

Examination Reviews

Transition from detention

A qualitative review of the experiences of young people and families to understand what supports and services would prevent recidivism following release from youth detention.

Growing up in Queensland

A quantitative review of Queensland’s children and families across the life domains, presenting a regional focus with case studies on the lived experience of Queenslanders including with specific focus on out-of-home care and youth justice cohorts.

Methamphetamine use and interventions

A review of the research evidence on effective system responses to methamphetamine use within Queensland families known to the child protection system.

Discovery Reviews

Q1

Use of watchhouses

A quantitative review and case file read to identify why Queensland children are experience long stays in Police watchhouses.

Q2

Blue Card effectiveness

A case assessment of Blue Card decision-making with specific focus on negative notice decisions for First Nation applicants.

Q3

Implementation of recommendations

An assessment of the actions taken in response to outstanding Royal Commission, CDRB and QFCC recommendations.

Q4

Isolation, use of force and incidents in youth detention

A quantitative look at the incidence of negative events in youth detention and a review of the laws, policies and systems that are employed. Review includes statistical jurisdictional comparison benchmarked against standards.

Regulation of home education

A review of the prevalence of home education in high-risk home environments, including an analysis of the regulations of home education in Queensland.

Self-placement

Analysis of the demographics, locations, patterns and rates of self-placement by cohort including a case file read to assess how safety assessment and practice responses are having effect.

Police discretion

A quantitative analysis of how police discretion is being applied through the Youth Justice system, for specific cohorts and locations, including a policy review to identify any practice and procedural issues.

Reunification planning and Delegated Authority

A case file read aimed at articulating the differences and strengths of the reunification work led by REFOCUS.

Permanent Care Orders

A case review of the incidences of granting Permanent Care Orders in relation to First Nations children and the apparent escalation in use of this type of order.

Foster and Kinship Carer capacity

An assessment of the turnover of carer households in Queensland compared to other jurisdictions, with analysis of the carer cohort.

Placement turnover, stability and self-placing

A quantitative analysis of the experience of children in out-of-home care looking at their placements, including comparison and practice changes across Australia.

Prevention services in Youth Justice

Analysis of how family support programs are assisting to prevent young people’s entry into Youth Justice. Review will include an economic lens on the impact of early intervention in youth justice building on work being undertaken by 54 Reasons and Australian Child Rights Taskforce.

Common trajectories

A life story mapping from Child Death Review Board (CDRB) files to identify common points for improved intervention for children.

Youth diversion program outcomes

A quantitative assessment of the recidivism rates across the community Youth justice programs.

Parenting in out-of-home care

A review of the incidence of children in care becoming parents, including the policy, procedures and funding support.

Families in the child protection system

A qualitative interview and survey process to assess how parents are experiencing Child Safety processes and how the charter of rights for parents is being upheld.

Restorative Justice Conferencing

A case file review and programmatic comparison of best practice on effective Restorative Justice Conferencing including the performance standards and funding model in place in Queensland.

Indicators of adversity and social vulnerability in child mortality

Defining, measuring and gathering data to build an evidence base on family-level adversity and social vulnerability and how this relates to child mortality.

Redefining assault and neglect

The identification of appropriate definitions, classifications and screening criteria to more confidently identify types of assault and neglect, in order to gather information and determine how information should be reported.

Child car restraint use

A quantitative study to understand use and impact of child car restraint in motor vehicle crashes.

Exits from care

A quantitative analysis (with case file reviews as appropriate) to determine more clearly where children exiting out-of-home care are going.

Preventable childhood mortality

A quantitative analysis of the rate of preventable conditions resulting in child mortality in Queensland and assessment of measures for preventable deaths.

Sudden Unexpected Deaths in Infancy

A quantitative study linking Perinatal data with the Queensland Child Death Register, to improve understanding of risk factors in sudden unexpected deaths in infancy (SUDI) by enhancing Child Death Register data with detailed health history from health records.

Looking forward – priorities for 2024–25

Examination Reviews



Examination of the impact of the cross-Government panels focused on serious repeat offenders

A quantitative and case file analysis of how the youth justice taskforce/multi-agency panels and the Serious Repeat Offender Index reporting approach has led to practice and recidivism changes and how young people and families have been impacted.



Family support service system efficacy

A qualitative look at the family support service system and how it supports and prevents family's holistically to prevent their entry into child protection and youth justice. This will have a specific focus on funding, social benefit bonds, the Family Wellbeing Program, and Family and Child Connect.



Blue Card deep dive

A forensic examination of the effectiveness of the Blue Card scheme, considering the implementation of past reforms and those recommendations that have not yet been completed.

Discovery Reviews



Kinship Carer support and recruitment

Analysis of the policies and practice that support the recruitment and retention of kinships carers.



Student disciplinary absences

Analysis of the rates, cohorts, locations, patterns and extent of expulsion and suspension, with focus on identifying and preventing pathways into Youth Justice.



Child sexual abuse in Queensland

A quantitative look at the incidence of child sexual exploitation and the programs and policies in place to respond.



Correlation between public and social housing and child protection and youth justice

A data analysis to identify how housing services can impact child safety and youth justice outcomes.



Staffing in Youth Justice

A quantitative look at the capacity and trends in the community and detention Youth Justice workforce and analysis of the roles, skills and structures used in Youth Justice systems.



Staffing in child protection

A quantitative look at the capacity and trends in the child protection and out-of-home care workforce and analysis of the roles, skills and structures used in child protection systems.



Supporting parents in the youth justice system

A qualitative analysis of the views of parents on their child's experience of the youth justice system.



Sibling carers

Data analysis to identify the occurrence of sibling groups in out-of-home care, and the incidence of care leavers being registered as carers for their siblings.



Assessing and addressing criminogenic factors

A look at the tools and practice employed in Queensland Youth Justice system with comparison to other jurisdictions with a focus on innovative models and programs.



Residential care

Cohort analysis of the children in residential care including the age, sibling group status and child protection history.



Intake and resubstantiation assessment

A quantitative assessment of how the child protection system is assessing risk and safety for children with a focus on how resubstantiation and renotification rates could be reduced.



Information sharing success

A look at the information sharing frameworks and innovations in place to keep children and families safe.



School reengagement

A quantitative and case file read on how young Queenslanders (particularly those with emerging Youth Justice exposure) are reengaged into education or employment programs.

Looking forward – priorities for 2025–26

Examination Reviews



Parental neglect

A review of neglect cases to identify how poverty and support service access are factors in the assessment of “willing and able” and therefore shaping the experience of socially disenfranchised parents and families.



Growing up in Queensland

A quantitative review of Queensland's children and families across the life domains, presenting a regional focus with case studies on the lived experience of Queenslanders including with specific focus on out-of-home care and youth justice cohorts.

Discovery Reviews



Hearing families and children

An assessment of the child protection and youth justice complaints processes, including a mapping of the oversight entities practices and policies.



Life outcomes for children in out-of-home care

An early look at the impact of implementing *Support 21* including a quantitative assessment of post-care life domain measures (i.e. housing, employment, health, etc).



School achievement for children in out-of-home care

A quantitative compilation of the trends and changes in school achievement for children in care including performance, attendance and exclusion.



Informed young people and families

An analysis of insights from children, families and the sector about how youth justice practices and legal proceedings give practical and measured effect to the Charter of youth justice principles to inform children and families and have them participate.