

Preventing child sexual abuse

Child sexual abuse is a devastating violation of trust and safety. It can occur in any setting—within families, institutions, communities and online. While much progress has been made to increase awareness, improve responses, and strengthen legal and policy frameworks, sexual abuse of children remains a persistent and deeply harmful issue within Australia.

Children rely on adults to meet their care and protection needs. Failures in individual and organisational responsibility and systemic safeguards continue to expose children to risk of harm. Safeguarding children is a shared responsibility, and preventing sexual abuse requires the sustained efforts of individuals, families, communities, organisations and governments working together. Prevention must be proactive and multi-layered, including education, accountability, environmental design, cultural change and support a stronger service response.

Review of System Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

Following the prosecution of a high-profile child sex offender, the Queensland Government asked the Child Death Review Board (the Board) to review system responses to child sexual abuse in Queensland and make recommendations for improvements needed to the laws, policies, procedures and practices across the early childhood education and care, police and Blue Card systems. The terms of reference and information about the review are available [here](#).

Call for public submissions

The views and experiences of victim-survivors, their families and workers and the advice of experts are central to the Board's review. The Board continues to consult with people impacted by the offender's behaviour and is now inviting public submissions about improvements needed to better protect children from sexual abuse.

Community organisations with expertise in child safeguarding are encouraged to contribute a submission.

The Board has made significant progress in this review. Early findings from our consultation with victim-survivors, experts and academics are featured in our June Progress Report. People and organisations wishing to contribute a submission as part of this public consultation are asked to reflect on that progress report and the questions below.

Public submissions will inform the Board's findings and recommendations in its final report. Details about how to make a submission are included below.

How to make a submission

We welcome written submissions that respond to the June Progress Report and any or some of the questions below. Submissions can be in the form of essays, policy proposals, research summaries, personal stories (with appropriate de-identification) or other formats. Submissions will inform the recommendations included in the final report.

Submissions are open until 31 July 2025.

Send your submission to SRCSAR@qfcc.qld.gov.au

Questions to inform your submission

The Board has heard from victim-survivors, workers, child safeguarding experts and academics. The views of the public, including community organisations with expertise in child safeguarding, will build on the insights heard so far. We are interested in insights, evidence or proposals relating to improvements to the early childhood education and care, police and Blue Card systems. When providing a submission about these systems, we ask you to reflect on the June Progress Report and the eight areas listed below. Use these as a guide to tailor your submission.

What is working well and what needs to change?

1. **Policing responses** – This can include how investigations are conducted, and how victims and families are supported and responded to when making a report.
2. **Early childhood education and care settings** – This can include governance, oversight, workforce training and other child safeguarding practices.
3. **The Blue Card system** – This can include laws, policies and procedures, and its role within a broader child safeguarding system.
4. **Government roles and responsibilities** – This might include government strategies and policy frameworks focused on the prevention, identification and response to child sexual abuse.
5. **Primary prevention strategies** – This can include community awareness raising, education for children and adults, cultural or behavioural change, or system-level reforms.
6. **Safer organisations and institutions** – This can include child safeguarding legislation, policies, procedures and practices.
7. **Supporting children and families** – This can include services and supports for children and families, education for children, families and caregivers, and strengthening complaint processes.
8. **Identifying and disrupting offending** – This can include employment legislation and practices, as well as other laws, policies and practices focused on the prevention, early detection, disruption and prosecution of child sexual abuse.

Protection, confidentiality and support

All submissions will be treated with sensitivity, especially when including details of personal experiences. You can make a submission anonymously. While we intend on referencing submissions in our final report, content will be de-identified.

Please advise us if you would like your information to remain confidential. Protections are in place for people who provide information to the Board. Under section 29T of the *Family and Child Commission Act 2014*, you are protected from breaching any professional code of conduct or from any disciplinary action for honestly making a submission to the Board.

Support services are available, and we encourage anyone affected by this topic to seek assistance:

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