



Department of Communities (Child Safety Services) Systems and Practice Review

What is a Systems and Practice Review?

If the Department of Communities (Child Safety Services) receives information about a child, and that child dies within three years following receipt of the information, Department of Communities (Child Safety Services) are required to conduct a review under Chapter 7A of the *Child Protection Act 1999*. The findings of the review are outlined in a report. This report helps identify areas for improvement, and informs Department of Communities (Child Safety Services) policy, practice and interagency partnerships.

Systems and Practice Reviews have been developed to meet Department of Communities (Child Safety Services') requirements for a process that is openly transparent and accountable, supports learning and development, and is able to address systemic issues that have impacted on service delivery.

Terms of reference

The terms of reference for Systems and Practice Reviews reflect the importance of achieving positive outcomes for children through quality practice and service delivery. The reviews:

1. Critically analyse the factors which significantly enhanced or hindered service delivery of Department of Communities (Child Safety Services) to the subject child in relation to protecting the child from harm and supporting the child's individual needs and identity.
2. Critically analyse the success of Department of Communities (Child Safety Services) engagement with other agencies in providing quality service delivery to the subject child

What is the Systems and Practice Review discussion?

The Systems and Practice Review discussion provides an opportunity for those who have been involved with the child to

For further information see

www.education.qld.gov.au/studentsservices



share information about the child. The focus for the discussion will be the delivery of child safety services to the child and the engagement of other agencies involved in the child's care.

Is participation in a Systems and Practice Review discussion compulsory?

Participation in the Systems and Practice Review discussion is voluntary. The Department of Education and Training encourages and is supportive of employees' participation. Involvement assists reviewers meet the Systems and Practice Review's overarching goal – to provide Department of Communities (Child Safety Services) with opportunities for learning and development that will help improve outcomes for children.

What information can be given to the reviewers?

Information from employees of the Department of Education and Training is sought under the *Child Protection Act 1999*, section 246C (Chief Executive may seek information from other agencies).

Information is only sought when it is considered relevant to the protection and welfare of the subject child while they were alive, and thus pertinent to the review.

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There are clear statements in the *Child Protection Act 1999* providing protection from liability (section 246E) and defamation (246F) for any person participating in a Systems and Practice Review who provides information in good faith during the process. This section applies to both officers of Department of Communities (Child Safety Services) and employees of other agencies involved with the child and their family prior to the child's death.

How is the Systems and Practice Review finalised?

The Systems and Practice Review report and recommendations are finalised by Department of Communities (Child Safety Services) internal committee. The report is provided to the Deputy Director-General, Department of Communities and forwarded to a multi-disciplinary committee chaired by the Commissioner of the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian. If the Systems and Practice Review report involves a child whose death is a reportable death under the *Coroners Act 2003*, a copy of the report is to be provided to the State Coroner to assist in coronial investigations.

Information in this fact sheet provided by the Department of Communities (Child Safety Services).