

Telephone: 07 3900 6000

Reference: [REDACTED]

Ms Jodie Belyea MP  
Chair  
Joint Standing Committee on Implementation of the National Redress Scheme  
Via email: [REDACTED]

Dear Ms Belyea

In my role as Chair of the Child Death Review Board (the Board) in Queensland, I recently delivered a significant review into system responses to child sexual abuse.

The report, *In Plain Sight* was commissioned following the case of Ashley Paul Griffith, one of the most serious and confronting child sexual exploitation matters in Australia's recent history. It examined systemic responses over a 20-year period, spanning: early childhood education and care; Queensland Police Service; Australian Federal Police; and the Working with Children Check system. *In Plain Sight* represents the most comprehensive examination of Australia's response to child sexual exploitation since the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The central finding is that those who harm children often operate openly within communities, visible to institutions and systems but not recognised or acted upon.

I consider much of the report to be of relevance to your terms of reference – in particular the parts focussed on prevention and healing.

While grounded in Queensland systems, the review necessarily addresses national safeguarding arrangements. Its findings reflect challenges seen across Australia and internationally, including:

- fragmented safeguarding responsibilities
- dual and overlapping policing roles
- limitations of traditional worker-screening models
- the effects of federalism and the de-prioritisation of children in executive decision-making
- difficulties detecting extra-familial offenders embedded in communities
- the increasing complexity of online exploitation
- ongoing cultural minimisation of child sexual abuse.

The report is likely to inform national dialogue on safeguarding architecture, accountability and reform. The report makes 28 recommendations, including 19 operational improvements, and 9 transformational reforms. Ten recommendations are specifically targeted at the National Government, given their constitutional role/s in international and online matters.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss the report findings and recommendations with you at your convenience.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please don't hesitate to contact me directly on [REDACTED] or via email at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

**Luke Twyford**  
Principal Commissioner  
Queensland Family and Child Commission

6 February 2026