Oversight

Objective 1

Drive high quality, evidence-based Queensland service systems for vulnerable children and families.

Strategies

Monitor, review, evaluate and report on the performance of the child protection and family support systems.

Influence and guide the sector on practice and policy improvements through promotion of knowledge translation and providing access to best practice data.
Recommendation 28 Supplementary Review: A report on information sharing to enhance the safety of children in regulated home-based services

Following publication of the When a child is missing: Remembering Tiahleigh—A report into Queensland’s children missing from out-of-home care, the QFCC undertook a supplementary review (recommendation 28 of the report).

Recommendation 28 required the QFCC to undertake a supplementary review into legislation, policies and practices for information sharing to protect all children in regulated service environments. The review focused specifically on those regulated services provided from the home: foster and kinship care, family day care and stand-alone care services.

The Recommendation 28: Supplementary Review report was released on 20 February 2017. It made 17 recommendations to increase the visibility of home-based services in order to support regulation and monitoring, improve information sharing between agencies about potential risks, and strengthen suitability assessment processes. Findings included the need:

- to develop a register to allow relevant agencies to access key information about home-based services, including for those households providing more than one home-based service
- for different suitability assessment processes across service types
- for opportunities for increased monitoring and compliance activities
- for improvements to guidelines for sharing information about a child at risk
- for opportunities for earlier information sharing between agencies about an individual who may pose a risk to children.
Blue card and foster care review

In September 2016, the Premier asked the QFCC to lead a comprehensive examination of the blue card and foster care systems in Queensland to identify any improvements that were required. The review examined current legislative frameworks and operational practices to identify any gaps and inefficiencies in meeting the safety needs of children.

Conducted under Part 3 of the *Family and Child Commission Act 2014*, the review’s terms of reference were to:

1. **explore ways to build and sustain public confidence in the respective systems**
2. **review the blue card system legislation and identify gaps, barriers, inconsistencies or inefficiencies in meeting the safety needs of children in Queensland**
3. **review key blue card system operations to identify opportunities to streamline, innovate and enhance access for members of the community**
4. **audit and review foster carer approval and monitoring processes**
5. **review Child Safety Services within the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services to determine whether it is operating effectively.**

Recommendations are currently being implemented to improve information sharing between the agencies responsible for regulating home-based services, and to enhance the safety of children accessing these services.

**A systems review of individual agency findings following the death of a child**

Following the tragic death of Mason Jet Lee, the Premier asked the QFCC to undertake a review of individual agency findings about the services provided to Mason before his death.

The QFCC had oversight of:

- the internal systems and practice review of the service delivery to Mason Jet Lee by the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services
- the external Child Death Case Review Panel report
- Queensland Health’s health services investigation.

The QFCC’s review found more could be done by agencies to make sure child death reviews achieved the systems level outcomes needed to keep vulnerable children safe. The report was released on 10 April 2017.

One recommendation was made—to establish a contemporary child death model for Queensland. The recommendation included identifying a suitably independent agency to take responsibility for the external Child Death Case Review Panel.

The QFCC is currently working with key agencies to finalise this recommendation and will report back to government.
This followed an earlier request by the Director-General of Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services for the QFCC to lead a system and practice review of the suspected child abuse and neglect (SCAN) team system. The review’s scope included the operating arrangements for responding to children and families with the most complex needs.

Emeritus Professor Dorothy Scott (as lead advisor) and ACIL Allen consulting were contracted to design system options and an implementation strategy for a contemporary model of multi-agency collaboration.

The review considered:

- contemporary approaches in other jurisdictions
- operation of the current SCAN team system
- known barriers and systemic issues with the current practices of joint agency responses to suspected child abuse and neglect
- interfaces with related reforms, including cross-agency working groups on Indigenous overrepresentation in the child protection system
- effective models for agencies to share information and processes in joint investigation and decision-making.

An advisory group of senior executives from a number of government departments informed the review.

Consultation identified that a focus shift from the SCAN team system to a contemporary model for information sharing was required. Any changes would, however, need to align with child protection reform.

ACIL Allen provided a draft report to the QFCC on 30 June 2017.

