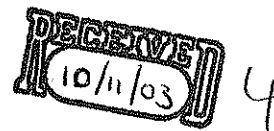


nsw commission for
children & young people



Ms Kristen Murray
Executive Officer
Rural and Regional Services and Development Committee
Level 8, 35 Spring Street
Melbourne Vic 3000

Dear Ms Murray,

I am writing regarding your invitation for the NSW Commission for Children and Young People to provide input into the farm safety inquiry being conducted by the Rural and Regional Services and Development Committee.

As Convenor of the NSW Child Death Review Team I am only too aware of the potential dangers for young children growing up on farms and rural properties in Australia. Since the Team began monitoring and reporting on child deaths in New South Wales in 1996, there have been a number of fatalities of children and young people on farms each year.

As noted in the Team's Annual Reports, of particular concern is the number of young children who drown in dams on rural properties in New South Wales each year. In the past, a number of children and young people have also been fatally injured in incidents involving farm machinery. Copies of recent reports by the Team are available on our website <http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au>.

The NSW Commission for Children and Young People and the NSW Child Death Review Team have not undertaken specific research into farm safety and injuries and deaths of children and young people on farms. While the Commission supports the need for improved safety for farmers and their families, we are not in a position to make a submission to the Parliamentary inquiry in this matter.

Farmsafe Australia is one of the lead organisations in promoting safety on farms in Australia and the *Child Safety on Farms Strategy*. Research examining farm injuries and fatalities is conducted by the Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety, the University of Sydney (National Farm Injury Data Centre); and the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission. In relation to the prevention of drownings in rural areas of NSW specifically, the NSW Water Safety Taskforce has undertaken research examining people's perceptions of water safety and use of aquatic areas in rural and remote locations.

Thank you for seeking the input of the NSW Commission for Children and Young People. I wish the Rural and Regional Services and Development Committee every success with the inquiry.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gillian Calvert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'G'.

Gillian Calvert
Commissioner
3 November 2003