

Children must be protected

SCHOOL OF THOUGHT

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STATISTICS show that neglect and violence against children is increasing.

This is an extremely worrying problem that must be reduced.

As a society we have a collective responsibility to protect children and do all we can to advocate for their protection and wellbeing.

When children are protected from harm and neglect, they are less likely to be vulnerable because they are receiving the acceptance and support they need for learning and development, including developing healthy social relationships and behaviours.

We need to be united in ensuring that children experience as many protective factors in their homes, schools and neighbourhoods as possible.

Vulnerable children need to experience supportive environments and close relationships with caring adults.

For some children, a school is the only real protective factor in their lives.

Every now and then someone sparks debate about school corporal punishment as a valid way of responding to children's misbehaviour or promoting discipline.

This is misguided.

Corporal punishment involves the use of physical force towards a child for the purpose of control and correction.

It usually involves striking a child a number of times with an implement.

Thankfully it has been abolished in Queensland schools since 1995.

Research findings regarding the use of corporal punishment document adverse child outcomes such as negative developmental consequences, anti-social behaviour, poor academic achievement and mental health problems.

There are so many effective strategies available – strategies that communicate respect and dignity whilst guiding behaviour and offering alternatives.

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