



Queensland  
Government

Queensland  
**Family & Child**  
Commission

Telephone: 07 3900 6000  
Reference: APSD – F16/399 – D17/8905

Ms Megan Mitchell  
National Children's Commissioner  
Australian Human Rights Commission  
GPO Box 5218  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Ms Mitchell,

Thank you for your letter dated 28 March 2017 regarding your invitation to participate in a roundtable and make a written submission on young parents and their children. Ms Sue Gleed, A/ Assistant Commissioner, Advocacy, Policy and Sector Development would be happy to attend the roundtable in Brisbane on 12 June 2017.

Through research conducted for the Queensland Family and Child Commission's *Talking Families* community education campaign, we know 93 per cent of people who have used a parenting support service feel it made a positive difference for them. However, only 17 per cent of parents have taken up this professional support.

Furthermore, 72 per cent of parents worry others will see them unfavourably when they struggle with parenting, and 76 per cent avoid telling others outside their immediate family about their concerns. Female and young parents are more likely to worry about how others view them.

A range of parenting support programs are available across Queensland, run by Queensland Health and the community sector. However, the stigma attached to help-seeking behaviour may be preventing young parents from accessing the services they need.

To support young parents to seek help where required, we need to combat this stigma, and educate our community on the services available to them.

If you or your officers have any queries in relation to this matter they may contact Sue Gleed, A/ Assistant Commissioner, Advocacy, Policy and Sector Development, on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

Cheryl Vardon  
Principal Commissioner  
Queensland Family and Child Commission

29 MAY 2017

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