People Amendment Act 2005*

The remaining sections of this Act were proclaimed in January 2007. As a result, the *Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998* now:

- brings all the legislation relating to the NSW Working With Children program into one Act
- extends the prohibited employment provisions which prevent certain offenders from working with children
- strengthens the Commission's powers to audit and monitor compliance with the Working With Children Check
- provides for certification of self-employed people in child-related employment
- streamlines background checking for people who work in multiple casual or part time positions in one industry.

*New Working With Children Employer Guidelines* and *Working With Children Operator Guidelines* came into effect at the same time implementing most of the above changes.

#### *Commission for Children and Young People Amendment (Parliamentary Joint Committee) Act 2007*

This Act reduced the size of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Children and Young People from 11 to 7 members.

#### *Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2007*

This Act retitled the "Chairman" and "Vice-Chairman" of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Children and Young People as "Chair" and "Deputy Chair".

### ***Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Amendment (Child Sexual Offences Disclosures) Act 2006***

This Act required candidates for NSW Parliamentary general elections and by-elections to sign a declaration about whether they have been convicted of or charged with any child sex offences or murder of a child, and whether any relevant Apprehended Violence Orders have been taken out against them. The Commission for Children and Young People is required to audit the accuracy of the declarations made by candidates elected to Parliament and report on the result of the Audit to both Houses of Parliament. These provisions came into effect for the March 2007 general election. The report on the audits was tabled in Parliament on 29 May 2007.

### **Management and activities**

The Commission's Strategic Plan 2004–2007 sets out activities to support the Office for Children's Results and Services Plan. Key Performance Indicators against these activities and the Commission's corporate services have been developed. These are monitored through quarterly and annual reports to the Managers Group.

Details of the Commission's achievements in relation to identified targets are contained in the main body of the Commission for Children and Young People Annual Report for 2006–2007.

### **Management and structure**

#### **Ms Gillian Calvert**

Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Social Work, Master of Business Administration

#### **Commissioner**

Contract appointment from 31 May 1999, renewed 31 May 2004

SES Level 4

### **Young People's Reference Group**

1 January 2006 to  
31 December 2006

Gillian Calvert, Commissioner

Stephen Robertson, Director,  
Policy, Chair

Dorian Sarkissian, Policy Officer,  
Executive Officer

Jacob Leung

Lucas Hejtmanek

Kerry Deligiannis

Masha Kojevnikova

Nick Kraegen

Erica Boucher

Olivia Couch

Nathan Boyle

Jake Ribarovski

Clare Power

Abdul Nahi

Jessica Priebee

### **Ministerial Advisory Committees and statutory bodies**

#### **NSW Child Death Review Team**

The purpose of the NSW Child Death Review Team, as specified in the *Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998*, is to prevent or reduce the number of child deaths in NSW. The Team considers children from birth to 17 years and only live births.

1 January 2006–30 June 2006,  
members of the Team were:

Ms Gillian Calvert, Chair

Ms Leanne Hillman, Department  
of Community Services (resigned  
September 2006)

Dr Elisabeth Murphy, NSW Health

Mr David McKie, Department of  
Education and Training

Ms Judith Carl, Department of Ageing,  
Disability and Home Care (resigned  
November 2006)

Mr John Feneley, Attorney General's  
Department

Dr Dianne Little, Forensic Pathologist,  
Westmead Hospital

Dr Ian Cameron, Rural Doctor's  
Network

Dr Jonathan Gillis, The Children's  
Hospital at Westmead

Associate Professor Jude Irwin, School  
of Social Work and Policy Studies,  
University of Sydney

Dr John Howard, Ted Noffs Foundation

Ms Robyn Shields, Aboriginal Mental  
Health Unit, Central Sydney Area  
Mental Health

Mr Maurice Taylor, NSW State  
Coroners Office

Ms Helen Freeland, Department of  
Community Services (appointed  
November 2006)

Ms Anna Edwards, Department of  
Ageing, Disability and Home Care  
(appointed November 2006)

Detective Superintendent Geoffrey  
Beresford, NSW Police (appointed  
December 2006)

Mr Jack Beetson, Aboriginal  
Representative (appointed  
February 2007).

#### **Expert Advisory Committee**

The principal role of the Committee is to assist the Commissioner in the exercise of her functions. The Committee's functions are detailed in Part 3 of the *Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998*.

