



**Personal Submission to
the Senate Inquiry into
Children in Out of Home
Care 2014.**

Jonelle Clifford - Response ID 1661

Do you want this Submission to the Senate Inquiry to be "In Confidence"?

No

Please select the role which best suits you, in relation to your statutory child protection dealings

Mother

Your first name

Jonelle

Your surname

Clifford

Your mobile phone number

[REDACTED]

Email address

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Address

[REDACTED]

Suburb

[REDACTED]

Postcode

[REDACTED]

State

[REDACTED]

Country

Australia

Are you a former "Child in Care"?

No

Do you have a disability?

No

Parents nationality

Australian

Nationality of children removed

Australian

Details of children in out of home care

Child 1[Name of child] [REDACTED]

Child 1[Date of birth] [REDACTED]

Child 1[Age removed] 6

Child 2[Name of child] [REDACTED]

Child 2[Date of birth] [REDACTED]

Child 2[Age removed] 4

Child 3[Name of child] [REDACTED]

Child 3[Date of birth] [REDACTED]

Child 3[Age removed] 1

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Please click any statements that relate to your dealings with child protection :

- I have been separated from my children through the means of false claims by child protection workers. Yes
- I have been improperly treated and generally abused by child protection workers. Yes
- I am stating that my case is a matter of public interest. Yes
- I can prove child protection workers have acted negligently giving rise to civil claim. Yes
- I state that child protection workers have acted in a manner that poses a serious threat to public mental health. Yes
- I state there has been a serious miscarriage of justice. Yes
- I state child protection workers have continued in blatant dishonest reporting. Yes
- I state child protection workers have fabricated evidence. Yes
- I state that child protection workers have shown Yes

extreme bias.

- I state there has been abuse of power by child protection workers. Yes
- I state there has been a cover up of the departments approved placement.
- I state that child protection workers have perverted the course of justice. Yes
- I state child protection workers have covered abuse by a carer.
- I state the department have failed in their duty of care to the children. Yes
- I state there has been alienation of the child from the maternal / paternal family members. Yes
- I state there is a failure to notify parents of hospitalisation of child / children by child protection workers.
- I state that I am requesting an independent and thorough audit of the case I am providing details about. Yes
- Other Independent mental assessments required.

Community interaction with caseworker's

What state / territory removed the child / children? Western Australia

Office location of the department concerned



- Did caseworker's investigate the case thoroughly prior to removing the child / children? No

Please explain how they failed to investigate the case properly prior to removing the child / children :

They did not check to see if any of the allegations were true before they took the child / children into care. Nor did they offer any intervention or support prior to removing the child / children.

- Did caseworker's investigate the case thoroughly after the removing the child / children into out of home care? No

Please explain how they failed to investigate the case properly after the child / children had been removed :

No contact with Father or family.

- Did caseworker's work with you for a better outcome for you and your family? No
- Did caseworker's work against you? Yes
- Did they provide any support services to prevent the child / children being taken into care? No
- Did child protection caseworker's keep you informed about what was happening with your children? No

Could you please explain what you mean by they didn't keep you informed about your children while they were/are in out of home care.

- I was told nothing about my daughters placements, they were separated. I was not assured, I was avoided and my care plan input was never noted Such as allergies, religion, nutrition, sports, swimming.

Did they listen to you and respond to your concerns? No

What concerns did they ignore or not respond to you about?

My youngest daughter is alone and no one listens.

- Did caseworker's provide the opportunity to have the child / children returned? No
- When child protection turned up and removed the child, was this the first time you were aware they were going to do this? Yes
- Do you believe that caseworker's broke any laws? Yes

Which laws do you believe caseworker's broke?