In November 2016, the QFCC released two discussion papers seeking the public’s views on key issues in relation to the operation of the current blue card and foster care systems. The discussion papers sought feedback on what could be done to:

- strengthen, streamline and increase community participation in the blue card system
- strengthen carer assessment and approval processes, and safeguards for children in out-of-home care.

The QFCC undertook a broad engagement and consultation process, with over 2260 consultation activities occurring. These included 124 forums with 640 participants, 181 of whom identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

In March 2017, the QFCC provided the Premier with its report on the review’s fifth term of reference. It also released options papers seeking the public’s views on identified options for reform of the two systems. The options presented in these papers represented the broad range of feedback provided during consultation processes and research of the issues. The papers also identified preliminary recommendations about ways to streamline the blue card system.

To be provided to the Premier in July 2017, the review reports will make a number of recommendations to strengthen and streamline the operation of the systems to better protect children in Queensland.

**Suspected child abuse and neglect team system review**

In December 2016, the Child Protection Reform Leaders Group endorsed a proposal for the QFCC to facilitate the development of options for a contemporary model of information sharing.

3 The Child Protection Reform Leaders Group is made up of senior executives from government and non-government agencies representing the social services and child protection sectors. It provides a forum for coordinating the whole-of-government implementation of the child protection and family support reforms and resolving interagency issues as they arise.
Feedback is currently being sought from the senior executive advisory group members. The aim is to pilot a conceptual model in 2017–18.

Queensland’s performance in achieving state and national child protection goals

Section 40 of the Family and Child Commission Act 2014 requires the QFCC to include information on the following in its annual report:

- Queensland’s performance in relation to achieving state and national goals relating to the child protection system (s40)(1)(a)(i)
- Queensland’s performance over time in comparison to other jurisdictions (s40)(1)(a)(ii)
- Queensland’s progress in reducing the number of, and improving the outcomes for, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in the child protection system (s40)(1)(a)(iii).

A range of national data sources have been used to measure performance of the child protection system. All data featured was the most current available as at 30 June 2017. An overview of Queensland’s performance in relation to these three areas is provided in Appendix D of this report.

Evaluation

The QFCC has legislative responsibility for analysing and evaluating, at a systems level:

- policies and practices relevant to the child protection system
- the performance of relevant agencies in delivering services.

The QFCC also has lead responsibility for evaluating the child protection reform program at three distinct milestones: Year 3 (2017–18), Year 5 (2018–19) and Year 10 (2023–24), and for assisting relevant agencies to evaluate how well their programs are working.

The QFCC seeks regular updates from departments with child protection responsibilities about their planned evaluation activities. It supports them with this task by facilitating a Queensland Family and Child Evaluation Community of Practice (which has met regularly since 2014) and by publishing evaluation resources.

Evaluation framework

The QFCC has developed an evaluation framework to assess implementation of the reform program, outcomes and program impacts. The framework describes the high-level approach to conducting the reform’s program-level evaluations. It also outlines the key design elements of the evaluations led by the QFCC throughout the 10-year reform program.

An evaluation framework reference group, made up of government agencies, non-government organisations and academic institutions, provided input into the framework. It was peer-reviewed by the Centre for Program Evaluation at the University of Melbourne, then approved by the Queensland Interdepartmental CEO Committee in June 2017.

---

4 Sources include: Child Protection Australia 2015–16 and Children’s Headline Indicators 2013 by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW); Australian Early Development Census 2015; and the Productivity Commission’s Report on Government Services.

5 Operational data from the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services for the 2016–17 financial year is released three to four months in arrears. Accordingly, a further snapshot on the performance of the child protection system will be released by the QFCC in December 2017, based on data for the final quarter of the 2016–17 financial year.
As shown in the following infographic, the evaluation framework is divided into a series of components, each of which relates to one of our aspects of evaluation—process, effectiveness, impact or financial sustainability.

**Note:** It is considered too early to examine impacts on children and families at the Year 3 point, which is why this component is not included in the Year 3 evaluation. However, some evidence of impact may become evident in the course of evaluating other components. If that occurs, it will be summarised for Year 3.
Evaluation resources

The QFCC developed the following evaluation resources in 2016–17:

Workplace practice self-assessment toolkit

This toolkit is a resource for agencies to use in examining and evaluating their workplace and organisational culture and practices and in verifying that they achieve the desired cultural change.

