



Preventing harm to children with disability in Queensland

Report 1: Department of Education

SUMMARY



QUEENSLAND
OMBUDSMAN

How to use this document



The Queensland Ombudsman wrote this document.

When you see the word 'we', it means the Queensland Ombudsman.

EASY READ



We have written this document in an easy to read way.

We use drawings to explain ideas.

Bold word in text
Bold word meaning

We have written some words in **bold**.

We explain what these words mean.



This Easy Read document is a summary of another document.



You can find the other document on [our website](#).



You can ask for help to read this document.

A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

What we did



We **investigated** if schools tell the right people if they think a child with disability is not safe at home or is being treated badly.



We **investigated** if the Department of Education has good rules about what schools should do if they think a child is not safe at home.



Investigated means we asked what happened and why.



We wrote a report about the Department of Education.

This is a summary of the report.

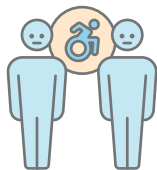
Why we did it



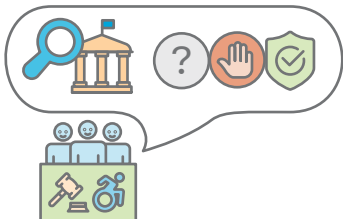
We investigated the Department of Education after a **Royal Commission** looked at how people with disability are treated.

A **Royal Commission** is a special investigation started by the government.

The Royal Commission was called The Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability.



The Royal Commission looked at what happened to 2 children with disability.



The Royal Commission **recommended** the Queensland Government look at services that had contact with the 2 children and their dad to see what:

- works well
- needs to be better.



Recommend means to give ideas to make things better.



The children lived with their dad.

He did not always keep them safe.



At school, the children's teachers thought the children were not always safe at home.

But the school did not always tell the right people.



We investigated the Department of Education because we wanted to know if this could happen to other children.

What we found



The Department of Education has some good rules about what schools should do if they think a child is not safe at home.



Teachers do special training about what to do if they think a child is not safe at home.



We think there could be better rules to make sure schools tell the right people.

What we think should happen



We recommended the
Department of Education:

- have better rules about keeping children safe
- check that schools tell the right people
- talk with the department for child protection to keep children safe.
- tell schools to check if a child has been treated badly at home before
- tell schools to think about the **rights** of children.



Rights are rules that say you can choose how you live your own life.

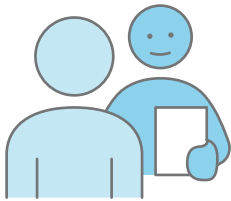
Rights explain how other people must treat you.

What happens next



We cannot make changes at the Department of Education.

But our report is about the things that should change.



We gave our report to the Department of Education.

They will use our report to decide whether to change the rules.

We also gave our report to the Queensland Parliament.



We put the report on our website.



You can ask for a copy of the report.



We will also investigate other government services to ask if they have good rules about what to do if they think a child with disability is not safe at home.

About us



We are the Queensland Ombudsman.

We can investigate complaints about Queensland Government services.



Queensland Government services are:

- Queensland state government departments
- public training organisations
- local councils
- businesses that deliver services for the Queensland Government.



You can read more about us.

Ask for a copy of our *Easy Read Queensland Ombudsman – What we do*.



It is on our website.

[Click here to download](#)

How to contact us



Phone

07 3005 7000



Interpreter

131 450



Speak & Listen

1300 555 727



Website

www.ombudsman.qld.gov.au



Email

ombudsman@ombudsman.qld.gov.au



Mail

GPO Box 3314
Brisbane
Queensland 4001

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land throughout Queensland and their continuing connection to land, culture and community. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

This document is an Easy Read version of the full report, *Preventing harm to children with disability in Queensland – Report 1: Department of Education*. Our website tells you more.

