1. Torres Strait Islander people have practiced traditional child rearing practices since time immemorial. This widespread family custom of sharing the care of children within the extended family, is strongly connected to wider aspects of customary law which defines the identity of Torres Strait Islander people and is important to the sense of stability and social order of Torres Strait Islander society. While difficult to explain in English and having no like word for the practice, it has been described as the permanent transferring of a child from one family to another, usually within the extended family. The transfer occurs as a result of a verbal agreement with the consent of the parties’ concerned and the child takes the name of the new family.
2. The Queensland Government committed to introducing new laws that legally recognise the outcomes achieved by Torres Strait Islander families’ continued use of traditional Torres Strait Islander child rearing practices and appointing an Eminent Person to help consult with Queensland’s Torres Strait Islander community on development of these laws.
3. In March 2018, the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, in collaboration with the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women. engaged the Honourable Alastair Nicholson AO RFD QC, Ms Ivy Trevallion. and Mr Charles Passi as ‘Eminent Persons’ to provide legal, cultural and gender expertise during the complex and culturally sensitive consultations with Queensland’s Torres Strait Islander community.
4. A consultation paper, *Akuar Thoeridhay Kazi - For our children’s children*, was developed to guide community consultation to inform the development of a legislative framework and implementation model for the recognition of Torres Strait Islander traditional child rearing practices.
5. Cabinet approved the public release of the consultation paper *Akuar Thoeridhay Kazi - For our children’s children.*
6. *Attachments*
   * [Consultation Paper - *Akuar Thoeridhay Kazi - For our children’s children, Traditional Torres Strait Islander Child Rearing Practices*](Attachments/Paper.PDF)