From 1 July 2006–30 June 2007 the  
members were:

Professor Richard Chisholm, Chair

Mr Jack Beetson

Ms Anna Booth

Ms Hetty Cislowski

## 04

## Additional statutory requirements

Mr Peter Homel

Ms Helen L'Orange

Ms Judith Meppem

Ms Gillian Calvert, Commissioner.

#### Parliamentary Joint Committee on Children and Young People

The functions of the Committee are detailed in Part 6 of the *Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998*.

2006–2007 members until March 2007 were:

Mrs Barbara Perry, MP (Chair)

The Hon Jan Burnswoods, MLC (Deputy Chair)

Mr John Bartlett, MP

Mr Stephen Cansdell, MP

Mr Michael Daley, MP

Ms Judy Hopwood, MP

Ms Virginia Judge, MP

The Hon Kaye Griffin, MLC

The Hon Sylvia Hale, MLC

The Hon Melinda Pavey, MLC

The Hon Penelope Sharp, MLC

Members from June 2007 were:

The Hon Carmel Tebbutt, MLC (Chair)

Ms Marie Andrews, MP

Mr Stephen Cansdell, MP

The Hon Catherine Cusack, MLC

The Hon Kaye Griffin, MLC

Dr Andrew McDonald, MP (Deputy Chair)

Reverend the Hon Fred Nile, MLC.

#### Child Sex Offender Counsellor Accreditation Scheme (CSOCAS) Panel

1 July 2006–30 June 2007

Virginia Neighbour, Director Operations, Chair

Dale Tolliday, NSW Health

Dr Christopher Lennings, University of Sydney

Bronwyn Cintio, Social Worker

Jayson Ware, Department of Corrective Services

#### Overseas visits

There were no overseas visits by staff.

#### Publications

The Commission for Children and Young People published the following publications in 2006–2007:

- *Exchange* newsletter – Winter, Spring, Summer and Autumn editions
- *NSW Commission for Children and Young People Annual Report 2005–2006*
- *Big and Little Feedback 2006*
- *NSW Child Death Review Team Annual Report 2005*
- *Summary Report – NSW Child Death Review Team Annual Report 2005*
- *Ask the Children – Children and Young People Talk About Health*
- *Ask the Children – Overview of Children's Understandings of Well-being*
- *The Working With Children Employer Guidelines*
- *Children at Work Recommendations*.

A full list of the Commission's publications is available from [www.kids.nsw.gov.au](http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au) or from the Commission's office.

#### Research and development

##### Child Death Review Team

Six staff members worked on the research that forms the basis of the Child Death Review Team's Annual Reports.

##### Trends in Child Deaths in NSW: 1996–2005

Eight staff members worked on this during 2006–2007.

##### Children at Work

Seven staff members worked on this during 2006–2007.

##### AWARE (A Workplace and Applicant Risk Estimate)

Three staff members worked on this during 2006–2007.

##### Kids' Stats

Two staff members worked on this during 2006–2007.

##### Development of the Child Death Register

Four staff members worked on this during 2006–2007.

##### Mobile me: children's use of mobile telecommunications

Five staff members worked on this during 2006–2007. Jointly undertaken with the University of Technology, Sydney.

##### Children's understanding of well-being

Three staff members worked on this during 2006–2007. Jointly undertaken with the University of Western Sydney.

##### Impact of parents' employment on children's well-being

Two staff members worked on this during 2006–2007. Jointly undertaken with the University of New South Wales, Queensland University of Technology and the Australian National University.

### Young carers

Three staff members worked on this during 2006–2007. Jointly undertaken with the University of Sydney and the Australian National University.

### Children's lived experience of poverty

Five staff members worked on this during 2006–2007. Jointly undertaken with Benevolent Society and RMIT University.

### Achieving better health outcomes for youth with chronic health conditions

Three staff members worked on this during 2006–2007. Jointly undertaken with the University of Sydney, The Children's Hospital, Westmead, and the Australian Family and Disability Services Research Collaboration.

### Ethical issues in children's participation in research

Four staff members worked on this during 2006–2007.





