

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

PUBLIC FORUM

OUT-OF-HOME CARE

29 FEBRUARY 2008

AGENDA

The State has a responsibility to provide a safe, nurturing, stable and secure environment for those children and young people it removes from their families.

That environment may be provided and monitored by the State or another suitably screened agency or a combination of the two.

Research indicates that stable and secure placements are vital in achieving successful outcomes for children in care. The training and support received by carers, the timing of the decision making about the child as well as the health and behaviour of the child can significantly influence the length of placements.

Any health issues and other obstacles that may impede the children's well-being and prevent them from reaching their full potential, needs to be identified and addressed early.

The Inquiry is interested in the following issues:

1. Strategies for reducing the number of placements children and young persons experience after removal from their family.
2. Recruiting, training, supporting and retaining carers including kinship/relative carers.
3. Case management and parental responsibility for children and young persons in out-of-home care.
4. Ensuring priority access to services for children and young persons in out-of-home care.
5. What factors should be taken into account in making the decision about whether restoration of a child to his or her birth family is a realistic possibility?
6. Role and functions of Children's Guardian.