Compared with city children, country children are 2.4 times more likely to die from accidents such as drowning in dams, car crashes, motorcycle and ATV crashes, house fires or accidents involving livestock.

The Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian (the Commission) is an independent statutory body responsible for protecting the rights and wellbeing of children and young people, and we think that this is a big concern. We would like to help to do something about it.

But first, we need to hear your views.

We understand that many of the things that make country life a fantastic environment for children to grow and learn can also create dangers that are not presented to city kids. We would like to explore this further.

By answering some or all of the questions inside, you will be helping us understand the challenges you face and contributing to a strategy to keep country kids safe that is based firmly on the needs of country areas.

Please read on to see how you can help.
The facts

Since 2004, part of the Commission’s role has been to collect and analyse information on the deaths of children in Queensland and recommend ways of preventing these in the future. We have looked at the information we hold for accidental deaths that occurred in country areas of Queensland between 2004 and 2008.

Patterns we have noticed are:

- children riding motorbikes/ATVs that are too big for them, and not wearing helmets or safety gear
- parents on farms taking their children on tractors, ATVs and other mobile machinery
- children under 5 years left unsupervised for long periods of time when a drowning hazard, such as a dam, was close by
- the ability of older children to look after themselves or to complete a task was sometimes over-estimated, and
- farm equipment was sometimes used inappropriately when used for recreation.

While these things may not seem significant by themselves, the numbers show that they can have disastrous consequences.

Did you know?

- **253 country children died** in accidents in Queensland between 2004 and 2008.
- **165 died in transport accidents** - 44 were killed in off-road accidents involving vehicles such as motorbikes, ATVs and tractors.
- **43 children drowned** - 31 were under the age of five.
- **44 children were killed on farms.** Only 5 of these were visitors who may not have known the farm and any related risks.
Keeping Country Kids Safe –
What is the Commission trying to achieve?

The **Keeping Country Kids Safe** initiative aims to prevent death and injury to children from accidents in country areas.

As you can see, we have already identified some clear areas of concern. By listening to what people from the community have to say, as well as considering information provided by industry and government, we can compare these with the issues that are important to the rural sector.

We can then identify what areas should be targeted, and where prevention activities would best be focused.

The Commission will try to find groups in the community which could help with prevention activities and establish partnerships with them. We will then let everyone know what activities we will be doing and when.

**Remember...we need your advice to help us!**

By answering the quick survey at the back of this paper you will be helping the Commission to identify ways to keep country kids safe.

Please send your completed survey to:

**Mail**
Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian - CDRT
Reply Paid 15217
Brisbane City East  QLD 4002

**Email**
keepingcountrykidssafe@ccypcg.qld.gov.au

**Fax**
07 3035 5901

Or you can complete a survey online at www.ccypcg.qld.gov.au

If you would like to speak to someone about **Keeping Country Kids Safe**, please call 1800 688 275 (Freecall).
**The facts**

- 15 were involved in off-road accidents involving vehicles such as motorbikes, ATVs and other mobile machinery.
- 4 of these were under the age of five.
- 33 children were killed on farms. Only 5 of these were visitors who may not have known the farm and any related risks.

**Keeping Country Kids Safe – What is the Commission trying to achieve?**

The Keeping Country Kids Safe initiative seeks to prevent death and injury to children from accidents in country areas.

We have already identified some clear areas of concern. By listening to what people from the community have to say, as well as considering information provided by industry and government, we can compare these with the issues that are important to the rural sector.

We can then identify what areas should be targeted, and where prevention action be taken first.

The Commission will try to build the community that could include with prevention authorities and interested partners with us. We will then set everyone know what activities we were doing and where.

**Remember... we need your advice to help us!**

By completing the quick survey in the back of this page you will be helping the Commission to identify ways to keep country kids safe.

**Who do you take advice from to ensure your children’s safety?**

- Parents
- Other family
- Government
- Fellow workers/employers
- Industry leaders
- Schools
- Industry
- Community networks
- Other (please describe)

Please choose all that apply.

- 1. _____________________________________________________________________________________
- 2. _____________________________________________________________________________________
- 3. _____________________________________________________________________________________

**What do you do to protect your children from the following?:**

- Farming
- Riding motorbikes/ATVs that are too big for them
- Other (please describe)

Please choose all that apply.

- 1. _____________________________________________________________________________________
- 2. _____________________________________________________________________________________
- 3. _____________________________________________________________________________________

**Question 1**

Are there any factors that make it difficult to constantly supervise your children?

Please send your completed survey to:

Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian - CDRT

Re: Keeping Country Kids Safe

CCYP CGQ 4002

Phone: 07 3035 5901

Fax: 07 3035 9420

Email: keepingcountrykidssafe@cypcg.qld.gov.au

Web: www.cypcg.qld.gov.au

Do you have a fenced area where your children can play safely?

- Yes
- No

Please describe what the fence is like and how high it is.