GPO BOX 12  
Sydney NSW 2001

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### NSW Commission For Children and Young People

To Members of the New South Wales Parliament

I have audited the accompanying financial report of the NSW Commission For Children and Young People (the Commission), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2007 and the operating statement, statement of recognised income and expense, cash flow statement, and summary of compliance with financial directives for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

#### *Auditor's Opinion*

In my opinion, the financial report:

- presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Commission as of 30 June 2007, and of their financial performance and their cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations)
- is in accordance with section 45E of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983* (the PF&A Act) and the Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2005.

#### *Commissioner's Responsibility for the Financial Report*

The Commissioner is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the PF&A Act. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

#### *Auditor's Responsibility*

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal controls relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal controls. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Commissioner, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

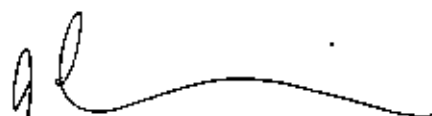
My opinion does *not* provide assurance:

- about the future viability of the Commission,
- that they have carried out their activities effectively, efficiently and economically, or
- about the effectiveness of their internal controls.

### *Independence*

In conducting this audit, the Audit Office has complied with the independence requirements of the Australian Auditing Standards and other relevant ethical requirements. The PF&A Act further promotes independence by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General, and
- mandating the Auditor-General as auditor of public sector agencies but precluding the provision of non-audit services, thus ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office are not compromised in their role by the possibility of losing clients or income.



J Kheir B Ec FCPA  
Director, Financial Audit Services


19 October 2007  
SYDNEY

## COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

### Statement by the Commissioner of the Commission for Children and Young People

Pursuant to Section 45F of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983, I state that to the best of my knowledge and belief:

- (a) the accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable Australian Accounting Standards, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views, the requirements of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983* and the *Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2000*, the Financial Reporting Code for Budget Dependant General Government Sector Agencies and Treasurer's Directions.
- (b) the financial statements exhibit a true and fair view of the financial position of the Commission for Children and Young People as at 30 June 2007 and for the operations for the year then ended;
- (c) there are no circumstances which would render any particulars included in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.



**Gillian Calvert**  
Commissioner

Dated: 17.10.2007

**NSW Commission For Children & Young People  
Operating Statement  
for the Year Ended 30 June 2007**

	Notes	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000
<b>Expenses excluding losses</b>			
Operating expenses			
Personnel services expenses	2(a)	3,853	4,261
Other operating expenses	2(b)	3,906	3,784
Depreciation and amortisation expenses	2(c)	-	275
Grants and subsidies	2(d)	<u>331</u>	<u>371</u>
<b>Total Expenses excluding losses</b>		<u>8,090</u>	<u>8,691</u>
Less:			
<b>Revenue</b>			
Grants and contributions	3(a)	8,090	2,213
Other revenue	3(b)	<u>-</u>	<u>160</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<u>8,090</u>	<u>2,373</u>
<b>Gain / (loss) on disposal</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net Cost of Services</b>	10	<u>-</u>	<u>(6,318)</u>
<b>Government Contributions</b>			
Recurrent appropriations	4	-	5,819
Capital appropriations	4	-	46
Acceptance by the Crown Entity of employee benefits and other liabilities	5	<u>-</u>	<u>356</u>
<b>Total Government Contributions</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>6,221</u>
<b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>(97)</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**NSW Commission For Children & Young People  
Statement of Recognised Income and Expense  
for the Year Ended 30 June 2007**

	Notes	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	7	-	(97)
<b>TOTAL INCOME AND EXPENSE RECOGNISED FOR THE YEAR</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>(97)</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**NSW Commission For Children & Young People  
Balance Sheet  
as at 30 June 2007**

	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	-	-
Receivables	-	-
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>		
Property, Plant and Equipment	-	-
Intangible assets	-	-
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Payables	-	-
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>		
Provisions	-	-
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Accumulated funds	-	-
<b>Total Equity</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**NSW Commission For Children & Young People  
Cash Flow Statement  
for the Year Ended 30 June 2007**

