

Detectives dedicated to child protection

In cases where children are reported to be at risk of abuse or neglect, government agencies need to act quickly and effectively to protect vulnerable individuals from harm.

However, as in life, individual situations can be extremely complex and the solution often requires input from several different agencies—a situation that may leave gaps for children to fall through.

To ensure vulnerable children do not slip through the gaps, Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect Assessment and Management (SCAN AM) teams have been established throughout Queensland.

Detective Superintendent Peter Crawford, Child Safety and Sexual Crime Group, said the multidisciplinary SCAN AM teams provided an effective means for identifying and managing children at risk.

“The changing needs of our most vulnerable children can rarely be met by one agency or individual in isolation,” Detective Superintendent Crawford said.

“In Queensland, ensuring the physical and emotional protection of the child is a major priority, and the SCAN AM teams can better meet these needs by providing a coordinated response to suspected child abuse and neglect.”

The multi-disciplinary SCAN AM teams are made up of core members from Department of Child Safety (DChS), Queensland Police Service (QPS), Queensland Health (QH), Department of Education, Training and the Arts (DETA) and, where required, a representative from a culturally appropriate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander entity.

Officers from these core agencies work as a team to address the complex needs of individuals who enter the child protection system.

SCAN AM team members are dedicated to their work, and with their enhanced level of professionalism and teamwork, are now able to provide a stronger and more secure safety net to protect vulnerable children at risk of abuse or neglect.

*By Inspector Jo Henderson,
Child Safety and Sexual Crime Group*



Keeping tabs on child sex offenders

Since 2005 the Queensland Police Service has been able to keep closer tabs on child sex offenders in the community with the establishment of the Child Protection Offender Registry (CPOR).

CPOR employs five detectives, three criminal intelligence analysts and five administrative officers to provide specialist investigative and intelligence expertise in the management of reportable offenders. Registry staff work with police regions across the state targeting non-compliant serious sex and repeat offenders.

CPOR also undertakes a significant role nationally, providing the liaison point for other law enforcement and government agencies as well as being the conduit for information across Queensland.

As part of the Queensland Police Service's participation in the Australian National Child Offender Register (ANCOR), CPOR officers sit on a number of national committees, working to enhance the effectiveness of the national register.

CPOR will continue its commitment to ensure the Queensland Police Service adopts national best practice policy and procedures in the statewide management of reportable offenders across Queensland.