

System responses to child sexual abuse review

Call for submissions from impacted people

**Child Death
Review Board**
Queensland Family & Child Commission

The Queensland Child Death Review Board (the Board) is reviewing system responses to child sexual abuse in Queensland, using the offending of a convicted perpetrator of child sexual abuse as a case study. The review will make recommendations for any necessary improvements to the laws, policies, procedures and practices across the early childhood education and care, police and Blue Card systems.

In conducting this review, we want to hear from people who have been directly impacted by the offender's behaviour in Queensland. Specifically, we seek to emphasise the voices and perspectives of the survivors of this abuse, as well as parents, carers and former colleagues of the offender. Impacted people's insights will inform the review and help shape recommendations for improving the safety of Queensland's children.

This document sets out:

- information about the review
- the role of the Board
- our consultation process
- ways you can participate.

The review

Both government agencies and non-government organisations have an obligation to protect children from sexual abuse. This can be achieved through legislation, policies, procedures and practices designed to prevent, identify and respond to child sexual abuse.

The offender worked in childcare services across Queensland for an extended period, sexually offending against multiple victims, while evading detection. This abuse has had a profound impact on victims, families, staff working in the centres and the wider community.

Reviewing systems to identify gaps or deficiencies that contributed to the offender's ability to avoid detection presents an opportunity to strengthen our child safeguarding practices.

This document contains information about the abuse of children in Queensland.

If the information causes you distress or if you need help or support, consider contacting any of these services:

Lifeline: 13 11 14

Beyond Blue: 1300 22 4636

Kids Helpline (for 5 to 25 year olds): 1800 55 1800

Sexual Assault Helpline: 1800 010 120

Bravehearts: 1800 272 831

13YARN: 13 92 76

The Queensland Government has asked the Board to review system responses to child sexual abuse in Queensland.

The terms of reference for the review were released in January 2025, which require the Board to:

- establish a timeline of conduct by the offender
- examine the legislative framework, policies and procedures that operated during the time of offending
- identify the context of child sexual offending in Queensland
- identify best practice for protecting children from sexual abuse
- seek and consider the views and experiences of people directly impacted by the offender's behaviour
- analyse the legislative and policy framework in place to protect children from child sexual abuse
- examine the responses of the early childhood education and care, police and Blue Card systems.

The terms of reference for the review can be found on our [website](https://qfcc.qld.gov.au/board)

Who we are

The Board conducts system reviews to identify improvements that can increase children's safety. It comprises 12 members: five from government departments, six from the community and the Principal Commissioner of the Queensland Family and Child Commission (QFCC).

Under section 29I of the *Family and Child Commission Act 2014* (the Act), in exceptional circumstances the Attorney-General can ask the Board to carry out a review relating to the child protection system that does not relate to child deaths.

The Board is hosted by the QFCC. The Act requires the QFCC to:

- promote the safety, wellbeing and best interest of children and young people
- promote and advocate for the responsibility of families and communities to protect and care for children and young people
- improve the child protection system.

Our consultation process

We recognise that the experiences of victim-survivors, family members and former colleagues of the offender must be heard and considered as part of our review. This will help us to identify gaps in the system responses and improvements needed to strengthen safeguards. We are seeking submissions from people directly impacted by the offender's actions and advice from experts and community organisations.

We will do this by:

- calling for submissions from victim-survivors, family members and former colleagues of the offender
- holding targeted consultation sessions with relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, support services, victims' advocates, community organisations, academics and other experts
- consulting with victims' advocates, undertaking research, and engaging with people who have lived experience
- publishing progress reports on our website and papers about the issues explored throughout the review.

Who can make a submission?

We want to hear from people who have been directly impacted by the offender's behaviour in Queensland. Your insights will inform the review and help shape recommendations for improving the safety of children in Queensland. We are seeking submissions from people who:

- are a victim of the offender
- are or were a parent, guardian or carer, or a relative of a victim of the offending
- are or were an employee at a childcare center where the offending took place.

Protections are in place for people who provide information to the Board. Under section 29T of the Act, you will not be held to have breached professional codes of conduct or be liable for disciplinary action for honestly making a submission to the Board.

What supports are available?

We are committed to supporting victim-survivors, family members and former colleagues of the offender to participate in the review process and make a submission. This includes access to online resources or direct engagement with support services, if you prefer.

More details about available supports can be found on our [website](#) or you can email us directly.

If you believe a child is in immediate danger or in a life threatening situation, call Emergency Services on (000).

If you have concerns relating to the sexual abuse of a child contact Policelink on 131 444.

If you or someone you know has experienced abuse as a child and are seeking more information and advice, including support services, you can contact Victim Assist Queensland on 1300 546 587.

How you can make a submission

If you are an impacted person and would like to make a submission, email us at SRCSAR@qfcc.qld.gov.au.

Any information you provide will be useful for the review.

How we will use your submission

Your views and experiences are important to ensure we understand this case from all perspectives.

We will not identify you in any publication; however, the review will explore common themes across submissions and may use de-identified quotes or information about your experiences in the review materials.

You will receive an acknowledgment when your submission is received. We will also confirm:

- your interest in further communication with us
- the process of gaining your approval should we seek to publish any part of the material you have provided.

What should your submission include?

When making your submission, focus on how the laws, policies, procedures and practices across early childhood education and care, police and Blue Card systems can be improved. When developing your submission, consider the following questions:

1. What approaches do you believe could have helped prevent such incidents or detect them earlier?
2. How could responses have been improved?
3. What issues or problems did you experience in relation to this matter in the early education and care, police and/or Blue Card systems?
4. What prevention strategies would you recommend to strengthen child safeguarding practices across the areas we are reviewing?

How can you be involved?

If you are a victim survivor, family member or former colleague of the offender, you can participate in the review by:

1. sending us a letter or email outlining what you believe should be considered as part of the review
2. submitting a written response outlining your views on some or all the areas we are considering
3. providing relevant documentation including any complaints you have made or copies of communication you have sent to other agencies
4. nominating another person to represent your views and perspectives
5. signing up to the [mailing list](#) to receive updates on our progress.

If a disclosure of child sexual abuse is made in a submission, we may have a responsibility to report details of the disclosure to police. More information about this responsibility is available [here](#).

When are submissions open?

You can make a submission until 1 June 2025.

For more information

System Responses to Child Sexual Abuse Review

Queensland Child Death Review Board
PO Box 15217, Brisbane City East QLD 4002

Email: SRCSAR@qfcc.qld.gov.au

Website: www.qfcc.qld.gov.au/board