The tools were developed from a QFCC-led workshop, in which stakeholders and specialists from across the child protection and family support system identified workplace practices that align with and reflect the change described in the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry (QCPCOI) report. The toolkit allows workplace practices in the sector to be assessed across four attributes: strength-based practice, leadership, collaboration and cross-cultural practice.

Australasian Evaluation Society 2016 Conference notes

This resource provides a summary of notes taken by attendees of the 2016 Australasian Evaluation Society Conference. The presentations reflected on what diversity and change in social, cultural, organisational, environmental, political and economic landscapes means for evaluation and evaluators.

The information highlights key messages for those unable to attend the conference.

Data linkage resource

This resource introduces data linkage, which is a process that is used to combine information that relates to an individual entity from within or across multiple sources. It highlights Australian resources and examples for those interested in undertaking a linked data project in child protection and related fields.

It was developed from discussions between the QFCC-facilitated Family and Child Evaluation Community of Practice and representatives from the data linkage and integration teams of Queensland Health and the Queensland Government Statistician’s Office.

Policy advice

The QFCC has a legislative function to ‘provide leadership and give expert advice to relevant agencies about laws, policies, practices and services’.

In doing so, it uses evidence and networks to influence legislation and policy concerning the safety and wellbeing of Queensland children, young people and their families. We collect data and engage with various stakeholders, children and families to form positions and make recommendations about relevant laws, policies, practices and services.

We also make submissions to parliamentary committees, take part in hearings, give feedback to government agencies and share information across the sector.

QFCC submissions

During the year, the QFCC provided advice and recommendations to Parliamentary Committees and to other agencies through 24 submissions. These included submissions on a number of proposed Bills, notably the:

- Youth Justice and Other Legislation (Inclusion of 17 year-old Persons) Amendment Bill 2016
- Public Health (Medicinal Cannabis) Bill 2016
- Limitations of Actions (Institutional Child Sexual Abuse) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016
Advocacy

The QFCC is responsible for promoting and advocating for the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. We focus on hearing what children and young people say, and using it to inform our advocacy work.

The QFCC has established ongoing relationships and joint initiatives with statewide advocacy agencies including the CREATE Foundation, Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak, the Health and Community Services Workforce Council, the Queensland Council of Social Services, PeakCare and Bravehearts.

This is to make sure the voices of children and young people are heard, and also to identify and address the needs of their families.

Online safety

The QFCC established the ‘Out of the Dark’ initiative following the release of the Byrne Report on the Queensland Organised Crime Commission of Inquiry. Chapter 4 of this report was about online child sexual offending and child exploitation material.

A cross-agency steering committee of key government and non-government agencies was formed to advocate for, and raise awareness of, the risks of online activities for children and young people. Members include representatives from:

- the Office of the Children’s eSafety Commissioner
- the Queensland Police Service (including Taskforce Argos)\(^6\)
- the Department of Education and Training
- the Department of Science, Information, Technology and Innovation
- Bravehearts.

---

\(^6\) This is the branch of the Queensland Police Service responsible for the investigation of online child exploitation and abuse.
To make sure this initiative was youth-led and youth-focused, the QFCC supported young people in designing products to encourage online safety for young Queenslanders including:

- a rap song and video
- an interactive game concept
- a Google Chrome extension for reporting suspicious online activity
- an informational website.

Young people involved in the QFCC initiative included graduates from the Queensland University of Technology, the CREATE Foundation and The Ted Noffs Foundation Street University.

The ‘Out of the Dark’ initiative culminated in an Expo on 11 March 2017. It was hosted at the State Library of Queensland, attracting 800 attendees and over 10,000 Facebook views, and was accompanied by a learning forum for professionals. The forum advocated a shared responsibility for improving the safety of children and young people from child exploitation and child sexual offending.
Youth justice

The QFCC has a focus on raising awareness of the needs and issues experienced by young people in contact with the youth justice system. Some youth justice initiatives undertaken by the QFCC in 2016–17 included:

- consultation with stakeholders, including the Kuringgai Youth Development, the North West Aboriginal and Islander Community Association (NWAICA) and the Aboriginal Centre of Performing Arts (ACPA), which led to the development of youth justice-related videos. These were posted on the QFCC website.