- Children and Young Persons Act - False or misleading statements. Yes
- Civil Liability Act - Tort and Trespass. Yes
- Crimes Act - Blackmail offence. Yes
- Crimes Act - Fraud. Yes
- Crimes Act - Perverting the course of justice. Yes
- Crimes Act - Offence of perjury. Yes
- Crimes Act - Providing false instruments by public official (Public authority giving false information to another public authority). Yes

- Misconduct under a Public Sector Employment and Management Act. Yes
- Dishonesty. Yes
- Recklessness. Yes
- Other Threats to lose contact,

Use this section to explain exactly what was done or not done that constituted criminal offences by the child protection workers.

Providing false witness, not allowing access to my file, misleading information, child interviews conducted without my knowledge, false accusations to encourage police investigation, false accusations that I'm abusive,

Consider the personal circumstances of your case and describe how you believe your experience of forced removal could have been better managed.

1 hour and 10 minutes only time used to investigate options, a motel was offered and then not followed up, my father was driving from Bussellton to be my safety plan, ex policeman.

- Have caseworker's persecuted or threatened you, or cut contact with removed children because you have expressed opinions that are contrary to their beliefs? Yes

What have caseworker's done when you have exercised your fundamental right because you expressed opinions contrary to their belief?

- Caseworker's have submitted affidavits to the court over expressing opinions contrary to theirs Yes

Do any of the below statements reflect the ways you were treated by child protection workers?

- They lied in affidavits. Yes
- They lied in reports. Yes
- They only provided what information suited them to court report writers (IE Family Relationships Australia). Yes
- They caused reports to be inaccurate due to only providing information that suited their agenda. Yes
- Ignored abuse concerns because it did not suit their agenda.
- Vindictiveness. Yes
- Sarcasm. Yes
- Belittling parents. Yes
- Putting their own best interests first before those of your child/children/family. Yes

- Did they tolerate aspects of your life that were different to theirs? (eg. race, poverty, education level) No
- Continues to make judgements about you. Yes
- Displaying an inability or lack of willingness to accept the positive changes parents may have made. Yes
- Expect parents to work “with” them BUT they won’t work “with” parents. Yes
- Refusal to provide a change of child protection workers when personalities clash. Yes
- Discriminating against parents with mental illness. No
- Using “the best interests of the child” to justify whatever they do even when clearly it’s not. Yes
- Inflexible working hours – evenings and weekends would enable them to work “with” parents and their work commitments. Yes
- Where there has been no harm, you are treated in the same disrespectful ways as those who have actually harmed their children. Yes
- The child protection workers assumed you were a bad parent though you had done nothing wrong. Yes
- The child protection workers chose not to accept the positive statements of family members even though they were true. Yes
- The child protection workers chose to accept false statements of family members even though they were NOT true. No

Caseworker’s interaction with the child / children

- Did caseworker’s interview the child / children on their own? Yes
- Were there two caseworker’s interviewing the child / children? Yes
- Were copies of the interview of the child / children made available to you? No
- Was the child / children asked if they would like to have a support person present with them at the time of interview No

Questions regarding interviewing of parents by caseworker’s

- Was the parent / parents interviewed without a support person being present? No
- Did you request a support person?
- Was your request to have a support person denied?
- Were there two caseworker’s present at the interview? Yes
- Did the caseworker’s rely on any disclosure (allegedly) made by the child after the interview with the two caseworker’s? Yes
- Did you want to record interviews? Yes
- Did you ask if you could record interviews? Yes

- Were you allowed to record interviews? No
- If the interview was recorded would that have helped you evidence lies told or written by the caseworker's in court? Yes
- Do you believe that recording all contact caseworker's have with families would make the system fair and more honest? Yes
- Do you believe that caseworker's are getting away with misconduct and other criminal activities because there is no way of proving what has been communicated by the caseworker? Yes

Some parents are told that if they separate or divorce, they would have a better chance of getting the child / children returned.

