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Have say on child homicide

FAR Northerners will have an opportunity to voice their opinions on penalties for those convicted of child homicide offences.

The Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council will hold an information session in Cairns next Wednesday following the release of a consultation paper on the topic.

Attorney-General Yvette D'Ath asked the council to carry out a 12-month review including looking at current sentences imposed for child homicide offences, whether sentencing considerations were adequate and ways to communicate with the public about such proceedings.

Murder carries a life sentence with a minimum non-parole period of between 20 and 30 years. Manslaughter also carries a life sentence and if it is imposed then a 15-year minimum non-parole period applied. If the sentence is more than 10 years, the offender must serve at least 80 per cent on the term.

The community is invited to express their views on issues including how best to reflect the particular vulnerabilities of child victims in sentencing and potential sentencing reforms.

It will be held at the Cairns Community Legal Centre between 9.30am and 2pm.