In one of the videos, a Kuringgai support worker talks about his history in child protection and his subsequent experience with youth justice. In another video, youth workers describe how NWAICA and ACPA have partnered to produce a joint performing arts program for young people.

- the QFCC leading the development on an information paper on the age of criminal responsibility in Queensland. The paper, which is available on the QFCC website, proposed a number of considerations for future reform to create a fairer youth justice system. These were that:
  - the minimum age of criminal responsibility be raised to 12 years
  - 10 to 12 year olds not be sentenced to youth detention
  - youth justice conference be mandatory for the 10 to 12-year-old cohort.

Mental health

The QFCC plays a major role in the GForce working party led by CREATE young consultants. One young consultant was helped by the QFCC to share her story of mental health as a young person in care. The story first appeared in the GForce newsletter. Subsequently, the QFCC supported the development of a video.

A number of organisations displayed interest in supporting the young consultant to progress change in the sector. They developed a mental health working group that included Evolve Mental Health Service, the QFCC, Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Police, and Peakcare. The aim of the group is to develop resources and advocate for improved mental health services for young people in care.

Research

The QFCC has responsibility for developing and coordinating a multi-disciplinary research program to inform policy and practice in the child protection system.

Research agenda 2016–19

The QFCC has developed a rolling three-year research schedule to build an evidence base for improved child protection practices. The Research Agenda 2016–19 was developed in consultation with 47 sector representatives and identified a number of priority projects. Following additional input and advice from the QFCC’s Advisory Council, it was made available on the QFCC’s website.

---

8 GForce is a Queensland-based working group made up of young consultants and representatives from the sector.
9 The CREATE Foundation is the national peak consumer body supporting young consultants with an out-of-home care experience in advocating for children and young people in care and transitioning from care.
10 The work of the Advisory Council is discussed in the ‘Enable’ section of this annual report.
The seven key strategic areas of the research agenda are:

1. building safe, supportive communities for children and families
2. reducing the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the child protection system
3. improving out-of-home care
4. reducing young people’s involvement with the youth justice system
5. developing and supporting the workforce in meeting the needs of children and families into the future
6. reducing the likelihood of child deaths
7. improving outcome measures.

Online Knowledge and Resource Hub

The QFCC’s online ‘Knowledge and Resource Hub’ is a central location for resources, including research-based material, aimed at improving the quality of outcomes for children, young people and families. The community-friendly channel currently includes resources developed by the QFCC, and in future will include resources developed by other reputable sources.

Research in the Round

The QFCC has a lead role in the translation of research for the benefit of policy makers and child protection practitioners. The QFCC hosts regular research forums known as ‘Research in the Round’. These forums showcase the work of key Australian researchers who focus on vulnerable children and families. Facilitated discussions at these forums explore the implications of current research evidence for policy development and child safety practices.

The two Research in the Round forums in 2016–17, which attracted over 250 people, covered the themes of:

- improving placement stability for children in out-of-home care
- ‘Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children safe in culture’ (understanding how strong connections to culture, in families, the workforce and in communities help keep children safe).

Documents from these events (including research summaries provided by some of the presenters and videos of the presentations with associated transcripts) have been made available on the QFCC website.

Research initiatives

Help-seeking, domestic violence and Indigenous families’ research

A help-seeking, domestic violence and Indigenous families research project was conducted in partnership with the Domestic Violence and Family Research Centre, Central Queensland University, and researcher Dr Silke Meyer.

This project used data obtained from the baseline research of a survey of parents and non-parents conducted for the QFCC’s Talking Families campaign. The data was used to explore issues surrounding help-seeking in the context of domestic violence, particularly focusing on risk and protective factors for Indigenous parents. The report was published in September 2016.

Talking Families is a community education campaign designed by QFCC to help children, families and communities find the right information at the right time to reduce the pressures on families.
Collaboration on research needs

In May 2017, the QFCC finalised a partnership statement with the Australian Institute of Family Studies to allow for collaboration between the two agencies. This will increase our understanding of Australian families and should help to improve policy and practice for Queensland families and children.

