

Supporting Families Changing Futures

Advancing Queensland's child protection
and family support reforms





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Minister's message



Protecting children is everyone's business. Supporting families to do the best for their children is not just a responsibility of government — everyone has a role to play.

This is why we are progressing wide ranging reforms to our child protection and family support services — Supporting Families Changing Futures.

The 2013 Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry report, *Taking Responsibility: A Roadmap for Queensland Child Protection*, made 121 recommendations for achieving shared responsibility for supporting families and keeping children safe.

We are now implementing the reform agenda recommended by the Commission of Inquiry, as well as a range of new initiatives that are helping to deliver on the intent of the reforms.

We have made good progress and are starting to see some positive results, with more families accessing supports earlier, and our child protection services progressively becoming more targeted.

But we know that there is still more to be done, particularly for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families. Over the next two years, our reforms will have an even stronger focus on building services to meet the unique needs of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families and communities.

This document provides an update on the progress made so far in our Supporting Families Changing Futures reforms, and sets out our priorities over the next two years.

It includes actions that further strengthen our focus on prevention and early intervention, tackling domestic and family violence, and providing more cohesive services for vulnerable families and children.

It also includes new actions and priorities that have been guided by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives. We are listening to the voices of community leaders, community-run organisations and families to develop new strategies that draw on the great strengths in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and communities. We are working to achieve a fundamental shift in how our child protection and family support services work with Queensland's Indigenous peoples.

I am optimistic that if we work together we will achieve great results. I look forward to continuing the implementation of real and effective solutions with our community partners and watching Queensland's children grow up safe, happy and connected to their families, communities and culture.

Shannon Fentiman MP

Minister for Communities, Women and Youth

Minister for Child Safety

Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence





Background

The Queensland Government is progressing a wide-ranging 10-year reform program for the child protection and family support system, in response to the 2013 Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry report *Taking Responsibility: A Roadmap for Queensland Child Protection*.

Funding of \$416 million over five years has been allocated to implement the recommendations and make tangible and positive differences in the lives of vulnerable Queensland children, young people, families and communities.

Of the 121 recommendations made by the Commission of Inquiry, 120 have commenced and we continue to make good progress.

Implementation has benefited from:

- a framework that provides seven strategic directions with aims and deliverables
- buy-in from across the government and non-government sectors, with non-government representation on key groups at local, regional and state levels, including oversight from a CEO-level, multi-agency committee
- actively engaging with interested people and organisations in designing and delivering new services, initiatives and policies.

By implementing the reforms, our shared vision is that:

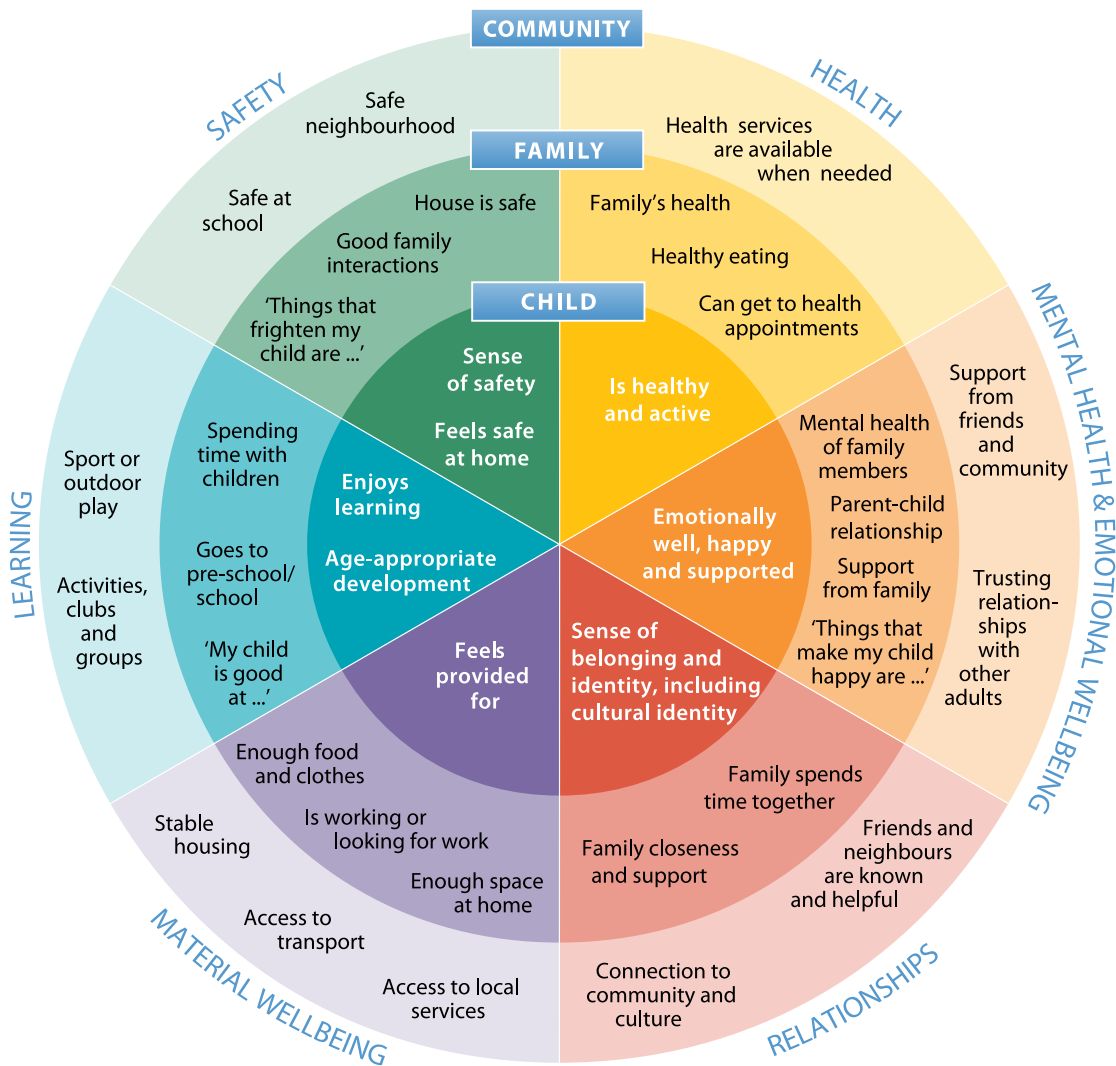
- Queensland children and young people are cared for, protected, safe and able to reach their full potential
- Queensland families and communities are empowered to become stronger, more capable, more resilient and are supported by a child and family support system that understands and respects the importance of family, community and culture.