	Notes	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Payments</b>			
Employee related		-	(2,685)
Grants and subsidies		-	(291)
Other		-	(2,322)
<b>Total Payments</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>(5,298)</u>
<b>Receipts</b>			
Sale of goods and services		-	10
Interest received		-	46
Other		-	84
Grants and Contributions from Office for Children		-	-
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>140</u>
<b>Cash Flows From Government</b>			
Recurrent appropriation	4	-	5,819
Capital appropriation	4	-	46
Cash reimbursements from the Crown Entity		-	-
Cash transfers to the Consolidated Fund		-	(46)
<b>Net Cash Flows From Government</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>5,819</u>
<b>NET CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	10	<u>-</u>	<u>661</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Purchases of Plant and Equipment		<u>-</u>	<u>(24)</u>
<b>NET CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>(24)</u>
<b>NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH</b>			
Opening cash and cash equivalents		-	637
Cash transferred out as a result of administrative restructuring	8	-	738
		<u>-</u>	<u>(1,375)</u>
<b>CLOSING CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

NSW Commission For Children & Young People  
 Summary of Compliance with Financial Directives  
 for the Year Ended 30 June 2007

	2007				2006			
	Recurrent Appropriation \$'000	Expenditure / Net Claim on Consolidated Fund \$'000	Capital Appropriation \$'000	Expenditure / Net Claim on Consolidated Fund \$'000	Recurrent Appropriation \$'000	Expenditure / Net Claim on Consolidated Fund \$'000	Capital Appropriation \$'000	Expenditure / Net Claim on Consolidated Fund \$'000
<b>ORIGINAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION / EXPENDITURE</b>								
• Appropriation Act	-	-	-	-	7,966	174	24	
• s24 PF&AA - transfers of functions between departments	-	-	-	-	(2,147)	(128)	-	
	-	-	-	-	5,819	46	24	
<b>Total Appropriations / Expenditure / Net Claim on Consolidated Fund (includes transfer payments)</b>	-	-	-	-	5,819	46	24	
<b>Amount draw down against Appropriation Liability to Consolidated Fund*</b>								

The Summary of Compliance is based on the assumption that Consolidated Fund monies are spent first (except where otherwise identified or prescribed).

## 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### (a) *Reporting entity*

The NSW Commission for Children & Young People (the Commission) is a reporting entity.

The Public Sector Employment and Management (Children and other matters) Order 2006 abolished the Commission as a Department of the Public Service on 2nd April 2006 and transferred its branches to the Office for Children.

However the Commission is a statutory body established under the Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998 and it is listed in Schedule 2 of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983. Accordingly, it must continue preparing a separate financial report.

The Commission's 2006-07 financial report comprises the value of services provided free of charge by the Office for Children for the year ended 30 June 2007.

The Commission's assets and liabilities were previously transferred to the Office for Children. Therefore it has nil assets and liabilities as at 30 June 2007.

The Commission does not maintain its own bank account, and therefore there are no cashflows shown in the Commission's report.

As the Commission is a single program entity, the financial operations disclosed in the operating statement are those of the Commission's program. Accordingly, a separate supplementary program statement has not been prepared.

The Commission is a not-for-profit entity (as profit is not its principal objective) and it has no cash generating units.

These financial statements have been authorised for issue by the Commissioner on 17 October 2007.

### (b) *Basis of Preparation*

The Commission's financial statements are a general purpose financial report which has been prepared in accordance with:

- applicable Australian Accounting Standards (which include Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standard (AIFRS));
- the requirements of the *Public Finance and Audit Act* and Regulation; and
- the Financial Reporting Directions published in the Financial Reporting Code for Budget Dependent General Government Sector Agencies or issued by the Treasurer.

Financial statements items are prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention

Judgements, key assumptions and estimations that management has made are disclosed in the relevant notes to the financial statements.

All amounts are rounded to the nearest one thousand dollars and are expressed in Australian currency.

### (c) *Income Recognition*

Income is measured at the fair value of the consideration or contribution received or receivable. Additional comments regarding the accounting policies for the recognition of income are discussed below.

#### (i) *Sale of Goods*

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised as revenue when the Commission transfers the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the assets.

**NSW Commission For Children & Young People**  
**Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 30 June 2007**

## 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (cont'd)

### (c) *Income Recognition (cont'd)*

#### (ii) Rendering of Services

Revenue is recognised when the service is provided or by reference to the stage of completion (based on labour hours incurred to date).

#### (iii) Investment income

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method as set out in AASB 139 *Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement*.