- Were the parents accused of having domestic violence issues? Yes
- Were the allegations false? No
- Were you or the parents told that separation or divorce would provide a better chance of having the child / children returned by the caseworker? Yes
- Were you or the parents told that separation or divorce would provide a better chance of having the child / children returned by their lawyer? Yes
- Did the parents separate or divorce? No
- Was there any change in circumstances for abiding by the requests of the caseworker regarding the separation or divorce? No
- Was the child / children returned because of the divorce / separation? No
- Was one of the parents told to take out a restraining or domestic violence order to better their chances of having the child / children returned? Yes
- Did a parent take out a restraining or domestic violence order because they were asked to? Yes
- Was the child / children returned because of the restraining or domestic violence order? No
- Was there any change in circumstances for abiding by the requests of the caseworker regarding the restraining or domestic violence order? Yes
- Was the child / children returned to the perpetrator of domestic violence or abuser or known paedophile? No

How would you describe the conduct of the child protection caseworker in the courts?

- Did they lie under oath?
- Was the caseworker's evidence based on fact? No
- Was the caseworker's evidence based on hearsay? Yes
- Was the caseworker prepared to proceed on the day? No

- Did the caseworker or their legal representative request adjournments? Yes
- Did the caseworker omit facts relevant to the case that would have painted you or the parents in a more positive light? Yes
- Did the caseworker bring any new information into court when being questioned that was not in previous affidavits or spoken about? Yes
- Were reports received in timeframes ordered by the court? Yes
- Did the court material contain uncorroborated stories about you? Yes
- Did the court material have an objective approach? No
- Did the court material have a subjective approach aimed at demeaning and belittling you? Yes
- Was the caseworker dressed appropriately for such court proceedings? No
- Did they hug each other when they won their case against you and your family? Yes
- Did they hi-five each other when they won their case? Yes
- Did they hug the other party whom they wanted the child to live with when they won their case?
- Did the caseworker seem smug and pleased with them self after the court case? Yes
- Did they tell you the truth or write truthful Affidavits? No

Please explain how the caseworker's did not tell the truth in affidavits, or were not truthful.

No mention of my father coming or the motel, lies about court documents, brushing over the fact that there were many viable options other than forced removal

Family impact statement

- Was the child removed without consent? Yes
- Was the child adopted? No

Has there been talk of adopting the child / children?

- Has there been talk of adopting the child? No

What were the reasons for the removal of the child/children?

- Domestic violence Yes
- Were the allegations false? No

Were you charged with child abuse?

- Were you charged with child abuse? No
- Were you charged with neglecting the child / children? No
- Were you charged with child abandonment? No
- Were you convicted of child abuse? No
- Were you convicted of neglecting the child / children? No
- Were you convicted of child abandonment? No
- Were you convicted of anything at all relating to the removal of the child / children? No

Did the caseworker's continue to raise the bar on you?

- Were you ever given a single list of things you needed to do / not do in order to have the child / children returned? Yes
- Did the caseworker's continually add to the list of requirements for you to do in order to have the child / children returned? Yes
- Were you able to complete the list of requirements set by the caseworker? Yes
- Was this because the list was never ending?
- Did completing the caseworker's requirements of you enable the child / children to be returned? No
- If the department did not provide you with any information about what you need to do to get your children back, did you do courses yourself to improve your parenting skills? Yes
- Were you consulted about your child's Care Plan? No
- Did you receive Affidavits and care plans in enough time to respond to the court? No
- Was your case continually adjourned by the department because they were not ready to proceed? Yes
- Did your solicitor or ICL object to the departments request for more time? No
- Did the court grant adjournments to the department on the basis that they were very busy? Yes
- Was that in your child's best interest? No
- Did the department argue that because your child had been in care for a year or more that it was not in the child's best interest to be returned to you because it would unsettle their placement? No

Access to support services :

- Did the department require you to complete any courses? No
- Did they improve your parenting skills?
- Did you have an opportunity to put your new skills into practice with your child at home? No
- Did the department assist you to do what they required of you? No
- Did they encourage and support you to do what was required of you? No
- Were the parents prevented from having any support persons at any meetings / conferences or court proceedings related to the removal of the child / children? No

What has been the impact on you since the child was taken away and placed into foster care?

