



16 April 2009

Dear Friend

Keep them Safe: A Shared Approach for Child Wellbeing

UnitingCare Burnside would like to thank everyone including Uniting Church Ministers and congregation members who responded to our recent request for support of the reforms recommended by the Special Commission of Inquiry into Child Protection Services in NSW. With your assistance, 107 of the 111 reforms recommended by the Inquiry were adopted by the NSW Government.

There was a strong response from the community to Burnside's call to action for the most vulnerable children, young people and families in NSW. Members of Parliament received letters from Ministers from congregations across NSW, Sunday school teachers, grandparents, mums and dads, UnitingCare NSW.ACT staff and many other supporters especially those from the Burnside Advocacy Network.

During the Parliamentary debate on the issue, one Member of Parliament quoted an important message that many friends of Burnside included in their letters: "Investing in the safety and wellbeing of children is not only a moral imperative; it makes fiscal commonsense". Your letters made a real difference by drawing our representatives' attention to the strong community support for investment in children's safety and wellbeing.

Burnside has continued to monitor the implementation of *Keep them Safe*, including the passage of legislation earlier this month. The Minister for Community Services, the Hon Linda Burney MP, has established several committees to guide the government in the implementation of the reforms. We will continue to share our experience of solutions in child protection with the Government as we work together for the safety and wellbeing of NSW children.

To be kept informed and gain ideas for advocacy about this and other issues by receiving email updates you can join the Burnside Advocacy Network by contacting Reverend Garry Derkenne on (02) 9407 3229 or garry@burnside.org.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Woodruff".

Jane Woodruff
Chief Executive Officer