

## Child evidence

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As a support volunteer in the brisbane courts I have witnessed some particularly upsetting experiences for young victims. The defence counsel seem to forget they are interacting with children and pose questions in a way that could be seen as confusing or accusatory. I have seen children cry and ask if they are going to get into trouble! Surely there can be a more child friendly way of obtaining evidence in chief and cross examination. Even as an adult with vast life experience, I can see myself getting upset in a similar situation.

May I suggest a more child friendly environment for giving of evidence and certainly discarding the robes and wigs. This would be most intimidating for a young child who has experienced a horror none of us can imagine and then to be faced with all of this pomp and ceremony. Questions like "I put it to you that is not the truth" would surely unsettle any young victim.

Please give some consideration to what I have identified as a real issue with the Justice system.

Regards  
Lynette Edwards