



**Child Protection Practitioners
Association of Queensland Limited**

ABN: 83 151 398 480

We are pleased to announce our

Inaugural Ms Leneen Forde Public Address

to create an ongoing legacy acknowledging the critical importance of child protection

This event is named in honour of Ms Leneen Forde AO who provided leadership to the seminal Forde Inquiry Report into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions.

The address marks the official launch of the Child Protection Practitioners Association of Queensland Limited, which aims to raise the profile of the child protection system in Queensland, and to improve professional collaboration and development of practitioners across all disciplines in the system.

Our first public address will be delivered by His Honour Justice Peter Murphy of the Family Court of Australia with an introduction by His Honour Judge Brendan Butler, Chief Magistrate of the Magistrates Court of Queensland. Justice Murphy's address, "Child Protection Law - Everyone's Business", is a plea from a private family lawyer to see child protection law as an area of expertise and speciality deserving of attention.

Date: Tuesday, 13 September, 2011
(following Child Protection Week, 4 - 10 September, 2011)
Venue: Banco Ceremonial Court, Brisbane Supreme Court
Level 2, Law Courts Complex, 304 George Street, Brisbane
Registration: 5:30pm
Address: 6:00pm to 7:00pm
Reception: 7:00pm to 8:30pm
Entry fee: \$30 (free for members)
1 CPD for solicitors/application to Bar Association of QLD pending

RSVP:

Please RSVP by **31 August 2011** for catering purposes and also indicate whether you have joined as a member to the Secretary via email at cppaqld@gmail.com or by post

CPPAQLD
c/o PO Box 12056
Brisbane George Street QLD 4003

Payment information:

- **Cheque/money order** payable to the Child Protection Practitioners Association of Queensland Limited
- **Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)** to Child Protection Practitioners Association of Queensland Limited using the following details:
Bank: National Australia Bank
BSB: 084 259 **Account No:** 11-426-2973
Reference: Member Name/Attendee Name.

Interested in becoming a member?

We are recruiting members and if you join, entry to the Public Address is free. This is our first year and membership recruitment is vital to support the work of the Association. We encourage you to forward this invitation, information on the Child Protection Practitioners Association of Queensland, and our membership application form, throughout your professional networks.



Why is there a need for a Child Protection Practitioners Association?

The Child Protection Practitioners Association of Queensland began in October 2010. The founding members are motivated by a desire to raise the profile of public family law (or child protection law) in Queensland and to improve professional collaboration across law and social science.

Why a kite?

Flying a kite is a study in patience, skill, teamwork and battling the elements. It can also be an uplifting and joyful experience.

We chose this symbol for the Association because it is instantly recognisable to children and young people. For those of us working as professionals in child protection, it is a symbol of opportunity and a metaphor for good practice.

What are our priorities?

The priorities of the Child Protection Practitioners Association of Queensland are to:

- **Advocate** for systemic improvement in child protection law, policy and practice.
- **Lobby** for the establishment and adequate funding of legal mechanisms to enable all children, young people and their families to have access to justice.
- **Promote** awareness and use of high quality research across all disciplines in the child protection system.
- **Encourage** the involvement of highly skilled and specialist practitioners in child protection work.
- **Support** multidisciplinary professional development relevant to child protection law, policy and practice.
- **Enhance** collaborative professional relationships and practice development in the child protection and legal system through networking and information sharing.

What are our priorities for the coming 12 months?

The Association will focus on the following areas for reform in 2011:

- Raising the profile for child protection law across all professions,
- Increased professional development opportunities for practitioners from all disciplines and at all levels of the child protection system.
- Achieving adequate and specialised legal representation of parties including children and young people in child protection litigation.
- Improving the availability of decisions in child protection law made at all levels to support greater transparency and accountability.

The Association is strongly supportive of the recent decision to publish decisions of the Childrens Court of Queensland on the Supreme Court of Queensland Library's website:

www.sclqld.org.au/qchc/



Chairperson: Lisa O'Neill

Lisa O'Neill has worked as a private and government lawyer with a special interest in the law relating to children since 1988, having worked for the Child Support Agency, Legal Aid Queensland, and the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian. She has published articles and given presentations on various aspects of family law. She has an interest in professional disciplinary matters as a mechanism for protecting vulnerable people and children and was the Chair of the Teachers Disciplinary Committee until it was incorporated into the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal. She believes that children have the right to be heard in matters affecting them.

Vice Chairperson: Margie Kruger

Margie Kruger has worked as a social worker with what is now known as the Department of Communities (Child Safety Services). Margie provided services to children and families in the area of child protection. She worked as an advisor in policy and as a senior advisor in child protection in the Court Services division of the Department. Margie studied law part time while practicing as a social worker and graduated with Honours. She was initially admitted to practice as a Barrister and was subsequently admitted to practice as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Queensland. Margie has a particular interest in family law including child related matters and financial matters. She also practises in the areas of defacto relationship law and discrimination matters. Currently Margie is a partner at Ryan Kruger Lawyers, and a member of the Queensland Law Society's Family Law Section, and the Family Law Section of the Law Council of Australia.