Our approach to planning and designing the reforms has been founded in the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth's Common Approach framework (see p. 4). This takes the necessary holistic view of child and family wellbeing and allows us to set the reform program in the broader state and national government agenda for children and families.





The Common Approach wellbeing wheel



This material has been provided to the Queensland Government by the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth, which is the sole developer and provider of The Common Approach. This information is intended for the purpose of reporting and cannot be used or distributed for any other purpose. Further information is available at www.aracy.org.au.

Where we are now

Referrals to Child Safety decreased

16.3%

since the Inquiry
(2012–13 to 2014–15)
from 128,534 to 107,585.



Substantiations

have decreased by

20.1%

(2012–13 to 2014–15)
from 8069 to 6445.



The number of children in out-of-home care increased by 3.4% during 2012–13 to 2014–15.

The number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care grew by 9.6%



The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children placed with kin, Indigenous carers or an Indigenous residential care provider was

55.9%

as at 30 June 2015.



The budget split between secondary and tertiary services in 2014–15 was

12% secondary services



88% tertiary services

From January to December 2015, Family and Child Connect services received almost

7000 referrals



Up to \$260 million of the \$416 million in new funding will be directed to secondary services.



An additional

500–600



workers will be needed in the family support sector by 2016–17.



Advancing Queensland's child protection and family support reforms

This document sets out how the Queensland Government is implementing the 10-year child and family reform agenda, provides a snapshot of progress so far and spotlights what we will be doing in the next two years.

As recommended by the Commission of Inquiry, we are taking an adaptive management approach to implementing the reforms. New research, recent developments such as the domestic and family violence reforms, and the broader social services reform agenda in Queensland and across Australia, will continue to enhance our implementation of the reforms.

Already we have introduced important new initiatives to improve the lives of vulnerable children and families and will be undertaking further enhancements and new initiatives as we progress.

Of vital focus will be reducing the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the child protection system. We need a fundamental shift in how we work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities. While the majority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are safely cared for by their families and communities, they are eight times more likely to be in out-of-home care than non-Indigenous children.

