



5 June 2012

Committee Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

**Re – Families Australia Submission on National Children’s Commissioner**

The Victorian Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (VACRO) is a non-government, non-denominational organisation established in 1872. Our mission is to work across the criminal justice system to create a safe and fair environment, to respect and support individual and family dignity, and to make a positive contribution to reducing the harm done by crime.

We achieve this, as leaders and in partnership, through the development and delivery of programs that empower people adversely affected by the criminal justice system, supported by research, education, and advocacy.

VACRO has a specific interest in the impact on children who have a parent involved in the criminal justice system as evidenced by our 2011 report; *Next Generation on the Outside: Better outcomes for vulnerable families in contact with Australian criminal justice systems*.

VACRO has a strong collaborative relationship with Families Australia and keenly supports their submission regarding a National Children’s Commissioner (NCC).

We envisage that the NCC could play a vital role in recognising the profound adverse effects that can occur in the life chances of this group of children and in liaising with relevant organisations to develop recommendations for appropriate Commonwealth responses.

VACRO would welcome the implementation of such a role and the opportunities to work collaboratively in this area.

Yours sincerely

Carol Nikakis  
CEO

**VACRO**  
First Floor, 116 Hardware Street, Melbourne 3000  
POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. Box 14093, MELBOURNE, VICTORIA 8001  
Telephone: 9605 1900 Facsimile: 9602 2355  
Email: [info@vacro.org.au](mailto:info@vacro.org.au)