

2025-26

# Oversight Forward Workplan

The Queensland Family and Child Commission (Commission) is charged with responsibilities to review and improve the systems that protect, safeguard and support Queensland children and their families. Our vision is that *Every Queensland child is loved, respected and has their rights upheld*. We pursue this vision by influencing systemic change that improves the safety and wellbeing of Queensland's children and their families.

Our *Oversight Framework 2023–2027* articulates the model, principles and methodologies that apply to how the Commission delivers impactful reviews, audits and evaluations that influence positive change, and this document, the *Oversight Forward Workplan 2025* (Workplan), contains the proposed future oversight work of the Commission as at March 2025.

The Commission develops a Workplan to set its systemic oversight priorities and ensure transparency. The Workplan is deliberately agile. While we list the topics we intend to examine, they are subject to review and revision to ensure the Commission's investment is focused on the areas most likely to have the greatest positive impact on Queensland children and families at the time. The Workplan undergoes regular priority review through a consultative approach and is published on the website annually.

The Commission uses a four-staged approach to scope and design its oversight work, applying an escalating approach based on the evidence and facts obtained in the earlier stages. The most intensive reviews, discovery and examination reviews, include dedicated resources and delivery against a formal project methodology. Our monitoring activities are deliberately agile and inform the need for deeper reviews.

The Commission becomes aware of review opportunities in several ways, mostly by means of working closely with our advisory councils, strategic partners, agencies, youth advocates, young people and families, and the general public. Issues may also be identified through data monitoring and review activities. Consultation with a range of stakeholders including government and non-government agencies, peak bodies, the community, and young people, guide the design and conduct of our review work.

The systems we provide oversight of are complex and multifaceted and there are many experts across Queensland working to reduce risks to children. The Commission values the expertise of others and proactively seeks to work with stakeholders undertaking related initiatives. This ensures that oversight decisions are informed, evidence-based, objective, and in the best interests of children and families.

The Commission's oversight prioritisation methodology guides decisions about what issues should be prioritised asking three key questions and considering the answers holistically:

1. **What is the impact of the matter on children and families?**
2. **Is addressing the matter important to achieving the Commission's legislative objectives, strategic priorities, and explicit commitments?**
3. **Can the Commission influence the matter and is it the right agency to deliver impact and drive change?**



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## Examination reviews

We extensively research, analyse and synthesise systemic issues and determine solutions-focused recommendations for change. We examine the broad system including the structural and relational elements driving an issue, the experiences of children, families and the sector and the changes needed to make improvements. We do this by undertaking a comprehensive review of the system in consultation with stakeholders and by gathering insights from children, families, the sector and the public. We gather submissions and facilitate consultation sessions and interviews to identify solutions for, and intended outcomes of, change.

Review Title	Portfolio System	Description	Lead	Status
System Responses to Child Sexual Abuse	Whole of Government	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 improvements to the laws, policies, procedures and practices across the early childhood education and care, police and blue card systems.	Child Death Review Board	In progress
Growing Up in Queensland	Whole of Government	A quantitative review of Queensland’s children and families across the life domains, presenting a regional focus with case studies on lived experiences of Queenslanders with a focus on out-of-home care and youth justice cohorts.	Strategy and Impact	In progress
Annual Report on the Performance of the Child Protection System – s40	Whole of Government	Each year the Commission produces an annual report on the performance of the child protection system against state and national goals, as required by s40 of the <i>Family and Child Commission Act 2014</i> .	Strategy and Impact	In progress
Use of residential care in Queensland	Out-of-home care	An examination of the contracting and procurement of residential care placements, including system controls in place to ensure quality outcomes.	Strategy and Impact	In Progress
Child Rights Report	Whole of Government	Analyses how Queensland upholds children’s rights identifying the changes needed to embed a child rights approach across government policy, legislation and systems to deliver better, more equitable outcomes for Queensland children.	OATSICC	In Progress
Responses to unborn child notifications	Child Protection	This review draws on system and practice issues emerging from the deaths of children known to Child Safety.	Child Death Review Board	In progress
Information sharing and collaborative practice	Whole of Government	This review draws on system and practice issues emerging from the deaths of children known to Child Safety.	Child Death Review Board	In progress
Risk assessment relating to Intervention with Parental Agreements	Child Protection	This review draws on system and practice issues emerging from the deaths of children known to Child Safety.	Child Death Review Board	Proposed
Provision of support for foster and kinship carers	Whole of Government	This review draws on system and practice issues emerging from the deaths of children known to Child Safety.	Child Death Review Board	In progress
Service responses to infants in high-risk situations	Whole of Government	This review draws on system and practice issues emerging from the deaths of children known to Child Safety.	Child Death Review Board	Planned
Risk assessment – at intake and at investigation	Child Protection	This review draws on system and practice issues emerging from the deaths of children known to Child Safety.	Child Death Review Board	Proposed

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## Discovery reviews

We scan and analyse what is known about an issue and the broader system policy, program, practice and reform environment. We do this by gathering, reviewing and analysing legislation, policies, procedures, practices, literature, quantitative data and interjurisdictional models to understand the operating environment (including improvements underway) and intended outcomes for children and families. We engage young people, responsible agencies, sectors and other stakeholders to help identify the causes of the issue, the impact it is having on children and families and opportunities for improvement.

