

Issue Area 11 Accountability

As with all public regulatory activities, it is important to ensure that operations are transparent and open to public scrutiny.

In the discussion paper it was proposed that the WWCVP Screening Unit will be required to report annually as part of the DHHS Annual Report. The report will include data relating to the number of checks conducted, rejection rates, reviews and appeals as well as the outcomes of any reviews or appeals.

It is proposed that a review of the operation of the WWCVP Screening Unit will be undertaken three years after the commencement of operation, and periodically thereafter.

Additional suggestions made by respondents included:

- That an Industry Reference Group of community representatives (with expertise in recruitment and risk assessment) be established to provide input into:
 - implementation issues;
 - communication; and
 - review.
- That the annual report include an annual survey of user organisation satisfaction
- One respondent suggested that reviews and appeals could be conducted by another States Screening Unit.

Are there any other mechanisms that could be considered to ensure an appropriate level of accountability?

ACF would suggest that the screening unit sits independent of any State Government Department. The unit could sit administratively within a department but its operations and accountability separate.

The Ombudsman's Office in NSW and the Commissioner for Children and Young People Queensland each offer important mechanisms to consider.