

13 March 2018

Queensland  
**Family & Child**  
Commission



## MEDIA RESPONSE

### **QFCC response to ‘Save our Kids’ published 13 March 2018**

More than 95% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in Queensland are living safely at home with their families.

Of the children who are living in out-of-home care, 57% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are placed with kin, other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander carers or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residential care services. The remaining 43% of children are not placed with kin, other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander carers or residential care services.

“Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are already being placed in out-of-home care with non-Indigenous carers, and if it is in the best interest of the child the law also enables adoption to occur” Commissioner Phillip Brooks said.

“The safety, wellbeing and best interest of a child now and throughout their life are paramount.” The Queensland Family and Child Commission believes it is vital that children who are in need of protection are supported in placements that provide for their holistic wellbeing, which includes health, safety and cultural connection.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child placement principle is a nationally agreed policy to ensure children are placed with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kin, community or other Indigenous carers and if no suitable carer can be identified then the child may be placed with a non-Indigenous person within their community. The principle also promotes partnership, participation, and connection.

We must focus on ensuring child abuse and neglect is responded to in accordance with best practice. This includes working in partnership with families to resolve issues early, and where statutory intervention is required that children are cared for in the right placement. This is why the Queensland Family and Child Commission have partnered with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders and the Queensland Government to deliver on the Our Way strategy.

The Queensland Family and Child Commission is calling on families, communities and all levels of government to work collaboratively to continue to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children can grow up safely and reach their full potential.

For more information visit <http://www.qfcc.qld.gov.au/annual-report-performance-queensland-child-protection-system>.

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