

A partnership between key stakeholders across Government agencies and non-government organisations to promote collaboration and information sharing in the interest of child safety and wellbeing.

Department of Families and Children
INFORMATION SHARING and LEGISLATIVE REFORM
(ISLR) REFERENCE GROUP

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Overview and establishment

The Board of Inquiry into the Child Protection System of the Northern Territory report, *Growing them strong, together*, identified a need for legislative reform in key areas directly and indirectly relating to the safety and wellbeing of children in the Territory. It was identified that a key development area was the related to collaboration and information sharing both between government agencies and also non-government organisations.

Terms of Reference

The ISLR Reference Group will:

1. Provide high-level knowledge-based and impartial advice and perspectives to:
 - Matters relating to information sharing between agencies and non-government organisations
 - Matters relating to legislative reform related directly and indirectly to child protection
 - Developing appropriate agency based working guidelines for information sharing for frontline practitioners
 - Where relevant, developing appropriate agency based working guidelines and practice models for other child protection legislative reform
 - Developing capacity within agencies and organisations to be compliant with information sharing protocols
 - Developing capacity within agencies and organisations to be compliant with other child protection legislative reform.

Membership

Representation from the following agencies/organisations in no order:

Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory (AMSANT)

NT Law Society

Northern Territory Council of Social Service (NTCOSS)

Office of the Information Commissioner

Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions

Northern Territory Police Fire and Emergency Services

Departments of:

- Chief Minister
- Justice
- Education and Training
- Health
- Children and Families
- Housing, Local Government and Regional Services

Governance & Operating Principles

The ISLR Reference Group, working with the Department of Children and Families will:

- Stimulate membership interest, debate and involvement
- Promote a partnership approach to responding to issues that arise
- Remain informed about the research, risks, opportunities and contemporary responses to the development of information sharing and legislative reform relating to child protection
- Provide advice and recommendation based on expertise and good practice
- Provide evidence, where appropriate, to support ideas
- Ensure that membership of the ISLR Reference Group is committed to the best interest of the safety and wellbeing of children of the Territory.

Each member will ensure representation of his/her agency/organisation at ISLR Reference Group meetings.

Department of Children and Families (DCF) will additionally:

- Meet with the membership as required
- Advise the membership of proposed legislative reform projects conducted by the legislative reform team
- Seek feedback, consultation, comments and expertise from the ISLR reference group with respect to legislative reform and information sharing
- Where ever possible engage with ISLR early in the legislative development process

All correspondence to the Reference Group can be emailed to:

The Legislative Reform Team
Strategic Reform & Accountability Team (SRAT)
c/o Department of Children and Families

salli.cohen@nt.gov.au – Director, Governance and Central Coordination
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