Review Title	Portfolio System	Description	Lead	Status
Principle Focus – Child Protection	Child Protection	Data analysis of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle implementation across the child protection system drawing on state and regional data.	OATSICC	In Progress
Residential care lived experience advice	Out-of-home care	Written reports on the engagement with and advice of the young Queenslanders living in residential care.	Strategy and Impact	In Progress
Annual family and community survey	Whole of Government	A survey to understand what families and the community think about the child protection and family support system.	Strategy and Impact	Planned
Secure care (high risk behaviours) review	Out-of-home care	A project to identify the best practice responses to complex behaviours of children and young people in Queensland and provide a secure care model that can respond more effectively.	Strategy and Impact	In Progress
Monitoring of recommendations	Whole of Government	Monitoring the implementation of the recommendations made to government by the Commission and the Child Death Review Board (formal annual audit).	Strategy and Impact	In Progress
Principle Focus – Youth Justice	Youth Justice	Data analysis of the involvement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the youth justice system drawing on state and regional data.	OATSICC	Planned
Mental health impacts of being in out-of-home care	Out-of-home care	An analysis of the correlation between contact with Child Safety and the prevalence of psychiatric hospital admissions by age 30 and the use of a mental health strategy for maltreatment healing.	Research Partnership	In Progress
Drivers and protective factors in youth suicide	Whole of Government	A research paper to provide descriptive statistics on trends and risk factors for youth suicide in Queensland, including a regional analysis tailored to Primary Health Network areas.	Research Partnership	Proposed

**In Progress:** The work has commenced   **Planned:** The work has been scoped for commencement   **Proposed:** The topic has been identified but no work has commenced   **OATSICC:** Office of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children’s Commissioner



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## Future policy areas for review in 2026 and beyond

- Provide advice regarding the design of a pilot program for GPS monitoring of high-risk domestic violence perpetrators
- Provide advice regarding the design and implementation of the Domestic and Family Violence Statewide Crisis Intake and Referral Service expansion across Queensland
- Provide proactive policy advice to guide the development and implementation of circuit-breaking sentencing—an alternative to detention that delivers an intensive rehabilitation program for youth offenders
- Provide evidence-based design principles to support the implementation of Youth Justice and crime early intervention schools, as well as initiatives that help young people disengaged from education access alternative pathways into training and education
- Provide proactive policy advice to inform the delivery of a 12-month post-detention transition program to reduce recidivism rates
- Contribute evidence-based policy advice regarding the design and delivery of educational initiatives in youth detention
- Support the design of additional Step Up, Step Down specialist mental health services for young Queenslanders
- Assess the implementation and uptake of the professional foster care scheme, including participation levels, regional distribution and emerging barriers or enablers.

## Monitoring and Insight Reviews

We look for patterns and relationships in evidence to more precisely identify issues, and determine whether or not further discovery action is needed. We raise issues with responsible agencies for their consideration and action and/or determine whether the issue should be listed on the Commission’s forward oversight agenda for further discovery work.

Review Title	Portfolio System	Lead	Status
Uptake and outcomes of extended post care support	Out-of-home care	Strategy and Impact	Proposed
Trends in school disciplinary absences	Education	OATSICC	In Progress
Impact of amendments to National Disability Insurance Scheme on children	Disability	Strategy and Impact	Proposed
Number of children in watch houses	Youth Justice	Strategy and Impact	In Progress
Fatal assault and neglect of children in Queensland	Child Protection	Child Death Prevention	Planned
Impact of the extra-curricular investment for children in care	Out-of-home care	Strategy and Impact	Proposed
Protecting children from the dangers of heat in vehicles	Transport	Child Death Prevention	In Progress
Incidences of child deaths from animal bites and stings	Whole of Government	Child Death Prevention	Planned
Child deaths by quad bikes and side-by-side vehicles	Transport	Child Death Prevention	Planned
Child deaths by drowning at waterfalls and rock pools	Whole of Government	Child Death Prevention	Planned
Trends in recidivism rates following detention	Youth Justice	Strategy and Impact	Proposed
Review the use and success of youth foyers	Housing	Strategy and Impact	Proposed