### (d) *Insurance*

The Commission's insurance activities are conducted through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund Scheme of self insurance for Government agencies. The expense (premium) is determined by the Fund Manager based on past experience.

### (e) *Accounting for the Goods and Services Tax (GST)*

Revenues and expenses are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where:

- the amount of GST incurred by the Commission as a purchaser that is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office is recognised as part of an item of expense.

### (f) *Maintenance*

The costs of day-to-day servicing costs or maintenance are charged as expenses as incurred.

### (g) *New Australian Accounting Standards issued but not effective*

At reporting date, a number of Australian Accounting Standards adopted by the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been issued but are not yet operative and have not been adopted by the Office. NSW Treasury mandate precludes early adoption of these accounting standards. These include AASB 7 and AASB 2005 10 regarding financial instrument disclosures, and AASB 101 regarding presentation of financial statements.

The Commission has reviewed the new accounting standards and at this stage does not anticipate any impact on the figures reported in this financial report.

## 2 EXPENSES EXCLUDING LOSSES

	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000
<b>(a) Personnel services expenses</b>		
Salaries and wages (including recreation leave)	-	2,433
Superannuation	-	148
Superannuation - defined benefit plans	-	53
Long service leave	-	290
Workers compensation insurance	-	18
Payroll tax and fringe benefit tax	-	204
Personnel Services	<u>3,853</u>	<u>1,115</u>
	<u>3,853</u>	<u>4,261</u>

The Commission did not incur any employee related maintenance cost.

**NSW Commission For Children & Young People**  
**Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 30 June 2007**

**2 EXPENSES EXCLUDING LOSSES (cont'd)**

	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000
<b>(b) Other operating expenses</b>		
Auditor's remuneration - audit or review of the financial reports	14	37
Operating lease rental expense - minimum lease pay	437	417
Insurance	6	8
Corporate services	491	457
Consultancy costs	37	17
Contractors	413	322
Storage	20	28
Travel related	40	64
Data processing	63	104
Minor equipment purchases	-	1
Motor vehicle expenses	11	8
Media	-	17
Postage and freight	30	43
Conference and seminars	21	19
Stores and stationery	61	70
Printing	121	86
Boards, Tribunals and Meetings	30	58
Motor vehicle	-	1
Events Management	56	32
Publication and advertising	21	16
Employment Screening	1,631	1,627
Data Services	92	63
Telephone	71	82
Other	240	207
	<b>3,906</b>	<b>3,784</b>
<b>(c) Depreciation and amortisation expenses</b>		
<b>Depreciation</b>		
Office Equipment	-	24
Computer Hardware	-	51
Computer Software	-	12
<b>Amortisation</b>		
Intangibles	-	111
Leasehold	-	77
	<b>-</b>	<b>275</b>
<b>(d) Grants and subsidies</b>		
Grants to Catholic Commission	331	371
	<b>331</b>	<b>371</b>

**NSW Commission For Children & Young People**  
**Notes to and forming part the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 30 June 2007**

### 3 REVENUES

	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000
<b>(a) Grants and contributions</b>		
Grants Received	-	36
Services provided free of charge	<u>8,090</u>	<u>2,177</u>
	<u>8,090</u>	<u>2,213</u>
 <b>(b) Other revenue</b>		
Assets acquired free of liability	<u>-</u>	<u>160</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>160</u>

### 4 APPROPRIATIONS

#### Recurrent appropriations

Total recurrent drawdowns from Treasury (per Summary of Compliance)	-	5,819
Less: Liability to Consolidated Fund (per Summary of Compliance)	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>5,819</u>
 Comprising:		
Recurrent appropriations (per Operating Statement)	<u>-</u>	<u>5,819</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>5,819</u>

#### Capital appropriations

Total capital drawdowns from Treasury (per Summary of Compliance)	-	46
Less: Liability to Consolidated Fund (per Summary of Compliance)	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>46</u>
 Comprising:		
Capital appropriations (per Operating Statement)	<u>-</u>	<u>46</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>46</u>

### 5 ACCEPTANCE BY THE CROWN ENTITY OF EMPLOYEE BENEFITS AND OTHER LIABILITIES

The following liabilities and / or expenses were assumed by the Crown Entity prior to the transfer of the functions of the Commission to the Office for Children in April 2006:

Superannuation	-	53
Long Service Leave	-	290
Payroll tax	<u>-</u>	<u>13</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>356</u>

### 6 ACTIVITIES OF THE AGENCY

Objective - To promote and enhance the safety, welfare and well-being of children and young people in the community, and to encourage their participation in decisions that affect their lives.

