



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

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Child protection workers battle system flaws to prevent deaths

The Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare has welcomed the broadening of the scope for the reporting of child deaths from within three months to within 12 months of involvement with statutory child protection services.

It's only by reporting these deaths and increasing transparency that we have any hope of addressing the number of cases of preventable child deaths.

While additional resources continue to be sorely needed - not just for child protection services but early intervention and prevention – the report highlights these aren't the only factors implicated in our failure to protect children.

It's clearly the case that the nature of the system in which we make these investments is also being called into question by the report.

"Many of the report's findings are not surprising, and would certainly not be surprising to the child protection workers at the coalface," Centre CEO Dr Lynette Buoy said.

Along with continuing workload pressures, the report highlights the need to not only capture information, but the critical human role in analysing what is known to ensure the safety of children.

There is no simple technological fix that will substitute for human judgement, and for an appropriate work environment and culture that will ensure that happens.

Protecting children from abuse is about informed judgement, sharing information and more effective collaboration between everyone involved in ensuring the safety of children.

This needs to be underpinned by appropriate resources directed where they are most needed.

For more information or an interview
Dr Lynette Buoy
The Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare
Phone 0407 702 975 or 9614 1577