

TERMS OF REFERENCE

SYSTEM RESPONSES TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Review purpose

On 4 December 2024 the Attorney General referred a matter to the Child Death Review Board and requested a review under section 29I of the *Queensland Family and Child Commission Act 2014*. In response the Board has approved these Terms of Reference for a Review into the System Response to Child Sexual Abuse.

The *System Response to Child Sexual Abuse Review* will use the Ashley Paul Griffith matter as a case study to review system responses to child sexual abuse and make recommendations for any necessary improvements to the laws, policies, procedures and practices across the early childhood education and care, police and the blue card systems.

Terms of reference

1. Establish the timeline of conduct by Ashley Paul Griffith to understand what laws, policies, procedures and practices could or should have enabled earlier identification, investigation and prosecution. This should include documenting his history of employment, residential movements, and complaints or reports about him or his conduct.
2. Examine how the legislative framework, policies and practices of the early childhood education and care, police (State and Federal) and blue card systems operated during the time of Griffith's offending, to identify necessary systems improvements to better protect children from sexual abuse and other harm.
3. Identify the context of child sexual offending in Queensland, including changes in the legislative and policy framework, historical and current rates of extra-familial offending and changes in our understanding of the nature of extra-familial offending.
4. Identify best practice across Australian and internationally for: protecting children from sexual abuse; identifying perpetrators and children at risk; and responding to allegations.
5. Seek and consider the views of impacted parties to identify the lessons arising from their experience.
6. Analyse the legislative and policy framework in place today to protect children from child sexual abuse in Queensland and identify any gaps and areas for improvement. This will include assessing how the timeline of offending and action taken may have changed if the protections in place today had existed earlier.
7. Examine how the early childhood education and care, police and blue card systems have responded to the Ashley Paul Griffith case to review and implement improved protections and responses.

In undertaking this review, the Child Death Review Board will:

- ensure all remaining court actions against the offender are not hindered or jeopardised;
- utilise all powers provided to it including the information access powers under s29P of the *Family and Child Commission Act 2014* and provide the Minister with advice on the extent to which the powers and processes are enabling the review to identify key facts or learnings.
- seek and incorporate the advice of relevant experts;
- seek and incorporate submissions from those directly impacted by the Ashley Paul Griffith matter and provide them with appropriate support to contribute; and
- keep the public informed on the status and progress of the review.

Out of scope

The review will not consider the prosecution case and court-related processes, the legal accountability of individuals and will only consider matters occurring outside of Queensland to the extent legally possible.

Timeframe

The Review's final report will be delivered in 2025.