



Telephone: (07) 3247 5525  
Reference: 733/0218

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Commission for Children and Young People

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*Rec'd with Funding Guidelines  
for Disability Program  
Dept of Family Services*

9 July 2004

Mrs Maree Welch

REDACTED

*24th May 1999  
Original letter to  
Children's Committee  
Attention A Benedetti*

Dear Mrs Welch

I refer to your letter received at the Commission on 24 May 2004. I also refer to your subsequent letter of 21 June 2004. I regret that I have not been able to respond to you sooner. I understand that you have had telephone contact with Mr Anthony Benedetti of the Commission on 24 June 2004 and also on 7 July 2004.

In relation to your correspondence received at the Commission on 23 January 2004, the Commission then wrote on your behalf to the Director-General, Disability Services Queensland on 5 February 2004. The Commission has now received a written response from the Director-General about your concerns.

I am advised that Disability Services Queensland (DSQ) has been aware of this issue since it was raised by you in late 1998 and that they have had extensive discussions with both you and the agency involved. I understand that you made your complaint about what happened to your daughter in 1995.

I am advised that at the time of the alleged incident, the principal operating procedures specified by Disability Services Queensland were contained within the document – Funding Guidelines for the Disability Program. I have attached a copy of this document for your convenience.

I am also advised that in relation to the current policies and procedures, I can confirm that some very specific policies and procedures are now in place to address issues such as those raised by you. These include –

- Policy and Procedures for Complaints Regarding Funded Services, and
- Preventing and responding to the abuse, assault and neglect of people with a disability.

I understand from Mr Benedetti that you have advised that the Police have interviewed Bobbie three times and that Police are of the view that at this stage there is insufficient information for charging. I also understand that you have requested that Mr Benedetti contact Detective Sergeant Neil Parker about this matter.



Commission for  
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Queensland Government

As you are aware, Mr Benedetti has attempted to contact Detective Sergeant Neil Parker and has left a message for him to return Mr Benedetti's call.

I understand that you would like an interview with staff of the Commission about your concerns. Although staff of the Commission are willing to assist you and meet with you, the Commission is not able to commence criminal or civil proceedings on behalf of your child.

Mr Benedetti advises me that you have also referred your complaint to the Adult Guardian and they have advised you that there is insufficient evidence following their investigation into your concerns.

As requested, Mr Benedetti made contact with Detective Sergeant Neil Parker on 7 July 2004. Mr Benedetti was exploring possible options for your child with the Police. The Police believe that at this stage, without more evidence, that there is nothing further that they can do to assist you.

I acknowledge that this matter has been very distressing for you for many years. Unfortunately at this stage I am not able to assist you further. If any clarification is required, you are welcome to contact Mr Benedetti on telephone free call 1800 688 275.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read 'Barry Salmon', written in a cursive style.

**BARRY SALMON**  
AI Commissioner for Children and Young People