


Your Ref:

Our Ref: Children's Law Committee: 21000337/89

4 May 2012

The Hon. Tracy Davis MP
Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services
Department of Communities
GPO Box 806
BRISBANE QLD 4001

By email: 

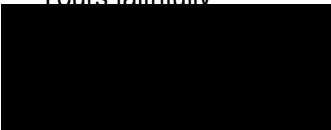
Dear Minister

**CHILD PROTECTION LEGISLATION INQUIRY - QUEENSLAND LAW SOCIETY EXCLUSION FROM
APRIL 2012 STAKEHOLDER MEETING**

We refer to your media release dated 27 April 2012 and entitled, 'Planning underway for child safety Inquiry'. In this media release you note that a group of 18 stakeholders was convened to discuss the "priorities" and "core issues" of the inquiry. We understand from discussions with your Department that you personally compiled the list of stakeholders for this roundtable, which included; the Queensland University of Technology's School of Human Services, CREATE Foundation, Foster Care Queensland, PeakCare, Uniting Care, Queensland Council of Social Services, Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland, Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak, ACT for Kids, Braveharts, Centacare Catholic Family and Community Services, Life Without Barriers, Mercy Family Services, Mission Australia, Family Planning Queensland, and the Child Protection Practitioners Association of Queensland.

The Society writes to express our disappointment at not being included in this preliminary roundtable. As you will recall, we wrote to you on 11 April 2012 (a copy of the letter is **enclosed** for your reference) to commend your commitment to child protection in Queensland and to propose terms of reference to the proposed inquiry, for your consideration. The Society values the opportunity to engage at the earliest stages of the policy reform process. The Society's Children's Law Committee (comprised of leading children's law practitioners who are acknowledged as experts by the profession) has significant experience in this jurisdiction and as such, there are likely to be considerable benefits to be derived from our involvement in your discussions.

Yours faithfully


Dr John de Groot
President