**NSW Commission For Children & Young People  
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 30 June 2007**

**7 CHANGES IN EQUITY**

	Accumulated Funds		Total Equity	
	2007	2006	2007	2006
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Entity</b>				
Balance at the beginning of the year	-	1,016	-	1,016
Restated opening balance	-	1,016	-	1,016
<b>Changes in equity - transactions with owners as owners</b>				
Increase / (decrease) in net assets from equity transfers (Note 8)	-	(919)	-	(919)
Total	-	(919)	-	(919)
Surplus / (deficit) for the year	-	(97)	-	(97)
Balance at the end of the financial year	-	-	-	-

**8 INCREASE / DECREASE IN NET ASSETS FROM EQUITY TRANSFERS**

	2007	2006
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash	-	1,375
Receivables	-	101
Plant & equipment	-	568
	-	2,044
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Payables	-	(1,125)
	-	(1,125)
Net assets transferred	-	919

**9 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS**

The Commission is not aware of any contingent liabilities and / or contingent assets associated with its operations.

**NSW Commission For Children & Young People**  
**Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 30 June 2007**

## 10 RECONCILIATION OF CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES TO NET COST OF SERVICES

Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to the net cost of services as reported in the operating statement.

	<b>2007</b>	2006
	<b>\$'000</b>	\$'000
Net cash from operating activities	-	661
Cash flows from Government / Appropriations	-	(5,819)
Acceptance by the Crown Entity of employee benefits and other liabilities	-	(356)
Depreciation	-	(188)
Decrease / (increase) in provision	-	(105)
Decrease / (increase) in other liabilities	-	(449)
Increase / (decrease) in assets	-	(62)
Net cost of services	<u>-</u>	<u>(6,318)</u>

## 11 AFTER BALANCE DATE EVENTS

There are no events subsequent to balance date which affect the financial report.

End of audited financial statements.

# A

## Appendix A – Commitment to young Australians

The Commission is a signatory to the Commitment to young Australians developed by the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY).

The Commitment is guided by seven principles, and highlights of the Commission's work to support and progress these principles are outlined below.

### **The wellbeing of children and young people needs to be a national priority.**

Our submissions to formal inquiries promote the well-being of children on the national agenda. Sixteen submissions were made in 2006-2007.

### **The whole community is responsible for the wellbeing of children and young people.**

The Taskforce on Children at Work demonstrates commitment to a 'whole-of-community' approach to enhancing the well-being of children and young people.

The Commission worked to raise awareness of the benefits and importance to all children of paid maternity leave for all Australian women.

### **Families need support and resources to nurture children and young people.**

This year the Commissioner for Children and Young People joined with one thousand organisations around Australia to support National Families Week 2007 and the critical role of families in Australian society.

As a Family Week 2007 Ambassador, the Commissioner actively promoted the event through the media.

### **Children and young people should grow up in a safe environment.**

Our work with the Australian and New Zealand Child Death Review Teams contributes to building a safer NSW for children and young people.

We lead the Working With Children program that helps organisations become safer and more enjoyable for children and young people, and includes the Working With Children Check.

### **Children and young people should be valued and respected.**

Two new publications were created in the Ask the Children series: *Children and Young People Talk about Health and Overview of Children's Understandings of Well-being*. These bring children and young people's views to the attention of decision makers and influence policy direction.

### **Children and young people should have learning and development opportunities which encourage them to realise their potential.**

The Commission provides a range of learning and development opportunities for children and young people. These include: sponsoring young people to attend conferences, supporting young people to co-present and deliver presentations with Commission staff, and facilitating training sessions and workshops for young people, such as the Communication Skills workshop conducted at the Southern Riverina Students Representative Council Conference in December 2006.

### **The capacity of children and young people to contribute to the community should be acknowledged and enabled.**

The Commission's submissions to formal inquiries highlight the importance of children's knowledge and participation in developing our policy responses and recommendations. We also created a section of our website where we report back to kids what they have told us: [www.kids.nsw.gov.au/thezone](http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au/thezone).