Do you have any ways of keeping your kids away from hazards like waterways, pools, chemicals, machinery or hazards?

Please describe.

Did you have any effect on your family’s way of doing things?
The facts

Since 2004, part of the Commission’s work has been to collect, analyse and disseminate data on the deaths of children in Queensland and investigated ways of preventing these in the future. We have looked at other information we hold for accidental deaths that occur in country areas of Queensland between 2004 and 2008. Parents have not always been aware of the risks of leaving their children alone, and were not aware of potential dangers.

• Under 5 years old are very curious and inquisitive and are an unpredictable risk to themselves or others.
• Children under 5 years old often have no adult supervision.
• Children under 1 year old can lie on the open ground and suffocate.
• Children under 1 year old often have no adult supervision.
• Children under 1 year old often have no adult supervision.

While these things may not seem significant by themselves, the numbers show that they can have disastrous consequences.

Keeping Country Kids Safe – What is the Commission trying to achieve?

The Keeping Country Kids Safe initiative seeks to prevent deaths and injuries to children from accidents in country areas. If you can see, we have already identified some clear areas of focus. The following is from what people from the community have to say, as well as coming from information compiled by industry and government. We can then focus our efforts with the issues that are important to the community.

We can then identify what areas should be targeted, and where prevention activities would best be focused. The Commission will try to identify groups in the community which could develop prevention activities and establish partnerships with us. We will then let everyone know what activities were being done and when.

Remember... we need your advice to help us!

By completing the full survey, you will help the Commission to identify ways to keep country kids safe.

Please send your completed survey to: The Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian - CDRT, Reply Paid 15217, Brisbane City East, QLD 4002. We can then identify what areas should be targeted, and where prevention activities would best be focused. The Commission will try to identify groups in the community which could develop prevention activities and establish partnerships with us. We will then let everyone know what activities were being done and when.

Question 1

What do you consider the factors to be that most frequently contribute to accidents on country roads?

Please rank these in order:

• Children are too small to understand the dangers
• Children under the age of five.
• Under 5 years left unsupervised for long periods of time when a drowning hazard, such as a dam, was close by.
• Farm equipment was sometimes used inappropriately when used for recreation.
• Sometimes over-estimated, and adults may not have known the farm and any related risks.

Question 2

Have any safety and prevention programs already been tried in your community?

Please provide details:

• Parents
• Other family
• Friends
• Industry leaders
• Community Groups
• Other (please describe)

Question 3

Do you have a friend’s child who you think could be at risk?

Please provide details:

• Yes
• No

Question 4

How do you keep your children when you find them unsupervised in dangerous situations?

Please provide details:

• Yes
• No

Question 5

Who do you believe is the best person to keep your children safe?

Please provide details:

• You
• Someone in your family
• Someone in the community
• Other (please describe)

Question 6

Have any safety and prevention programs already been tried in your community?

Please provide details:

• Yes
• No

Question 7

Do your children play in areas where there are dangers?

Please provide details:

• Yes
• No

Question 8

What are some of the factors that make it difficult to consistently supervise your children?

Please provide details:

• Yes
• No
Question 7
Please describe your farm:
Land size ________________________________ Industry ______________________________________

Question 8
Farms are unique in that they combine the home and the workplace. Do you see your farm as primarily a home, or as a workplace? ______________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

Question 9
Since 2004, how many times has someone presented to hospital after an accident on the property?
_______________________________________________________________________________________
How old were the people involved?
☐ under 5 years   ☐ 5-9 years   ☐ 10-14 years   ☐ 15-17 years   ☐ 18-24 years
☐ 25-34 years   ☐ 35-44 years   ☐ 45-54 years   ☐ over 55 years

Please describe the type of accidents that have lead to injury. ___________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

Question 10
How often do you review the potential risks to children on your farm?
☐ once a month   ☐ once a year   ☐ once every few years   ☐ after an accident has occurred
☐ never   ☐ other (please describe)
_______________________________________________________________________________________

Question 11
Do you think that your family is a great example of child safety on farms?  ☐ yes  ☐ no
If yes, can we contact you to find out how you have overcome the challenges?  ☐ yes  ☐ no

Question 12
Do you find workplace health and safety regulations and guidelines easy to understand?  ☐ yes  ☐ no
Are they easy to put into practice?  ☐ yes  ☐ no
What would make things easier?
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
Your opinions are important!

Attached are some important questions – the answers you provide can help in the process of keeping country kids safe.

We understand that you may not have much free time, but any information you can provide would be useful. So, please take a few minutes to answer the attached survey.

Some people may have a lot to say on this subject. If you are happy for the Commission to contact you to discuss your views further, please include your name and address.

If you would prefer to be anonymous just include your postcode so that we can understand your particular community’s needs.

The pages on which the survey is printed tear out.

Please post your answers back by 16 October 2009. No stamp is required - just drop it in a mailbox!

Remember you can also email or fax your responses, or respond online.