



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Tuesday, 6 June 2006

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Commissioner for Children and Young People and Child Guardian

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier) (9.39 am): The Commissioner for Children and Young People and Child Guardian has an important responsibility to promote and protect the rights, interests and wellbeing of all Queenslanders under the age of 18. Commissioner Elizabeth Fraser is committed to ensuring that the concerns, views and wishes of our children and young people in this state are heard. So for the first time children and young people in out-of-home care have had the opportunity to have their say on our child safety system.

The Commissioner for Children and Young People and Child Guardian recently conducted a survey of more than 1,700 children in care throughout the state through the Community Visitor Program. The results have been collated, analysed and published in a report which I am happy to table today.

The results detail some encouraging statistics. Some 98 per cent of children and young people surveyed said that they felt safe in their placement. Some 84.5 per cent of young people said that they felt things had improved over the last 12 months. Some 98.9 per cent of young people said that their foster carer treats them well.

This report also highlighted areas of concern to young people for the commission to consider, including more contact with their families. These findings will assist the commission to further refine its Community Visitor Program, direct policy and research priorities for the 2006-07 and shape its input into the reform of the child safety system.

Tabled paper: Report by the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian titled 'Views of Children and Young People in Care—Queensland 2006'.