Rumble’s Quest school trial

In 2016–17, the QFCC, in partnership with Griffith University, government agencies and the non-government sector, began a trial of a child-friendly initiative known as ‘Rumble’s Quest’ in three medium to large-sized primary schools. Rumble’s Quest is an interactive video game that is intended to provide a measure of the wellbeing of primary school-aged children.

The schools had a range of representation rates (high and low) of Indigenous children and children from non-English speaking backgrounds. Participants in the evaluation of the school-based implementation component were school principals and staff who had played a key role in the implementation of Rumbles Quest. Individual child data was not accessed by the QFCC as part of the trial.

The trial achieved its objective, which was to identify and document critical issues for the schools in implementing Rumble’s Quest.

Findings from the trial are being used to guide further enhancements of Rumble’s Quest and its reporting software. Griffith University is currently addressing the identified issues and working on enhancing the reporting. This will include enabling system level reporting at a regional level. A large, non-government organisation will then evaluate service outcomes across multiple sites. An additional function will enable the longitudinal tracking of children’s wellbeing over time.

Being able to easily identify children who do not feel safe either at home or at school will be critically important for the many organisations whose role includes ensuring the safety of young children. Once changes have been made, a submission will be prepared to trial Rumble’s Quest in three non-government organisations.

Child death prevention

The QFCC is responsible for maintaining a register of child deaths in Queensland, identifying patterns or trends and reporting annually. It is known as the child death register (the register).

Supporting child death prevention efforts

The QFCC’s key strategy for child death and injury prevention is to make data held in the register (about over 6,100 deaths) available for research, public education, policy development and program design. Access to the comprehensive dataset is available at no cost to genuine researchers.

In 2016–17, the QFCC responded to 17 external requests for detailed data from the register to help support child death and injury prevention initiatives. The types of requests are shown in the following table.
Data request by type of data requested 2016—17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of data requested</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drowning</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suicide</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudden unexpected death in infancy</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interstate resident deaths</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Known to child safety system</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Product related injury</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All deaths</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data source: Queensland Family and Child Commission (2016—17)

Initiatives to which the QFCC contributed information from the child death register include:

- Victoria’s inquest into the drowning death of a child. The QFCC provided the inquest with information on Queensland trends in pool drownings and changes in pool fencing laws. The recommendations from this inquest led to new Victorian pool fencing laws.

- the RACQ’s education campaign *Driveway run overs can turn holidays into tragedies*. This was informed by data from the register on low-speed run overs.

- Lady Cilento Hospital’s research on suicide, which led to the publication of a journal opinion article, *Approaches to teen suicide: What nurses can do to understand and prevent youth suicide* (published in *Nursing Review* by T Gillen).

- research projects by the Royal Life Saving Society of Australia into child drowning. These were informed by QFCC data, and resulted in several publications including:

  - *Royal Life Saving National Drowning Report 2016*
  - *Reducing Drowning Deaths in Children aged 0–14 years*
  - *Drowning fatalities in Childhood—The role of pre-existing Medical Conditions*, (by Franklin & Peden)

- National Standards Committee deliberations on how children who have drowned accessed a private swimming pool.

- a Queensland Injury Surveillance Unit exploratory review of sudden unexpected deaths in infancy—to explore whether a chin-to-chest position of an infant may have been associated with the infant’s death.

Similarly, data provided from the register has supported research in a number of fields of child death and injury prevention, leading to the following published findings:

- *Sudden unexplained early neonatal death or collapse: a national surveillance study*, Lutz T, Elliott E & Jeffery H (2016) *Pediatric Research*


The QFCC also used information from the register to support:

- a submission regarding the *Next Implementation Plan for the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2013–2023*. This recommended that the Pépi-Pods program (a safe sleep initiative currently being rolled out in Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities) be considered as part of a national campaign to reduce sudden unexpected deaths in infancy

- submissions made to Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) reviews of mandatory safety standards, which made recommendations regarding standards for:
  - children’s toys
  - baby bath aids
  - swimming and flotation aids
  - disposable cigarette lighters.