Secretary: Catherine Moynihan

Catherine Moynihan has acted as both a best interests and direct instructions advocate for children and young people in care, and for parents in child protection proceedings. She has worked with children and young people and their legal issues since 1997 including as a lawyer for a Local Authority, the Department equivalent in the UK. in child protection matters. She was a ministerial advisor to the then Queensland Minister for Justice and Attorney General Rod Welford. As a policy officer in the Queensland Department of Premier and Cabinet, she also worked on the legislative reforms to child protection legislation that came out of Queensland's seminal 2004 CMC Inquiry into Abuse in Foster Care. She has recently completed a Churchill Fellowship on advocacy and legal representation for children and young people in care, which took her to the UK and US. Currently she works at Legal Aid Queensland as the Youth Advocate.

Treasurer: Nigel Miller

Nigel Miller's practice experience involves both best interests and direct instructions advocacy for children and young people in care, and acting for parents. He has worked in the area since 2005, which has included a role as a lawyer for a London based Local Authority in the UK in the area of public family law (child protection). This role involved applications for Special Guardianship of children and adoption proceedings. Nigel also has prior experience in the private family law and criminal jurisdictions, and has previously represented young people (aged 16 years and less) in the youth justice jurisdiction while working at Legal Aid Queensland. Currently he is the Acting Coordinator for the Child Protection Unit at Legal Aid Queensland. The child protection jurisdiction interests Nigel as it allows him to work with the most marginalised and disadvantaged members of our society.

Founding Members:

- **Bruce Doyle**
- **Murray Green**
- **Dr Scott Harden**
- **Gordon Harris**
- **Kendall Hawdon**
- **Kathryn McMillan SC**
- **Robin Slade Jones**
- **Dr Jillian Spencer**
- **Dr Stephen Stathis**



Why is becoming a Member important?

Becoming a member will allow you to connect with and strengthen a multidisciplinary community of practitioners who are committed to the child protection system. Membership contributions will fund networking and professional development opportunities and resources.

What does it cost to be a Member?

We are seeking members from the private, government and non government sectors across a broad range of professional backgrounds that work in child protection.

It is \$50 to join the Association.

We welcome members from all levels of the Judiciary, Tribunal members, private practice and government lawyers, psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, doctors, nurses, allied health practitioners, government child protection workers, academics, youth workers and drug and alcohol workers.

What will being a Member give you?

- **Free entry** to the annual Ms Leneen Forde Public Address;
- **Free entry** to the Practice Paper Series run by the Association (4 per year); and
- **Access to** a community of child protection practitioners, with networking opportunities aimed at improving practice through a shared understanding of the child protection system.

Membership Pledge:

The Board requires that all members agree to a membership pledge. Members pledge that they are committed to a child protection system that:

- Honours the Charter of Rights for children in care;
 - Recognises that the decisions made during litigation fundamentally affect the basic human right of a child or young person to live with their family;
 - Acknowledges that families have primary responsibility for the upbringing, protection and development of their children;
 - Acknowledges that the State has responsibility for the protection of children and young people where it is not possible for families to do so, and that this responsibility should be exercised in the least intrusive way possible in the circumstances;
 - Ensures that decisions and actions are guided by the best interests of the child or young person involved;
 - Gives effect to the rights of children, young people, their families and their carers to be kept informed of and participate in decisions that affect them, and to have their views considered in decision making;
 - Is open, fair, and respects the rights of the people that are affected by decisions;
 - Acknowledges and respects the importance of family and cultural ties, and gives proper consideration to placing children and young people with kin;
 - Respects the distinct roles of the different professionals involved, while promoting collaboration and a focus on the best interests of the child or young person;
 - Works to minimise the impact of systems abuse on children, young people and their families.
- 



Member Details:

Name		
Address		
Telephone	(w) _____	(m) _____
Fax		
Email		
Please tick	<input type="checkbox"/> if you do not wish to receive information via email <input type="checkbox"/> if you do not wish your professional details to be publicly available	

What is your professional practice?

<input type="checkbox"/> Judge / Magistrate <input type="checkbox"/> Barrister / Solicitor	<input type="checkbox"/> Psychiatrist <input type="checkbox"/> Psychologist <input type="checkbox"/> Allied health practitioner	<input type="checkbox"/> Child Safety worker <input type="checkbox"/> Education practitioner	<input type="checkbox"/> Social worker <input type="checkbox"/> Youth worker <input type="checkbox"/> Guidance Counsellor	<input type="checkbox"/> Police officer <input type="checkbox"/> Body Corporate Nominated Representative
Other – please specify				

Membership cost:

<input type="checkbox"/> \$50

Payment option:

<input type="checkbox"/> Cheque/money order	<input type="checkbox"/> Electronic Funds Transfer
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I hereby agree to conduct myself in a way which is in keeping with the membership pledge of Child Protection Practitioners Association of Queensland Limited Constitution (see next page).

Signed _____

Date _____ / _____ /2011

Please submit your signed form either electronically or in hard copy along with payment or date of EFT of the membership fee.

Please direct all enquiries to cppaqld@gmail.com



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Bank: National Australia Bank
BSB: 084 259 **Account No:** 11-426-2973
Reference: Member Name.

Return to:

Return your completed Application for Membership form with payment or date of EFT to:
The Secretary
CPPAQLD
c/o PO Box 12056
Brisbane George Street QLD 4003
or via email cppaql@gmail.com

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