



Queensland
Family and Child Commission

MEDIA STATEMENT

26 November 2014

Newly-formed Queensland Family and Child Commission releases latest child death data

The Queensland Family and Child Commission (QFCC) today released the *Annual Report: Deaths of children and young people, Queensland 2013–14*. The deaths of 446 children and young people were registered in 2013–14.

Report findings include:

- The 446 deaths in 2013–14 represented a rate of child deaths of 41.0 per 100,000. Over the ten year period of data collection there have been some year to year fluctuations in child death rates, however there has been a general reduction in the rates in the most recent years in comparison to first half of the decade.
- Diseases and morbid conditions continue to account for the majority of deaths (323 deaths; 76.9%). This represents the lowest number of deaths from diseases and morbid conditions recorded over the past five years.
- The majority of child deaths involve children under the age of one (1) year (66.8%), with the greatest proportion of deaths occurring in the first 28 days of life.
- External (i.e. non-natural) causes accounted for 73 deaths (16.4%). This is comparable to previous reporting periods with the exception of 2011–12 (111 deaths), during which there were atypical higher numbers of transport and fire fatalities.
- Transport incidents were the leading external causes of death (31 deaths), followed by suicide (23 deaths).
- Suicide was the leading external cause of death for 15–17 year olds (19 deaths). The numbers of deaths from suicide have been relatively stable over the last five reporting periods.
- Four suicide deaths were young people aged 10–14 years. The highest number of suicide deaths of 10–14 year olds since 2004 was in 2012–13 (12 deaths).
- This year marked the lowest rate of child drowning deaths in Queensland, particularly for children aged under 5, who had the lowest recorded number of deaths since reporting began in 2004 (3 deaths).
- Fatal assault accounted for 4 deaths of children and young people.
- The rate of child deaths for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children was around twice the rate for non-Indigenous children.

Principal Commissioner Steve Armitage released the report for the newly-formed Commission and has offered his sincere condolences to families, carers and friends of the children and young people who died during the year.

QFCC came into operation on 1 July 2014 following recommendations from the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry and is responsible for reporting on child deaths annually.

The 2013–14 report has been prepared from data collected by the previous Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian, which ceased operation on 30 June 2014.

The *Annual Report: Deaths of children and young people, Queensland 2013–14* can be viewed on the Commission's website at <http://www.qfcc.qld.gov.au/advocacy-and-publications/annual-report>

For more information on the report phone 3900 6008.

Counselling for young people is available from Lifeline on 13 11 14 (cost of a local call) and Kids Help Line on 1800 55 1800 (freecall).

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