

# Child Safety court liaison officers

Court liaison officers (CLOs) are now available to provide information and assistance to the Childrens Court and youth justice stakeholders.

The CLOs are employed by Child Safety to assist the Childrens Court in situations where a young person is involved with Child Safety and has to appear for a criminal offence. The aim of the program is to provide consistent and up to date information and lines of communication between the court and Child Safety and to assist other youth justice stakeholders with a young person in our care or whose family has dealings with us.

## Where are they and what will they do?

There are fourteen CLOs and two senior CLOs. They are located in 12 court locations - Brisbane (x2); Richlands, Beenleigh (x2); Southport, Townsville/Mt Isa, Cairns, Mackay, Maroochydore, Toowoomba/Ipswich and Rockhampton. The CLOs started in those locations on 26 July 2021.

The CLOs will be available to appear as 'friend of the court' to provide relevant information about the young person. They will also be able to provide before and after-court support to young people which may include assisting the young person (or child safety officer (CSO)) to understand any bail obligations or the requirements of any court order made. In locations where this service is available the CSO may not attend the Childrens Court proceeding.

Child safety service centres in areas where the CLOs are not located will still have support from the CLOs. The CLOs will advise on information that may be required for youth

justice proceedings and will support the CSO to appear in court if this is required.

## When will they be available?

Where a young person has a child protection order granting custody or guardianship to chief executive, they will participate in all youth justice processes including attending court and supporting a young person who is seeking bail following an arrest.

Child Safety will ensure the Court and stakeholders receive up to date information about the young person and their current living situation. This will include:

- where the young person is residing
- the level of support that is being provided to them through their care arrangement,
- whether they are attending school or any other form of vocational training,
- whether they are employed,
- any case planning goals that may be relevant to their offending
- the level of support available to them including the details of the young person's safety and support network.

The CLOs may also be available to assist the court where there is no child protection order but the department has had contact with the family.

The team can be contacted via [yjclo@cyjma.qld.gov.au](mailto:yjclo@cyjma.qld.gov.au) or (tel) 3097 5400 if the matter is urgent.