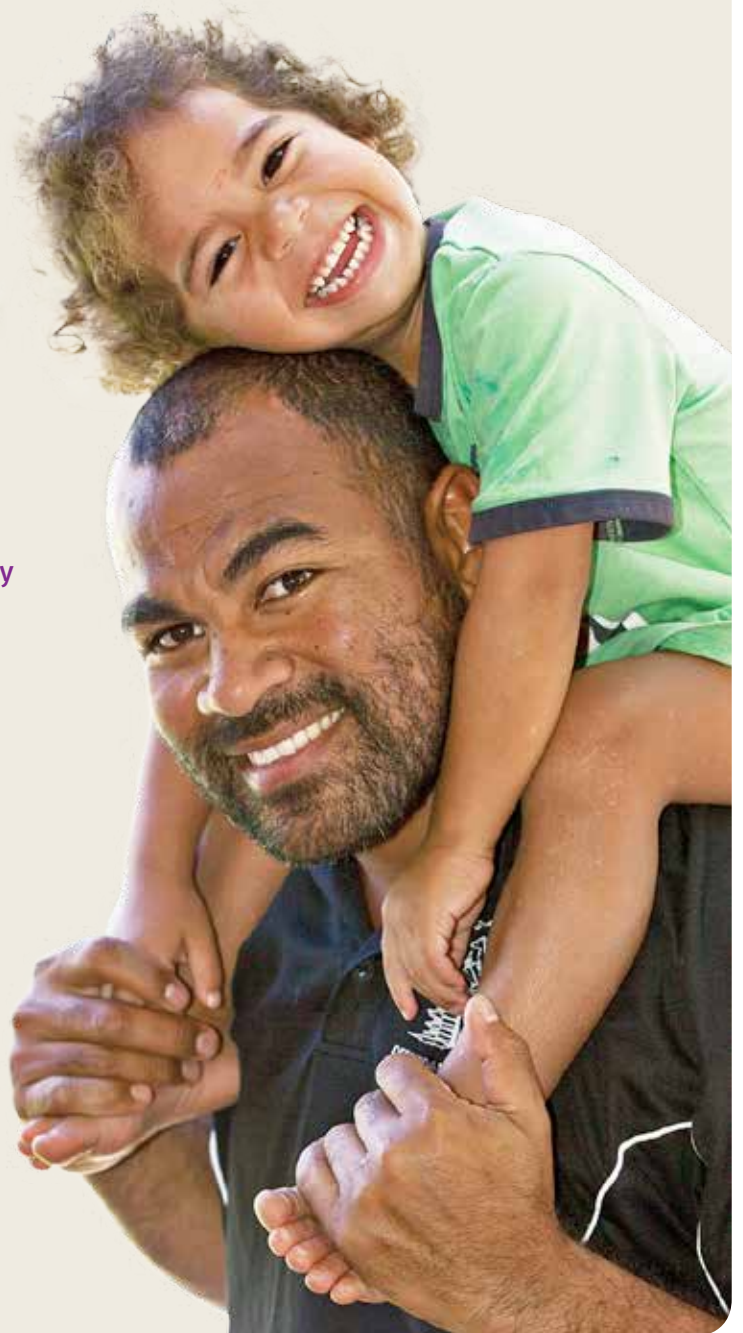
We need to change the way we are working and share responsibility for child protection with community leaders and Elders. We need to listen to communities, invest in capable, community controlled organisations, and look beyond individual projects to a whole-of-government, whole-of-community approach to reducing over-representation.

We also need to continue our focus on prevention as well as early intervention, tackle domestic and family violence, and further integrate and leverage off initiatives in education, training, health, housing, policing, justice and information technology. This includes the government's commitment to job creation, the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the broader Queensland Community Services Jobs, Skills and Industry Strategy, which is under development.



In 2015, the child and family reform agenda was enhanced by the:

