

Principal Child Protection Practitioner

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A Principal Child Protection Practitioner is an experienced practitioner employed by the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services and based at each Family and Child Connect.

The Principal Child Protection Practitioner works collaboratively with local government and non-government service providers to support the earlier and more effective intervention with children and families who have been referred for help. The Principal Child Protection Practitioner provides consultancy and advice on child protection matters, as well as education on statutory child protection processes and responsibilities.

Responsibilities

The Principal Child Protection Practitioner is responsible for:

- providing a case consultation service to the Family and Child Connect on complex cases and ensuring cases that may require statutory intervention are referred to Child Safety when necessary
- providing professional child protection advice and guidance in accordance with Child Safety policies and procedures, statutory responsibilities, Child Safety objectives and current trends
- building the child protection expertise of the Family and Child Connect and other government and non-government organisations through training and professional development initiatives
- supporting the implementation of the Child Protection Guide by providing training and education to schools, police and health professionals

- performing a cross-sector coordination role to enhance collaboration between Child Safety and other government and non-government service providers
- establishing and maintaining effective working relationships, and actively participating in meetings with Family and Child Connect and other government and non-government service providers, as a representative of Child Safety.

Family and Child Connect locations

A Principal Child Protection Practitioner will be located in each of the 20 Family and Child Connect services to be established across Queensland.

In January 2015, the first seven were opened in Townsville, Sunshine Coast (including Gympie), Toowoomba, Roma (satellite service), Beenleigh/Bayside, Logan and the Gold Coast.

Locations scheduled for July 2015 are Browns Plains/Beaudesert, Maryborough/Bundaberg, Rockhampton/Gladstone/Emerald, Kingaroy, Moreton Bay and Ipswich.

Locations scheduled for 2016 are Mackay, Mt Isa/Gulf, Brisbane North, Brisbane South, Brisbane South-West, Cairns, and Cape York/Torres Strait.

Further information

For more information on the role of the Principal Child Protection Practitioner, contact the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services on **3225 8740** or go to **www.qld.gov.au/strongerfamilies**