



The Royal Australasian
College of Physicians



From the President

15 December 2010

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Senate Inquiry into the establishment of a National Commissioner for Children

We are writing on behalf of The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) and its Paediatrics & Child Health Division in relation to the Senate Inquiry into the establishment of a National Commissioner for Children.

A core objective of the Division, and its members, is to provide effective advocacy for children and young people. This is done by promoting the highest standards of service provision for children and young people in various medical and related institutions; influencing public policy at local, state and national levels in both Australia and New Zealand and improving community understanding of the holistic needs of children and young people.

The College has championed the cause for a National Commissioner for Children and Young People to advocate for the rights and needs of children and young people, and to assess the impacts of national public policy on children and young people at a federal level. It is appreciated that children and young people have distinctive needs that change at different stages of age, development and growth and these needs (physical, emotional, health and wellbeing, care, safety, education, etc) all require significantly different policy responses from those of adults.

The College, through its Paediatrics & Child Health Division, would welcome the opportunity to further engage at a Federal Government level, in support of the establishment of a National Commissioner for Children and Young People. We look forward to future discussions and developments.

Yours sincerely

Professor John Kolbe
President, RACP

Dr Gervase Chaney
President
Paediatrics & Child Health Division