- Lack of Trust Yes
- Excessive crying Yes
- Sadness Yes
- Withdrawal Yes
- Depression Yes
- Failure to attach Yes
- Has there been short or long-term emotional impacts because of the care proceedings and forced removal that you have experienced? Yes

What has been the short or long-term emotional impacts of the care proceedings and forced removal you have experienced?

- Grief Yes
- Loss Yes
- Pain Yes
- Anger Yes
- Fear Yes
- Frustration Yes
- Depression Yes
- Anxiety Yes
- Stress Yes
- Difficulties sleeping Yes
- Difficulties eating

- Difficulties working Yes
- Post-Traumatic Stress
- Loss of enjoyment of life Yes
- Little interest in anything Yes
- Feels like life revolves around courts and caseworker's Yes
- Feelings of mental and psychological torture by caseworker's Yes
- Feelings of injustice Yes
- Feelings of inadequacy for being unable to protect your children Yes
- Sometimes don't want to get out of bed
- General suffering Yes
- Were you offered professional help such as grief counselling to deal with your loss? No
- Has there been a negative physical impact on you caused by the forced removal of the child? No
- Has there been a negative financial impact on your family due to care and protection proceedings? Yes

Financial short and long term impact of the care proceedings and forced removal:

Travelling 4 hours each week for 1.5 hours contact.

- Did you have a partner at the time of the removal? Yes
- Has the loss of your child or children had an effect on your relationship with your partner? Yes

How would you describe the effect that child protection intervention has had on the relationship between you and your partner (at the time of removal)?

- Short-term effect of the removal of the child / children Negative impact
- Overall long-term effect of the removal and continued court proceedings Negative impact
- Effect upon the communication between the couple Positive impact
- Effect upon personal ability and inner-strength Positive impact
- If you would like to write more here, please do so
- Has there been a negative impact on the relationship with your extended family and friends, caused by child protection's removal and court proceedings? Yes
- Have you had to move home or town because of child protection involvement? Yes
- Did child protection force you to move? No
- Please explain why you had to move home or relocate to Travel

another town, and how this is related to your child being in out of home care.

What would have been a better solution in your case then forced removal?

Intensive supervision order, wan slew, counselling

Is there anything else you would like to say concerning the removal?

Personal opinions and mental incapacity should not impact our family's future.

More information about the long term impact of the care proceedings and forced removal:

The youngest sibling [REDACTED] 18 months old is separated from the other two. She is showing trauma signs.

- How many placements has the child / children had? 1
- How many caseworker's has the child / children had? 2
- How often does the caseworker see the child / client? ?
- Does the child / children know who their caseworker is? Yes

How much contact is there between the siblings (brothers and sisters)?

- Not at all Yes

Contact with Children in Out of Home Care

General questions about the removal of the child / children :

- Was your child / children placed in care in the state you resided in? Yes
- Have you been allowed to have phone contact with the child / children in care? No
- Have you been allowed to have SKYPE contact with the child / children in care? No
- Did you lose your income after the child was removed? Yes
- Did the department seek orders till the child was 18 years from the time they were removed? No
- Did you have problems trying to find a good solicitor that was prepared to fight for you in the Care Court? Yes
- Was your Legal Aid cut off during court procedures? No

- Did your solicitor advise you to agree to establishment? Yes
- Did your solicitor advise you to agree to what the department wanted? Yes
- Do you understand the system? No
- Have caseworker's undermined you to your children in care? Yes
- Have the children been divided into different placements? Yes
- Have your children been managed by an NGO (non-government organisation eg CatholicCare / Barnardo's etc)? No
- Has that NGO been helpful?
- Has your child in care received appropriate medical treatment while in care? Yes
- Has your child had to change schools while in care? Yes

Does the child / children ever ask to come home?