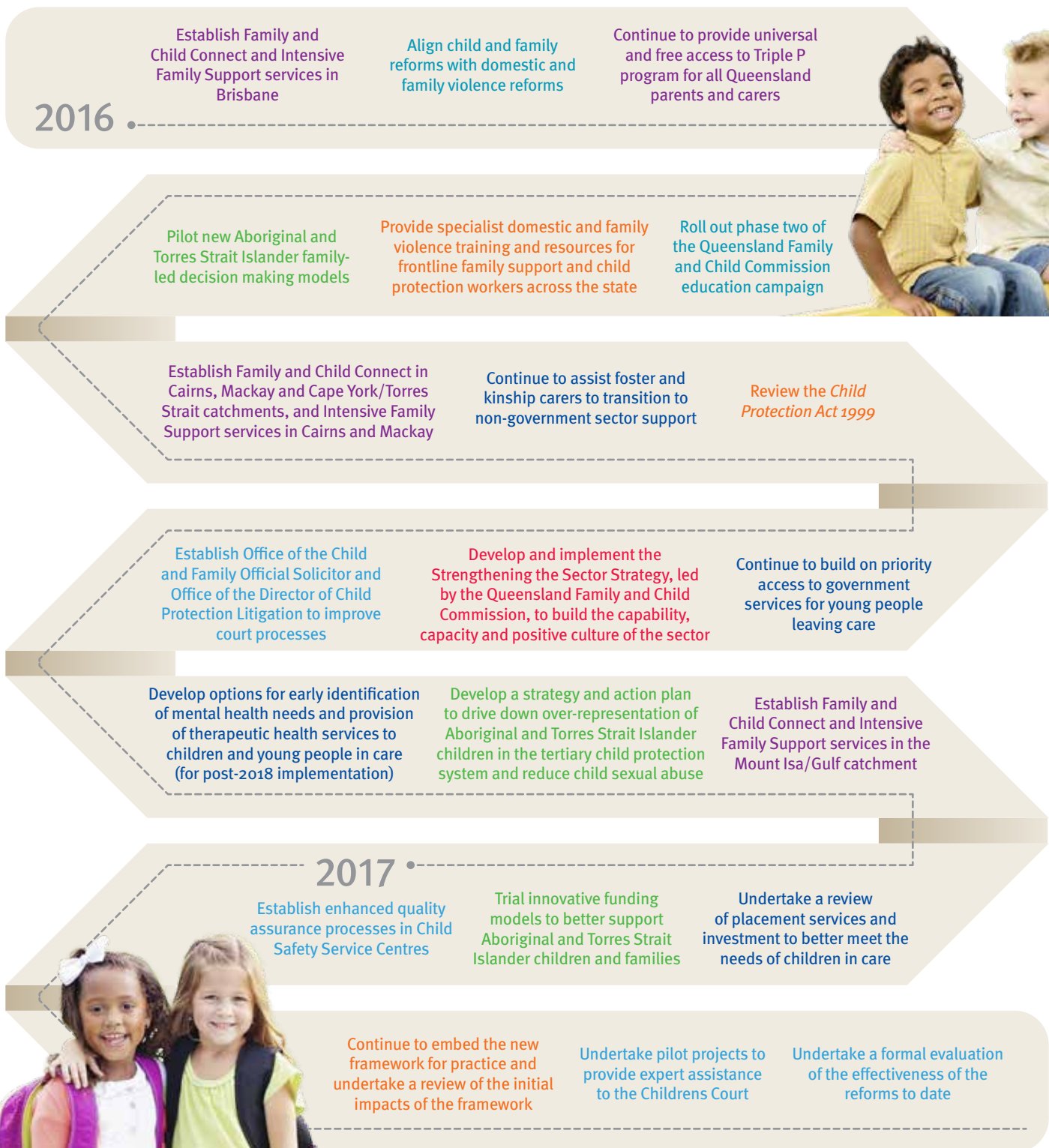
- allocation of **\$6.6 million** over two years from 2015–16 to help all Queensland parents and carers learn new skills and build confidence to raise healthy, well-adjusted children through free access to the Triple P — Positive Parenting Program. Approximately 6000 parents have accessed the program so far
- **acceptance of 121 government recommendations and support for 19 non-government recommendations** in response to the *Not Now, Not Ever: Putting an End to Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland* report
- allocation of **\$31.3 million** over four years on a range of initiatives aimed at tackling domestic and family violence
- investment of **\$0.51 million** in 2015–16 to provide specialist domestic and family violence training and resources for frontline family support and child protection workers across the state
- commitment to **rebuild the community services industry**
- public release of a draft **engagement strategy** for consultation so we can find out what is working well and what we can do better in engaging and communicating about the child and family reform agenda.





The next two years

The following timeline highlights the key actions to be taken in advancing Queensland’s child protection and family support reforms in the next two years. Further details on progress so far and future actions can be found in the following pages under each strategic direction. A detailed implementation schedule for 2016 and 2017 is available at www.qld.gov.au/supportingfamilies.



The seven strategic directions

Queensland children and young people are cared for, protected, safe and able to reach their full potential.

- 1** Sharing responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of Queensland children
- 2** Supporting Queensland families earlier
- 3** Working better with Queensland families who are in contact with the child protection system
- 4** Improving out-of-home care and post-care for Queensland children and young people
- 5** Meeting the needs and requirements of Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families and communities
- 6** Delivering quality services to Queensland children and families through a capable, motivated workforce and client-focused organisations
- 7** Building an accountable, transparent and cost-effective Queensland system

1

Sharing responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of Queensland children

Our principles

- Caring for children and keeping them safe is a shared responsibility.
- Stakeholders across the child and family system jointly lead the design, development and delivery of services.



Key achievements so far



Committed \$416 million in funding to implement the reforms. This investment will help to refocus the system on prevention and early intervention services, making it more efficient over time and delivering better outcomes for children and families



Established the Queensland Family and Child Commission and appointed the Principal Commissioner and Commissioner to provide oversight of Queensland's child protection system and partner with other government and non-government agencies to ensure that best practice services are being delivered to children and families



Launched Talking Families campaign to encourage parents and families to talk about the pressures of parenting and seek help (www.talkingfamilies.qld.gov.au)



Incorporated single case plan model into 13 new Intensive Family Support services as a collaborative case management approach for high-needs families who receive a range of services



Established nine Regional Child and Family Committees across the state to drive the reform agenda from the ground up and ensure enduring community partnerships

Key priorities for the next two years

- Roll out stage two of the Queensland Family and Child Commission community education campaign, focusing on driving behaviour change among parents and the community to see a better take up of early intervention and support services and a normalising of help-seeking behaviours
- Hear the voices of children, families, the community and our partners in planning and implementing the reforms through our new engagement strategy
- Enable meaningful participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in governing the implementation of the reforms
- Deliver a more connected and integrated system by aligning the child and family reforms with domestic and family violence reforms, where appropriate
- Consider the recommendations of the Youth Sexual Violence and Abuse Steering Committee due to report to government in late 2016

‘Every child protection inquiry within Australian jurisdictions as well as the National Framework for Child Protection has espoused the mantra: “Child protection is everyone’s business”. This is obvious and needs to be more than rhetoric.’

