



2021–22 in review

Our key highlights and achievements

July 2021

- Our staff attended NAIDOC celebrations in Ipswich and Logan, setting up stalls with activities areas for children, and promoting key QFCC projects that impact Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and families.
- We made a submission to the Women’s Safety and Justice Taskforce, informed by the voices of young people.
- The Out of the Dark steering committee met and discussed emerging trends and collective responses to online sexual grooming.

August 2021

- We released *Principle focus: A child-rights approach to systemic accountability for the safety and wellbeing of Queensland’s First Nations children*.
- We advocated through the media about reducing youth suicide following the release of Australian-wide suicide rates since the start of the pandemic. Our efforts focused on increasing conversations with young people and addressing issues for accessing services.
- We advocated through the media with our partners at PeakCare and Queensland Foster and Kinship Care about the age of children in residential care. Our efforts focused on the demand on the system, and demand for foster carers in Queensland.
- We made a submission to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission’s (ACCC) inquiry into infant inclined products, supporting the option for a combination of mandatory safety standards and information standards for inclined infant sleep and non-sleep products.

September 2021

- We advocated through the media about the increase in student disciplinary absences. Our efforts focused on the importance of children remaining connected to education.
- We supported our Youth Advisory Council members to participate in the YMCA Queensland Youth Parliament.
- Minister Scanlon met our Youth Advisory Council in an online forum to discuss youth engagement.
- Our Principal Commissioner attended the Queensland Child Protection Week award ceremony.

October 2021

- We launched the *Growing up in Queensland: Living through COVID* survey. More than 1,500 young people aged 13–18 participated in the survey over a 4-week period.
- We celebrated Children’s Week and the launch of *The Right to Be Me* a Queensland-first picture book about children’s rights.
- We joined sector stakeholders to advocate through the media about extending the age of care support from 18 to 21. Our efforts focused on research showing that approximately half of young people who leave state care at 18 end up unemployed, incarcerated or homeless.
- We published a *Model of participation* and *Youth participation: A quick start guide* on the QFCC website to help other organisations structure their own models of youth participation.

November 2021

- Our staff began engaging with young people in Redcliffe, Logan, Caboolture, Ipswich, Inala and all 3 youth detention centres about their experiences in the youth justice system.
- We celebrated 17 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people through the *Young, Black and Proud* scholarships.
- Our 11 youth researchers launched the youth-led *Rights, Voices, Stories* project report with key stakeholders in the child protection and family support sector.

December 2021

- We released the *Growing up in Queensland: Living through COVID* survey report. Fifty guests from related sector agencies attended the launch.
- QFCC youth advocates presented to the *Out of the Dark* steering committee, providing an update on planning for the Amplify Forum: Solutions to Online Safety.
- We farewelled Cheryl Vardon, Principal Commissioner.
- We commissioned a review analysing the implementation of 208 QFCC recommendations accepted by the Queensland Government since 2016.

January 2022

- We welcomed Luke Twyford, Principal Commissioner.
- We published the results of a community perceptions survey on confidence and trust in the Queensland child protection system.
- We published survey results from government and non-government frontline workers in the child protection and family support sector.
- An independent report on the QFCC's performance was tabled in parliament.
- We published *Measuring what matters: Evaluation of outcomes achieved through the Queensland Child Protection Reform Environment (2014–20)*.

February 2022

- Commissioner Natalie Lewis participated in the Sunshine Coast University's Young Leaders4Change event. This event showcased the application of the QFCC's *Model of participation* and *Youth participation: A quick start guide*.
- QFCC youth advocates and youth researchers participated in the Human Rights Commission roundtable consultation, as part of the review of the Anti-discrimination Act.
- We released the *Annual Report: Deaths of children and young people, Queensland 2020–21*.
- We gave evidence at the hearing on the Criminal Law (Raising the Age of Responsibility) Amendment Bill 2021.

March 2022

- We introduced a new QFCC governance model.
- Principal Commissioner Luke Twyford and youth advocates appeared before the Mental Health Select Committee at its public hearing.
- Principal Commissioner Luke Twyford visited Townsville to meet with stakeholders including Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs and the Queensland Police Service to understand the issues impacting Queensland children and families and hear the views of frontline workers.

April 2022

- We continued our advocacy efforts through the media on school suspension rates and student disciplinary absences, continuing to highlight the importance of children remaining connected to education.
- QFCC youth advocates met with the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce as part of consultation regarding the *Hear her voice* report.
- QFCC staff attended Rights of the Child workshops with the Diplomacy Training Program to increase our understanding of how we can apply a child rights lens to our work.
- We made a submission to the ACCC's discussion paper on helium balloon kits, supporting the option for helium balloon kits to be diluted with oxygen to prevent fatal injuries.

May 2022

- We held an all-staff strategic planning workshop to develop and test our new strategic objectives.
- We advocated through the media about youth justice. Our efforts focused on QFCC's work in Cairns with young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people involved in youth justice and the work being done to change the trajectory of this small number of young people.
- We co-delivered with QFCC young advocates the Amplify Forum: Solutions for Online Safety to promote safe and healthy digital practices among young people.

June 2022

- We released new frameworks on child and youth participation and *Safer pathways through childhood*.
- We posted *The Right to Be Me* books to every foster and kinship care home in Queensland.
- QFCC youth advocates participated in a government consultation session to inform the development of a youth housing strategy.
- We made a submission to the ACCC's consultation paper on regulatory options for toppling furniture, supporting the option for toppling furniture to have mandatory safety and information standards, setting out warning labelling, safety information, and minimum stability and anchoring device requirements.
- We made a submission to the Workplace Health and Safety Queensland quad bikes and side-by-side vehicles safety discussion paper, supporting regulatory changes which would impose age restrictions for both quad bike riders and passengers in workplaces, and require use of helmets and seatbelts.
- 3 youth advocates travelled to far north Queensland and the Darling Downs to host 4 school-based workshops with young people to inform an advocacy campaign on safe spaces.
- We released *Taking Lives: A Queensland study on parents who kill their children*.