- Yes Yes
- All the time Yes
- Asks why they cannot come home Yes

What has happened if the child has asked to come home, or kicked and screamed or tried to stay with you at the end of contact?

- The worker empathises with the child and helps him / her to deal with his / her emotions Yes
- The worker continues to make notes in her book that will eventually be used against the parents in some form or another. Yes
- Do you currently have contact with the child / children in out of home care? Yes

How much contact are you having with the child / children currently in out of home care??

- Other Weekly
- An hour and a half contact Yes
- Is this child / children part of a sibling group? Yes
- Are the siblings split up into different placements? Yes

How much contact do the siblings have with each other?

- Not at all Yes

What has been the impact on the child / children since they were placed into foster care?

- Lack of Trust Yes
- Sadness Yes
- Withdrawal Yes
- Failure to attach Yes
- In your opinion has there been an emotional impact on the child Yes / children as a result of being placed in foster care?

In your opinion, what has been the short or long-term emotional impacts on the removed children because of the care proceedings and forced removal?

- Wetting the bed Yes
- Lower school grades Yes
- Loss of enjoyment of life Yes
- General suffering Yes
- Other Confusion, no sport, demonising, religion,
- Have you ever written to the child in out of home care, or sent letters or money or gifts? Yes
- Were there ever any hassles with giving the gifts, cards, money or similar to the child? No

Other information pertinent to the child receiving gifts sent to them by family members :

- Did you ask for a receipt? No
- Did the caseworker give you a receipt for any gifts you provided? No
- Were you allowed to give the child / children the gifts / cards / letters? Yes
- Did the child actually receive the gifts / cards / letters? Yes
- Were you told that the money for the child will be put into a trust account for them until they are eighteen? No

How much contact does the child / children have with extended family now they are in out-of-home care?

- Not at all Yes

Have you been told any of the below rules, or similar, by child protection caseworker's?

- You cannot talk to the child about the past. Yes
- You cannot talk to the child about the case or why they were removed. Yes
- You are not allowed to change a child without someone being present. Yes
- You must leave toilet door open. Yes
- You are not allowed to whisper anything to your child. Yes
- You must talk loud enough for the supervisor to hear. Yes
- You are not allowed to tell child the truth about questions they ask. Yes
- Any additional children or relatives visiting the child / children must be approved by the caseworker first. Yes
- You cannot hold a Birthday party for your child as their friends and extended family cannot attend the contact. Yes
- You are not allowed to ask about their placement. Yes
- Where there any other rules you were told by the caseworker or contact supervisor? They can go camping without my consent.
- What happened to your contact if any rules were broken? Threatened
- Has contact been cancelled for breaking the rules? No
- What where other reasons given for cancelling contact? I was accused of being abusive.

Other family contact for special occasions

- Have you been allowed contact on special days such as the Child's Birthday, Mother's Day, Fathers Day, your Birthday and Christmas Day? No

Describe your experience of direct or indirect contact with your child or children following the care proceedings and forced removal

Awful, the contact supervisor gets to enable my daughters and minimalist my parenting skills but has no children or relevant qualifications. [REDACTED] is getting sadder and disassociating.

Foster carers

About the relationship between yourself and the foster carer/s :

- Have foster carers made the children call them Mum and Dad? Yes
- Have the caseworker's made the children call the foster carers Mum and Dad? Yes
- Have foster carers helped to preserve your relationship with the child / children in care? No
- Did the foster carers oppose restoration because they wanted to keep your child / children? Uncertain
- Did the foster carers oppose restoration because they had formed a bond with the child / children? Uncertain
- Have foster carers undermined you to your children? Yes

Is there anything else you would like to say about the foster carer/s?

Milestones and memories are lost forever, one carer deliberately doing the firsts of things like camping.

Outsourcing children to external organisations

How has contact been facilitated between you and the child / children in out of home care?