Taking Responsibility: A Roadmap for Queensland Child Protection,
p. 447



Spotlight on Talking Families

The Talking Families Facebook page currently has more than 12,700 followers and connected with more than 60,000 parents daily during phase one of the campaign.

12,700
followers 
 on Facebook

A key success factor for the campaign has been the significant research conducted with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parents and communities to inform the initial campaign messages around seeking help. Key campaign materials have been translated into Torres Strait Islander languages following requests from Far North Queensland communities.

Our focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families is enhanced by:

- supporting and empowering families, communities and Elders to take responsibility for protecting and caring for their own children
- ensuring voices are respected and decisions are made based on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives in promoting responsibility and self-determination in their communities.

2

Supporting Queensland families earlier

Our principles

- Children and young people are at the centre of the system, with supported and supportive parents, families and communities.
- Vulnerable families and children have access to high quality services to help them maintain the family unit.



Key achievements so far



Changed legislation to allow for community-based intake and referral (new Family and Child Connect model) and consolidated all reporting obligations into one Act (*Child Protection Act 1999*)



Opened the doors of 13 new Family and Child Connect and Intensive Family Support services across the state to provide a pathway for families under stress to access the support they need as early as possible



Completed pilots aimed at working out how to better support families of children with disability, and allocated \$30 million over four years to increase support for families of children with disability in critical need



Partnered with the Logan community and other levels of government in the ambitious Logan Together project to improve life outcomes for children up to eight years of age (www.logantogether.org.au)



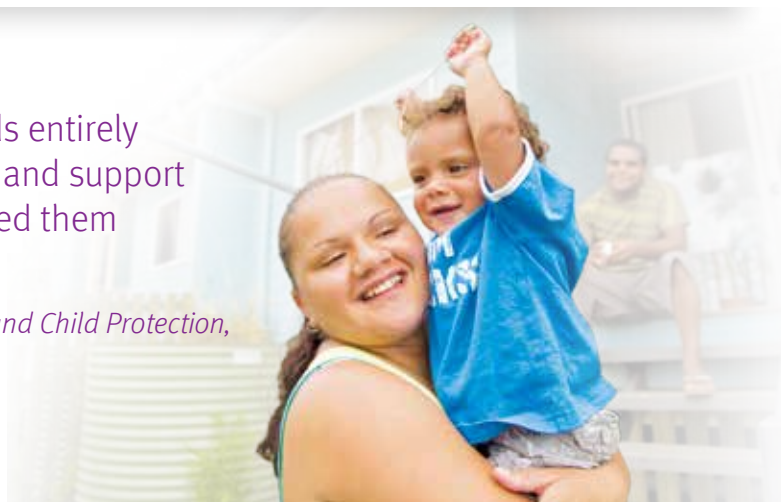
Replaced the Queensland Police Service policy for mandatory reporting of domestic and family violence to Child Safety with a **standard child harm referral framework** that aligns with community-based intake and referral processes

Key priorities for the next two years

- Roll out the final Family and Child Connect and Intensive Family Support services to achieve statewide coverage by late 2016
- Better support families of children with disability through an early intervention response
- Continue to build on innovative, whole-of-community efforts to give children and families the best opportunities in life, such as Logan Together and LiveWell CQ
- Continue to provide free access to the Triple P — Positive Parenting Program for all Queensland parents and carers
- Improve the capability of professionals and other workers in social, health and education services to identify and respond to families in need of assistance
- Enhance our approaches for responding to child sexual abuse
- Work across government and with non-government partners to deliver more integrated service responses for adolescents who are high risk, disengaged and/or have experienced trauma
- Embed oneplace, a new community services directory with easy access to information and resources

‘The success of these reforms depends entirely on having the right mix of preventive and support services available to families who need them when they need them.’

Taking Responsibility: A Roadmap for Queensland Child Protection,
p. 125



Spotlight on Family and Child Connect

Family and Child Connect are free, community-based services that help families to care for their children safely at home by connecting them to the right services at the right time. Family and Child Connect can also link families experiencing multiple or complex problems to more intensive, specialised assistance.

In 2015, almost

7000



referrals were made to the service.

