



SPECIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO
CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

PUBLIC FORUM

INTERAGENCY COOPERATION

4 APRIL 2008

AGENDA

Outcomes for children, young people and their families improve if service delivery is integrated, coordinated and provided flexibly to meet individual needs.

Currently the *NSW Interagency Guidelines for Child Protection Intervention 2006* provide the basis for collaborative work in child protection across government and non-government agencies in NSW. There are also a raft of memoranda of understanding (MOUs) between the various state government agencies which, among other things, aim to prioritise access to services for children, young people and their families.

A number of submissions raise concerns that guidelines and interagency agreements are often not resourced or implemented in an effective and timely manner to meet the needs of children, young people and their families.

The Inquiry is interested in the following questions:

1. What are the most effective mechanisms for:
 - a. encouraging interagency cooperation and
 - b. delivering the required services to clients, where multi agency responses are needed?

Are they:

- a. MOUs
 - b. projects such as the Anti Social Behaviour Pilot Project
 - c. co location or establishing one stop shops, particularly in rural areas
 - d. other strategies, and if so, what would they look like?
2. What are the practical and cultural impediments to information sharing between agencies about children at risk of harm?
 3. Non-government services currently play a critical role in the child protection system and this is likely to expand. What changes are required to existing mechanisms to enable them to access government provided specialist services for clients they have responsibility for? Is this different for Out-of-home-care?
 4. What model can be used for enhanced interagency response to domestic violence and substance abuse?