The QFCC also recommended to the ACCC that mandatory safety standards be introduced for baby slings.

Our child death prevention staff participated on a number of advisory bodies including the:

- *Queensland Suicide Prevention Reference Group*, which supports the implementation of the Queensland Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2015–17
- *Queensland Advisory Group on Suicide Information and Data*, which is an expert group on systemic issues, data and other relevant evidence
- *Queensland Government Births and Deaths Working Group*, which is a forum for discussing statistical and other issues around Queensland births and deaths.
Annual report 2015–16 on child deaths in Queensland

In March 2017, the QFCC published the *Annual Report: Deaths of Queensland Children 2015–16*. This is the 12th annual report to be produced on child deaths in Queensland.

The following table shows the number and rate of child deaths in Queensland for each reporting period since 2004–05. Despite some year-to-year fluctuations, there has been a general reduction in child death rates in the most recent years.

### Number and rate of deaths of children and young people in Queensland

![Graph showing number and rate of deaths of children and young people in Queensland](image)

In summary, Queensland child deaths decreased in 2015–16 by 12%, with decreases in the two main natural causes of deaths—perinatal conditions and congenital anomalies, and in external (non-natural) causes of death. The main findings include:

- 57.2% of the deaths registered in 2015–16 were male and 42.8% were female
- infant mortality in Queensland was 3.7 deaths per 1,000 live births, down from 4.5 deaths per 1,000 in 2014–15
- diseases and morbid conditions accounted for the majority of deaths (74.6%)
- 16.4% of deaths were due to external (non-natural) causes—suicide, transport, drowning, fatal assault and neglect, or other non-intentional injury
- suicide (20 deaths) replaced transport (18 deaths) as the leading external cause of death for the past two years. This was due to recent decreases in transport deaths rather than changes in suicide numbers. Five of the 20 young people who died as a result of suicide were known to the child protection system
- eight children drowned, with five of the children aged one–four years. Three of the children drowned in swimming pools, four drowned in inland waterways and one in a bathtub. No deaths in 2015–16 were due to defective pool fencing

---

13 Diseases and conditions that originate during pregnancy or the neonatal period (first 28 days of life).
• nine children are suspected or confirmed to have died from fatal assault or neglect in 2015–16, with six alleged to have been killed by a family member and two by a non-family member (the category for the remaining death is still to be determined). Four of the nine children who died due to fatal assault or neglect were known to the child protection system

• 52 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children died in 2015–16, a 30% decrease from 74 deaths in 2014–15. The gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous child mortality rates narrowed between 2007 and 2016. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child mortality, however, continues to be twice the rate for non-Indigenous children.

The QFCC published key findings factsheets relating to:

• child deaths in Queensland
• Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child mortality
• key causes of external and preventable child deaths.

The QFCC also coordinated and published Australian and New Zealand child death statistics 2014, with the assistance of the other members of the Australian and New Zealand Child Death Review and Prevention Group.

The year ahead

In 2017–18, as part of our oversight objective, we will:

• complete reports into the examination of the blue card and foster care services in Queensland
• conduct a review of changes to the reporting behaviours of professionals with mandatory reporting obligations
• continue to work with partners to develop a whole-of-system outcomes framework for the child protection and family support system

• commence reporting on the outcomes the child protection system achieves for children and their families
• undertake a comprehensive review of the oversight mechanisms for residential care services
• undertake a review of the commencement timeframes for five- and 10-day notification investigation and assessments
• undertake the Year 3 formal evaluation of the child protection reform program by mid-2018, with a focus on implementation and early indicators of progress towards achieving reform program outcomes
• continue to build the evaluation capacity of agencies by convening the Queensland Family and Child Evaluation Community of Practice and producing or promoting evaluation resources
• continue to consult on research gaps identified by the sector for the three-year rolling research agenda
• conduct further Research In the Round events, responding to sector priorities, with possible expansion of the forum to regional areas
• publish information and data fact sheets about current issues affecting children and young people and practical measures for prevention
• publish the Annual Report: Deaths of Queensland Children 2016–17
• continue to respond to data requests and support government and non-government agencies in developing responses to reduce the number of children and young people who die in Queensland each year
• begin a project to improve the child death register database.