



Children's Guardian welcomes NSW response to the Child Abuse Royal Commission

23 June 2018

The Children's Guardian welcomes today's announcement by the Premier that the NSW Government will accept key recommendations around Child Safety put forward by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

The Office of the Children's Guardian acknowledges the work of the Royal Commission, and the experience of survivors, to recommend changes that will create safer places for children in NSW today and into the future.

"The NSW Government has recognised that all children deserve opportunities to participate in their community, to have fun, play, learn and grow. We need to make sure that those environments are safe for them. We all have a responsibility to make sure that organisations and institutions are safe for children," NSW Children's Guardian, Janet Schorer, said.

"With more than 10 years of experience in helping organisations in NSW be child safe, we welcome the opportunity to continue to work with the sector in building child safe cultures."

In NSW there are more than 27,000 organisations delivering services to children. These organisations vary in size, structure and capacity. Many organisations are managed by volunteers, local sports associations, community groups and religious groups, who have limited resources for oversight or monitoring of the services they provide to children.

The Office of the Children's Guardian will talk with organisations across NSW about the best way to implement the child safe standards.

"We want to be sure that any changes focus on keeping children safe without overburdening organisations," Ms Schorer said

Every organisation that interacts with children also has the responsibility to actively consider

and respond to the findings of the Royal Commission.

“We will use and build on our already strong partnerships with child-related organisations, to create child safe practice in NSW that reflects the diverse activities children enjoy. This requires leadership, to make the safety and wellbeing a priority in every organisation.

Strong investment in education and awareness raising is critical to building organisations that take child safe responsibilities seriously,” Ms Schorer said.

The Office of the Children’s Guardian will also provide information for parents and carers so they know what to look for when choosing child-safe services for their children.

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