

# SPECIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

The New South Wales Governor commissioned the Hon James Wood AO QC to conduct an inquiry to determine what changes within the child protection system are required to cope with future levels of demand once the current reforms to that system are completed and specifically to examine, report on and make recommendations in relation to:

- the system for reporting of child abuse and neglect, including mandatory reporting, reporting thresholds and feedback to reporters;
- management of reports, including the adequacy and efficiency of systems and processes for intake, assessment, prioritisation, investigation and decision-making;
- management of cases requiring ongoing work, including referrals for services and monitoring and supervision of families;
- recording of essential information and capacity to collate and utilise data about the child protection system to target resources efficiently;
- professional capacity and professional supervision of the casework and allied staff;
- the adequacy of the current statutory framework for child protection including roles and responsibilities of mandatory reporters, DoCS, the courts and the oversight agencies;
- the adequacy of arrangements for inter-agency cooperation in child protection cases;
- the adequacy of arrangements for children in out of home care; and
- the adequacy of resources in the child protection system.