



Research Agenda

2019-2022

Queensland
Family & Child
Commission





Aim of the Research Agenda 2019-22

The Queensland Family and Child Commission's (QFCC) Research Agenda 2019-22 has been developed to identify research opportunities and priorities to expand the evidence base around matters that are relevant to Queensland children, young people and families.

The QFCC provides opportunities for all Queensland children and young people to have a voice through its Growing up in Queensland project, but this research agenda focusses on building evidence about vulnerable groups of children and young people.

The QFCC's Research Agenda 2019-22 helps provide direction to the QFCC as it meets its legislative responsibilities under the *Family and Child Commission Act 2014* to develop and coordinate a multidisciplinary research program to inform policies and practices (S9(1)(e)), and to inform and educate the community on research relevant to the child protection system (S9(1)(d)(iii)).

How was it developed?

The Research Agenda 2019-22 follows on from the previous research agenda covering the period of 2016-19. That agenda was developed after extensive consultation with service providers, government agencies and academics who were asked to identify areas of research need. This agenda builds on the knowledge developed through that process but has been shaped to include issues that have grown in prominence more recently such as those relating to social media, online grooming and young people's mental health.

Who is it for?

The Research Agenda 2019-22 is intended for use by QFCC to identify priority areas of focus for QFCC's projects and programs and translational research to inform policy and practice.

The Research Agenda 2019-22 is also intended for use by academics, students and practitioners to suggest areas of research focus that could inform policy or practice and increase the evidence base around children, young people and their families.

What does it include?

The Research Agenda 2019-22 covers six main topics. Each topic comprises multiple areas of research interest.

My strong focus is on making the large body of existing research more accessible to policy makers and practitioners and only encouraging research to be undertaken in those areas where greater understanding could drive improved policy and practice. This Research Agenda is designed to provide direction to both these activities.

Future directions

Future versions of the research agenda will be informed by findings from the new independent Child Death Review Board which the QFCC will host.

Cheryl Vardon
Principal Commissioner
Queensland Family and Child Commission
June 2019



Research Topics

Understanding the importance of the early years

- Supporting vulnerable families through the early years
- The impact of alcohol and other drugs on the developing child
- Improving infant mental health
- Providing enriching environments for the developing brain
- Reducing preventable child deaths

Recognising the strengths of Indigenous families and communities

- Families are first in growing healthy kids
- Families are first educators
- Dads are first male role models
- Families are first carers of country
- Families are first in supporting and celebrating kids' success
- Understanding the importance of culture

Supporting young people vulnerable to disengaging from education

- Children invisible to the education system
- Exploring ways of tracking children through their schooling
- Children, including very young children, suspended or excluded
- Understanding which children are vulnerable to disengaging from education
- Disengagement from school and links to offending

Creating opportunities for young people leaving care

- Exploring place-based solutions to reduce homelessness for young people leaving care
- Improving housing outcomes through enhancing communication and planning
- Supporting the education and training opportunities for young people leaving care

Improving youth mental health

- Supporting young people facing mental health challenges
- Social media, gaming addiction, online grooming and mental health
- Trend data on youth suicide in Queensland

Leading in changing times

- Understanding the effects of collective and collaborative leadership
- The increasing role of technology and artificial intelligence in providing social services
- Considering the safety and wellbeing of their children when providing services to vulnerable adults
- Understanding vulnerability in the context of the child protection system

The QFCC collects, analyses and publishes information about child deaths to help prevent future deaths and serious injuries. QFCC can provide researchers and organisations child death data from 2004 to inform their research on child deaths – for more information on how to access this data please email child_death_prevention@qfcc.qld.gov.au.