- Has the NGO been helpful in organising contact between you and the child / children? No
- Has the NGO ever breached court orders and cut the amount of contact between you and the child? No
- Has the NGO ever cut contact time prior to court orders being changed? No
- Has the NGO always made sure that both parties are aware? Yes

there is contact schedule?

- Has the NGO ever made you miss contact because they failed to tell you about changes of times? Yes
- If so, did this upset the child / children? Uncertain
- Has the NGO ever made up contact time because of cancelling a previous contact? No
- Does the NGO provide contact schedules that may work around your employment or study schedule? No
- Has the NGO ever changed contact time to accommodate your employment or study schedule? No
- Has the NGO been flexible with facilitating contact in general between you and the child / children? No
- Has the NGO allowed weekend contact to enable you to work around your job / other commitments? No
- Has contact been cancelled by the NGO or contact worker for breaking the rules? No
- Have NGO's focused on adoption of the child / children in care shortly after taking over their case management? No
- Are the children divided into different NGO's? No

Injuries, abuse and neglect of children in out of home care

- Has the child / children been prescribed psychotropic medications since being removed? No
- Has there been any injuries, abuse or neglect to the child / children in out of home care? No

Complaints about case management of children in out of home care

- If you believe that your caseworker's acted incorrectly, or corruptly, or even biased toward you, or did not follow their guidelines, or policy or procedure, did you report it to anybody? Yes
- Have they been held accountable for any misconduct, corruption, maladministration or bias? No

Who did you report the misconduct, corruption, maladministration or bias etc to:

- DoCS (Child Protection) Complaints line in your state Yes
- State Ombudsman Yes
- Other Yes

What was the outcome of the report you made to the Complaints Line for Child Protection / Families?

- The misconduct / corruption was ignored and I received a short letter stating there was no misconduct Yes
- I never received a response Yes

Community interaction with magistrates, courts and legal representatives & the cost of such services

- Were you ever denied legal aid during the court proceedings? No
- Did you have legal aid or private legal representation? I part self-represented and had part legal aid representation
- Did you win or lose the case? Other
- Other Still current case
- Did you have to chose your Legal Aid representative from a limited list? No
- Were you given adequate preparation time for each of the hearings that related to the child / children in out of home care? No
- Please explain how you were not given adequate time to prepare for child protection proceedings? Caseworker would send documents at the very end of given time
- Do you believe the courts helped or hindered your case? The courts helped my case
- Do you believe the magistrate read your affidavits and listened to you? Yes
- Did your solicitor explain your legal situation clearly? No
- Did your solicitor provide the correct legal advice? No
- Do you feel your solicitor spent enough time with you and working on your case? No
- Did you feel your solicitor really tried hard to win your case? No

In a previous question you answered that caseworker's lied under oath during court proceedings (committed perjury) ... When this matter was evidenced in court, what did the magistrate do?

- The magistrate did nothing. Yes

Audio and visual equipment in the courtroom

- Were you able to hear what was being said in the courtroom at all times? Yes
- Could you hear what was being discussed between the parties solicitors at all times? Yes
- Were you able to clearly hear what the magistrate was saying at all times? Yes
- Was the audio and video equipment working well at all times? Uncertain

Independent Children's Lawyer / Children's Legal Representative

Questions about the independent children's lawyer

- Did the ICL healthily promoted the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child? Yes
- Are you aware that the ICL must tell the court the child's wishes? No
- Did the ICL provide the child with the age appropriate Children's Charter of Rights? No
- Was the ICL available at times to discuss matters with the child? No
- Did the Child try to dismiss the ICL for lack of willingness to abide by Representation Principles for Children's Lawyers? No
- Are you aware that a child has a legal right to dismiss his / her lawyer, if they are not happy with the representation they are receiving from that legal representative? No

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

- Have you been subjected to torture or to cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment or punishment? Yes

Could you provide more details about your torture or cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment please.

I am not given any impact in my daughters lives, I applied to take them to the royal show, I was denied because of contact supervisor availability but at next contact they came in with the show bags.

