

Youth Sexual Violence and Abuse Steering Committee

Communique – Meeting 1

The Committee met for the first time today, 7 April 2016, in Brisbane.

It was apparent that all members are going to make a significant contribution to considering this important work.

Members have been drawn from across the State. Their backgrounds are diverse. There is a clear, shared commitment to working to reduce youth sexual violence.

The Committee was pleased to welcome, in person, Professor Stephen Smallbone, Griffith University. The Committee noted the Griffith University report *Preventing Youth Sexual Violence and Abuse in West Cairns and Aurukun: Establishing the scope, dimensions and dynamics of the problem*. The Committee noted that it will consider two matters in particular:

- the effectiveness of the response to youth sexual violence and abuse in Aurukun and West Cairns; and
- the prevalence of youth sexual violence and abuse statewide and the appropriateness of the response.

The Committee agreed that to undertake its work effectively it would need to consider youth sexual violence, as well as the factors that contribute to its existence and continuation.

The Committee was strong in its view of the importance of community participation and buy-in and that change needs to be driven by the community. The Committee will be undertaking further work in this area.

The Committee also discussed the need to engage with and understand the views and experiences of young people. This will be a critical contributor to the Committee's work and recommendations to the Queensland Government.

It also noted the importance of using and enhancing existing governance mechanisms, so as not to duplicate effort and allow those that are doing good work to continue to do so.

The next formal meeting of the Committee will be on 6 June 2016.