

1 June 2012

File No: OV/10/612

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Via email: legcon.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Secretary

Thank you for your email of 24 May 2012 inviting the Ombudsman to provide a submission to the *Inquiry into the Australian Human Rights Commission Amendment (National Children's Commissioner) Bill 2012* (the Bill). The Ombudsman has asked me to reply on his behalf.

On 25 November 2010 the Ombudsman wrote to the Committee Secretary in relation to the *Inquiry into the Commonwealth Commissioner for Children and Young People Bill 2010*. The Ombudsman has asked me to draw your attention to this correspondence, a copy of which I have attached, due to its relevance to the current Inquiry.

The Ombudsman's previous correspondence highlighted the following reports which are relevant to the functions proposed for the National Children's Commissioner (the Commissioner):

- *Own motion investigation into the Department of Human Services Child Protection Program* tabled on 25 November 2009
- *Own Motion investigation into Child Protection - out of home care* tabled on 26 May 2010
- *Whistleblowers Protection Act 2001 Investigation into conditions at the Melbourne Youth Justice Precinct* tabled on 4 October 2010

Since that time the Ombudsman has tabled further reports in the Victorian Parliament which are relevant to the Commissioner's proposed functions including:

- *Whistleblowers Protection Act 2001 - Investigation into the failure of agencies to manage registered sex offenders* tabled on 9 February 2011
- *Investigation regarding the Department of Human Services Child Protection program (Loddon Mallee Region)* tabled on 25 October 2011.

The Bill provides that the Commissioner may consult with State and Territory departments and authorities. The above reports demonstrate the

activity being undertaken in this jurisdiction by the Ombudsman that would be of interest to a Commissioner.

I trust that the above information is helpful to the Committee as it undertakes its Inquiry. Copies of the reports referred to above can be downloaded from the Victorian Ombudsman's website - www.ombudsman.vic.gov.au. You are welcome to contact me on [] with any queries you may have.

Yours sincerely

~~Stephen~~ Mumford
Director of Investigations