

Child Safety Commission of Inquiry



Ned's story

Disclaimer: This is the story of a person who shared their personal experience with the Commission of Inquiry through a submission or interview. The names in this story are pseudonyms and identifying details have been removed. The person who shared this experience may not have been a witness and their account is not evidence. They did not take an oath or affirmation before providing the story.

Nothing in this story constitutes a finding of fact by the Commission of Inquiry. Instead, these stories have been published to show how people are experiencing the current child safety system in Queensland. Any views expressed are those of the person who shared their experience, not of the Commission of Inquiry.

Content warning: Some material may be distressing. These statements may include references to violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation, suicide, or self-harming behaviours, and may contain strong or confronting language. Some narratives may be about First Nations people who have passed away. Readers are encouraged to engage with this material in a way that supports their wellbeing.

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I became a carer about [REDACTED] years ago and had 2 children, Child A and Child B, placed with me from birth. After some time, the Department then suggested I become a kinship carer to these two children on a Long-Term Guardianship order, which I agreed to.

The eldest child, Child A, self-placed with their biological family. There was no ongoing contact or involvement with Child B, and this caused Child B to feel traumatised.

Once Child B turned [REDACTED], they also decided to self-place with their partner.

Child B was [REDACTED] and was in the process of applying for NDIS support with my help.

While Child B was living with me, they told me that several males had inappropriately touched them. I offered to take Child B into the police station, but they did not want to involve police.

When Child B left, I was open to further placements, but the Department did not support me reapplying to be a general foster carer.

Child B has now made allegations against me and my extended family, which I know to be false. The Department has told me they will seek court orders to revoke guardianship for Child B, because they allege I have failed to report to the Department an allegation of abuse. The Department has also decided that it is unsuitable for me to continue as a guardian after being assessed by a Child Safety Officer.

There is an ongoing process to have guardianship varied from 'Other' to 'Chief Executive.' I also have been made aware that the Department has scrapped the NDIS application I made with Child B, which has been replaced with a much smaller package request which doesn't include psychological support.

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I made a complaint to a Minister's office, which was forwarded to a Complaints unit regarding my belief that the Child Safety Officer's assessment of my conduct was unfair. I have yet to receive any response from either the Department or the Minister's office.

In my view, it seems that no one is answerable to anyone – Senior Team Leaders are left to make their own decisions. Carers need a lot more support and greater communication with the Department.