- Have you been held in slavery, and (or) the slave-trade in any of their forms? No
- Have you been denied your right to hold an opinion/s without interference? Yes

Please provide more information on the violation of your right to hold opinions without interference

My statements are not taken, show emotion and you are unstable.

- Have you had your right to freedom of expression violated? Yes

Please provide more information on how your right to freedom of expression has been violated?

Asking question directly related to my children's safety I have been threatened with loss of contact.

- Has your family been denied protection by society and the state? No
- All persons are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection of the law. Do you believe you have been discriminated against with respect to this statement? No

International Covenant of the Rights of the Child

- Article 7.1 states "The child shall be registered at birth and shall have the right to know and be cared for by his parents". Do you believe this right has been violated? Yes

Please provide more information about how your child's right to know you and be cared for by you is being violated.

There were several better options available.

- Article 8.1 of the International Covenant of Child's Rights states "State Parties undertake to respect the right of the child to Yes
"State Parties undertake to respect the right of the child to

preserve his or her identity, including nationality, name and family relations as recognised by law without unlawful interference". Do you believe this right has been violated?

Please provide more information about how the state party has disrespected the right of your child/ren to preserve his or her identity, including nationality, name and family relations as recognised by law without unlawful interference.

Calling carer mum, putting mummy's religious beliefs down, introducing things we don't do.

- Article 9.1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child states "State Parties shall ensure that a child shall not be separated from his or her parents against their will". Was your child's right violated? Yes

Please explain how State Parties separated your child/ren from you against their will

My girls were taken against their will.

- CROC Article 9.3 states "State Parties shall respect the right of the child who is separated from one or both parents to maintain personal relations and direct contact with both parents on a regular basis". Is/has this right of your child/ren been violated by State Parties? Yes

Please provide more information on how the state has denied your child/ren the right to maintain personal relations and direct contact with both parents on a regular basis

Jamie has not seen his children for 5 months the department has falsified allegations to police.

- Has the state taken appropriate measures to protect your child from all forms of abuse, violence, negligence, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse? No
- Was your child removed because you were homeless, or at risk of homelessness? No

Article 29 of the CROC refers to where the education of the child should be directed to the below mentioned areas. Do you believe that the state obliged to educate the child / children in these?

- The development of the child's personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential. No
- The development of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. No
- The principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. No
- The development of respect for the child's parents. No

- His or her own cultural identity. No
- Language and values. No

Summary

What were your thoughts on child protection services before you had the opportunity to see them work first hand?

- They do a great job in difficult circumstances. Yes
- If child protection got involved then the parents must have done something wrong. Yes
- They would never remove a child without investigating the family properly first. Yes
- Child protection workers are over worked and underpaid. Uncertain
- The department needs more funding so they can help more families No
- They don't get enough gratitude for the job they do. No

What were your thoughts on child protection services before you had the opportunity to see them work first hand?

- Did you initially seek assistance from child protection? Yes
- Would you ever ring child protection again for assistance? No
- Do you tell domestic violence victims to seek assistance from child protection? No
- Would you ever ring the police again to ask for assistance if in a domestic violence situation? Yes
- Would you ever trust healthcare professionals with information that may be used against you by child protection workers? Yes
- Would you ever seek help from any government authority again after having the department involved in your life previously? Yes

What is the best thing/s about the current child protection system?

Nothing.

What is the worst thing about the current child protection system?

Everything.

What changes would you make to the child protection system if you could?

Everything Govt dept must be evidence based.

- Would you like to have your case reviewed? Yes
- Do you see any point in asking to have your case reviewed by another government department? Yes
- Would you like to have your case file audited for compliance with state child protection laws, and policies and procedures by a professional organisation that is experienced with current child protection issues, that is independent of the department? Yes

Is there anything else you would like to say about the current child protection system?

The damage being done now is visibly greater and longer term than any damage we caused.