Our focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families is enhanced by:

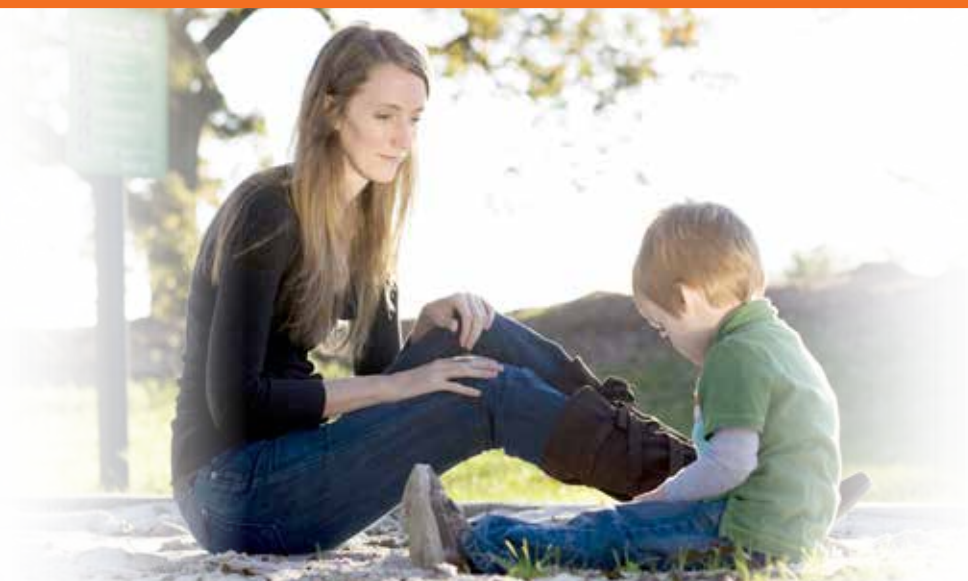
- building the capacity and capability of all child and family support services provided to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families
- ensuring all engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families in the delivery of services is conducted within an appropriate cultural context.

3

Working better with Queensland families who are in contact with the child protection system

Our principle

- Child protection practice is focused on engaging with families earlier and, where appropriate, keeping children safely at home.



Key achievements so far



Developed and released new Strengthening Families Protecting Children Framework for Practice to enhance child protection practice and deliver better outcomes for vulnerable children



Commenced review of the *Child Protection Act 1999* to ensure the support system is underpinned by a strong and contemporary legislative framework. This included publication of a discussion paper and statewide consultation over six months



Established Office of the Public Guardian (Child Guardian), including **four advocacy hubs** for children and young people, and an innovative statewide virtual hub accessible by phone, social media, email and SMS



Undertook Engaging Fathers initiatives with government and non-government partners, including a number of forums statewide, to strengthen practice in family engagement



Appointed dedicated, specialist student protection principal advisors in the regional offices of the Department of Education and Training to better support schools and school communities

Key priorities for the next two years

- Review the *Child Protection Act 1999* and operation of the *Adoption Act 2009* to make sure we have strong, contemporary legislative frameworks
- Continue to strengthen the practice skills of child protection workers to better engage with vulnerable children, young people and families, including fathers, through initiatives such as Engaging Fathers and using strengths-based, safety-oriented practice tools
- Review our tertiary processes and services to improve the system and provide the best response to children and families when they first come into contact with Child Safety
- Look at ways to address barriers to information sharing within and across government and non-government agencies where there are concerns about child wellbeing, while maintaining a child's and family's rights to privacy and confidentiality

‘The child protection system exists to protect at-risk children from abuse and neglect. It can do this best by helping parents give their children the right environment for growing to healthy, responsible adulthood.’

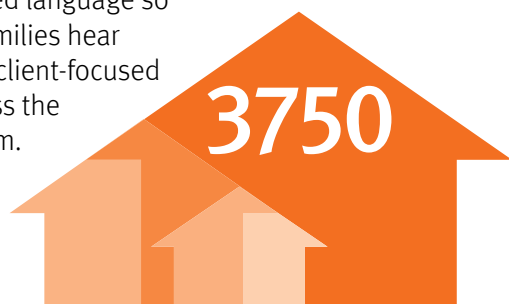
Taking Responsibility: A Roadmap for Queensland Child Protection, p. 199



Spotlight on Strengthening Families Protecting Children Framework for Practice

More than **3750 government**
and **non-government staff**

across the state have been trained in the new framework for practice, creating a shared language so children and families hear consistent and client-focused messages across the service spectrum.



Safety Belonging Wellbeing

Our focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families is enhanced by:

- ensuring that practice standards developed by community controlled services are embedded across the reform program, and are evidenced through establishment of appropriate key performance indicators
- enhancing the legal advocacy and other support available to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families in the court system and more broadly, in the best interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

4

Improving out-of-home care and post-care for Queensland children and young people

Our principles

- Where there are no acceptable alternatives, children and young people are taken into care and protected and cared for.
- In care, they will have the supports they need to enjoy their childhood, feel safe and cared for, and develop into adulthood.



