



**Centre for Excellence
in Child and Family Welfare Inc.**

Media release

Friday 29 April 2011 – for immediate release

Child inquiry must trump royals, State Budget

Amid blanket media coverage of the royal wedding and politically charged talk of a tough State Budget set for next Tuesday, today will see the quiet passing of the deadline for public submissions to the Protecting Victoria's Vulnerable Children Inquiry (PVVCI).

Launched in late January by Premier Baillieu, the Inquiry will report to Parliament on 4 November, and carries an urgent weight of expectation that child protection problems that plagued the former Brumby Labor Government will be met not only with strong recommendations, but with the increased investment needed to deliver them.

"We need substantially increased funding so that our responses to risk, abuse and neglect of children and young people are not limited by an under-funded and pressured system," said Dr Lynette Buoy, chief executive of the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare, today.

"While the community, the sector and government share responsibility in protecting vulnerable children and young people, the obligation of each to act must reflect their capacity to do so. This places the greatest responsibility on the State Government to fully support better outcomes for vulnerable children and young people – the only goal that really matters in this Inquiry," Dr Buoy said.

A vulnerable children and families outcome framework is a key focus of the Centre's Inquiry submission, which draws on the views of nearly 100 child and family services that are members of the Victorian peak body.

"The framework must be developed with the sector and clearly measure the effectiveness of resourcing and programs through specific outcomes achieved. It must enable genuine local governance of services, be open to public scrutiny, and reflect the voices and needs of the children, young people and families it is intended to help," Dr Buoy said.

Dr Buoy said the Inquiry must also be careful to progress the unfinished business of previous reviews and reports, some of which are yet to be publicly released. The Centre's full submission will be available early next week at:
<http://www.cwav.asn.au/news/default.aspx>

For interview:
Dr Lynette Buoy
Chief Executive Officer
0407 702 975

Media inquiries:
Darren Lewin-Hill
Media and Communications Coordinator
0404 526 555