

ABN: 13 846 673 994

Address: PO Box 13312  
George Street Post Shop  
Brisbane QLD 4003

Phone: (07) 3247 4544

Fax: (07) 3247 9045

Email: [lawreform.commission@justice.qld.gov.au](mailto:lawreform.commission@justice.qld.gov.au)

Website: [www.qlrc.qld.gov.au](http://www qlrc.qld.gov.au)

# Media Statement

9 August 2006

## Community invited to comment on guardianship laws

Queenslanders have been invited to have their say about the role of confidentiality in our state's guardianship laws with a discussion paper launched by the Queensland Law Reform Commission.

The paper was launched by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Linda Lavarch, at the Banco Court on Wednesday 9 August in front of over 100 people.

Chair of the Commission, Justice Roslyn Atkinson said the discussion paper, *Confidentiality in the Guardianship System: Public Justice, Private Lives*, explored the confidentiality provisions of Queensland's guardianship laws.

"The guardianship laws are designed to assist adults with impaired capacity who are unable to make some, or all, of their own decisions, such as people with dementia, an intellectual disability or an acquired brain injury," Justice Atkinson said.

"The Commission wants to know more about how confidentiality is working in practice and so wants to hear the views, ideas and suggestions of the community and in particular, of those people who are directly affected by the guardianship laws."

Justice Atkinson said current laws required certain information within the guardianship system to be kept confidential – a practice which has been the subject of community debate in recent months.

The Commissioner responsible for the Guardianship Review, Dr Ben White, said, "*Public Justice, Private Lives* is the first part of a three-stage review of our guardianship laws announced late last year by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Linda Lavarch."

"This stage of the review will aim to ensure that confidentiality in the guardianship system strikes the right balance between privacy and accountability."

“People can access and provide their feedback to the discussion paper online at [www.qlrc.qld.gov.au/guardianship](http://www.qlrc.qld.gov.au/guardianship), or by calling the Commission’s Guardianship Hotline number (07) 3222 2713.”

The Commission has also developed an interactive CD-ROM about the review. A paper containing a quick guide to the discussion paper issues and pamphlets outlining the key questions about confidentiality are also available.

“These resources are particularly targeted at adults with impaired decision-making capacity, and the families, friends and advocates of these adults,” Dr White said.

Dr White said the discussion paper had been developed with the assistance of a diverse reference group, which included representatives from disability, health, ageing, law and advocacy organisations.

“The Commission will also hold a number of public forums throughout the state to ensure region-specific issues can be raised and addressed through the review,” he said.

The Commission will conduct a comprehensive review of these laws and will present the Attorney-General with its recommendations in March next year.

For further information about the review, please contact Dr Ben White, Queensland Law Reform Commission on (07) 3247 4544.

ENDS