Key achievements so far



Launched Next Step After Care to support young people up to 21 years old who have transitioned from care to independence. This includes priority access to social housing to help young people who have been in care to live as independent adults



Completed the review of more than 4000 cases as part of an out-of-home care audit to ensure current child protection orders remain in the child's best interests



Worked with a wide range of stakeholders to inform considerations on permanency options for children in care



79 per cent of carers now benefit from the formalised support of non-government foster and kinship care services



Launched the Sortli mobile app in November 2014 to help young people plan their transition to independence. The app was co-designed with young people and in collaboration with private industry

Key priorities for the next two years

- Continue to build on work to provide young people leaving care with priority access to government services
- Implement a therapeutic residential care framework in collaboration with the non-government sector to better support and provide specialist services for children and young people in care who have high or complex needs
- Review our investment in out-of-home care, including the types of placements provided, to ensure our services best meet the needs of children and young people
- Continue to assist foster and kinship carers to transition to non-government sector support
- Improve the way we work with carers, including in situations where children are missing

‘ Out-of-home care placements are a central feature of child protection services and one of the biggest challenges facing the Queensland child protection system.’

Taking Responsibility: A Roadmap for Queensland Child Protection, p. 251

‘ The fundamental difference for young people who are leaving the child protection system is that they do not have the “safety net” of family and parents that young people in the general population have.’

Taking Responsibility: A Roadmap for Queensland Child Protection, p. 304



Spotlight on Next Step After Care services

Between March
and December 2015,

400



young Queenslanders engaged with
Next Step After Care services

to seek help in the crucial transition from
statutory care to independence.

Our focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander children and families is enhanced by:

- ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people receive culturally responsive services. This includes ensuring the cultural needs and rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people are acknowledged and upheld throughout their involvement with the statutory child protection system, and in transition planning and post-care support.

5

Meeting the needs and requirements of Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families and communities

Our principle

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families have access to culturally appropriate services and care, provided by Indigenous-specific and mainstream organisations.



Key achievements so far



Engaged Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service providers to deliver Family and Child Connect and Intensive Family Support services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families



Commenced work with discrete Indigenous communities to improve access to universal and secondary services. Solutions are being jointly planned and designed with communities, and are grounded in community ownership and shared decision making



Recruited 10 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Practice Leaders to drive culturally responsive practice through all levels of the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services



Secured the future of Queensland's Children and Family Centres providing \$38.8 million over four years to deliver vital early education, child and maternal health and family support services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families



Signed a three-year enhanced funding agreement with peak body Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak (QATSICPP) to deliver a range of capacity and capability building projects to improve access to services and better support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander non-government agencies



Commenced implementation of a wide-ranging action plan to build cultural capability throughout the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services

Key priorities for the next two years

- Develop and implement a strategy and action plan to reduce Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander over-representation in the child protection system, reduce child sexual abuse and close the gap in life outcomes for vulnerable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and families
- Contribute to integrated approaches in response to priorities identified by discrete Indigenous communities (family and men's support, domestic and family violence responses, alcohol management, early childhood, and health and wellbeing services)
- Continue to support leaders/Elders to take greater responsibility for protecting their children, and re-invest in capable community controlled organisations
- Trial assessment processes and tools for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kinship carer applicants
- Pilot new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family-led decision making and shared practice models
- Develop and deliver a training program with Recognised Entities
- Trial innovative funding models and commit \$150 million over five years for new community-run family wellbeing services to better support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities
- Continue implementation of the Indigenous scholarships and cadetships program to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to attain qualifications to become Child Safety Officers

‘Bringing the numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the system down will take a concerted effort on many fronts over many years. There are no quick fixes.’

Taking Responsibility: A Roadmap for Queensland Child Protection, p. 386

‘Enacting strategies to reduce over-representation should be a major priority for child protection and related agencies over the next decade.’

Taking Responsibility: A Roadmap for Queensland Child Protection, p. 387



Spotlight on Indigenous scholarships and cadetships

To support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to attain qualifications to become Child Safety Officers, the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services has implemented a scholarships and cadetships program.



To date, **19 scholarships** and **9 cadetships** have been provided. Targets of 15 new scholarships and 10 new cadetships have been set for 2016.

Our focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families is enhanced by:

- ensuring reform is managed in a way that recognises the critical role of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled sector in the delivery of services to their community
- ensuring when an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child or young person enters care every attempt is made to preserve and enhance their relationships with their family, culture and community
- promoting comprehensive and consistent implementation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle, ensuring it is applied, as intended, in every decision affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in out-of-home care.

6

Delivering quality services to Queensland children and families through a capable, motivated workforce and client-focused organisations

Our principles

- The workforce across both government and non-government child and family sectors is highly skilled and professional, and service organisations are capable and client-focused.
- Services delivered result in enhanced outcomes for children, young people and their families.



Key achievements so far



Reviewed and amended role descriptions for Child Safety staff to strengthen the skills, ability and knowledge of the child safety workforce



Trained more than **3750 government and non-government staff** in the new Strengthening Families Protecting Children Framework for Practice



Consulted on a draft Strengthening the Sector Strategy, developed by the Queensland Family and Child Commission in partnership with sector stakeholders



Undertook detailed planning work to develop a new court litigation model, including the development of an information sharing solution to improve communication between the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services and the Director of Child Protection Litigation

Key priorities for the next two years

- Establish the Office of the Child and Family Official Solicitor within the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, to enhance its in-house legal service provision
- Finalise and implement the Strengthening the Sector Strategy developed by the Queensland Family and Child Commission in collaboration with sector stakeholders. The strategy will harness the existing strengths of the sector and provide a comprehensive, integrated approach that brings together people, organisations and professional culture to deliver high quality, responsive services that better support children, families and communities
- Provide domestic and family violence training for frontline child protection, family support and domestic and family violence specialist service workers

‘Families and children cannot be supported, nor children protected, unless the child protection workforce has the necessary skills, ability, knowledge and aptitude for the task. In addition, workers need to be supported and feel valued.’

Taking Responsibility: A Roadmap for Queensland Child Protection, p. 386



Spotlight on Strengthening the Sector Strategy



Significant cultural and behaviour change will be necessary to successfully reform the child protection and family support system. The Queensland Family and Child Commission has developed an integrated strategy to bring the whole sector together to drive the required transformation. Consultation

on the draft strategy is being completed and the final strategy, which draws on the passionate and dedicated voices of stakeholders across the government, the sector and the community, will be released soon. The strategy will provide the platform for everyone to work together to make significant progress towards building the **capacity, capability and positive culture** of the child protection and family support system.

Our focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families is enhanced by:

- celebrating the strength and resilience of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce
- investing in capability building activities and developing creative career pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers in acknowledgement of a range of issues they face and the increasing need for their services
- ensuring the broader child protection workforce receives high quality and ongoing cultural sensitivity training.

7

Building an accountable, transparent and cost-effective Queensland system

Our principle

- Services provided to vulnerable children and families are high quality and are provided in an efficient, transparent and accountable manner.



Key achievements so far



Established case management committee chaired by the President of the Childrens Court, to develop a judicially led case management framework for child protection proceedings in the Childrens Court. Once implemented, the framework will ensure that parties understand their rights and responsibilities, promote consistent and transparent court processes, and reinforce that the court is to focus on the best interest of the child in the proceedings



Appointed eight additional specialist Court Magistrates to have matters more expeditiously and efficiently dealt with and to help to ensure better outcomes for children and families



Established arrangements for governing implementation of the reforms in line with the Commission of Inquiry's recommendations



Established new Child Death Case Review Panel, with supporting legislative amendments to strengthen the review process



Improved Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal practices to make them more child friendly and to reduce unnecessary delays

Key priorities for the next two years

- Develop and implement enhanced complaints processes based on client feedback, to increase responsiveness, accountability and learning
- Collaborate with stakeholders and research institutions to develop and implement a three-year rolling research schedule to build the evidence base for family support and child protection
- Establish the Director of Child Protection Litigation, an independent statutory authority that reports to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills, to improve the conduct of matters in the Childrens Court
- Review progress against reform goals and consider the establishment of targets for reducing the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families in the child protection system
- Regularly review governance and oversight arrangements to continue to ensure a high level of accountability, transparency and effectiveness
- Undertake a formal evaluation in 2017 of the effectiveness of the reform program to date

‘Sound oversight processes are key to developing and maintaining a system in which each player takes responsibility for its particular role.’

Taking Responsibility: A Roadmap for Queensland Child Protection, p. 395



Spotlight on legislation



The review of the *Child Protection Act 1999* aims to design new, contemporary laws that reflect best practice and the lived experiences of children and families.

As part of a range of stakeholder engagement activities aimed at ensuring all Queenslanders have an opportunity to provide input to the review, a discussion paper was released for public consultation and statewide community forums were undertaken.

Our focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families is enhanced by:

- ensuring that processes for the evaluation of all programs and reporting on system performance enables the examination of distinct outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families
- ensuring that key principles of importance to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are preserved and enhanced in any review of legislation.



Realising the vision

Reforming Queensland's child protection and family support system is a transformational journey that will continue to be full of challenges and opportunities.



The Queensland Family and Child Commission will continue to maintain oversight of the whole system and, commencing in 2016, will release reports regarding the status of the reforms, effectiveness of reform strategies, and progress toward reform goals.

We are confident the Supporting Families Changing Futures reform program will provide us with the best opportunity to capitalise on our achievements and learn from our experiences to date.

We are committed to action, innovation and collaboration. As we progress on the journey, we will continue to listen, learn and adapt. We are keen to know about new ideas, and to use and share evidence about what works.

We will be considered and measured in our responses and take the time we need to get things right.

We will also remember at all times that this is about achieving the best possible outcomes for children, young people and families.

For more information about the Supporting Families Changing Futures reform program visit www.qld.gov.au/supportingfamilies

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Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services
GPO Box 806, Brisbane QLD 4001
www.communities.qld.gov.au

