



Queensland
Family & Child
Commission

2022-23

Highlights

*Every
Queensland child
is loved, respected
and has their
rights upheld*



We are pleased to present the highlights from the Queensland Family and Child Commission (QFCC) Annual Report for 2022–23. Our vision is that every Queensland child is loved, respected and has their rights upheld.

This year, we remained committed to empowering children, young people and families to share their stories, experiences, triumphs and challenges. There are over five million people living in Queensland and approximately 30 per cent are under the age of 25. There are about 563,000 two-parent families and 230,000 single-parent families. There are also 6,900 foster and kinships families.

5 million
PEOPLE IN QUEENSLAND

30%
UNDER 25

563,000
TWO-PARENT FAMILIES

230,000
SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES

6,900

FOSTER
AND KINSHIP
FAMILIES

Over the last 12 months, the child protection and youth justice systems have continued to generate significant public discussion and debate. Improving outcomes for children and families requires focus and effort that reaches across systems and portfolios, and it is through our collective efforts that we can achieve this outcome.

Over the last 12 months, we have refined our focus on:

- delivering on our commitments to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families and children’s rights through a dedicated workforce
- gathering and analysing data and evidence on system performance to support sound decision-making and reporting on trends.

In reporting on our operations and achievements, we recognise and thank our partners for their contributions and their commitment to Queensland’s children and families. Through sponsorships, joint initiatives and collaborative efforts, we have engaged with diverse voices and experts on issues affecting children and families and extended our visibility and influence on related reforms. Commissioners Luke Twyford and Natalie Lewis led the QFCC during this time.

The QFCC’s workforce comprises 57.67 full-time equivalent staff with a total staff headcount of 65.

We aim to employ a diverse, highly skilled and empowered team that reflects the community we serve.

In addition to our permanent staff, we employ Youth Advocates with diverse backgrounds and experiences to share their views to inform and influence the work of the QFCC.



OUR WORK

1 Ensure systems are accountable for the impact they have on children and families

Under Section 9 of the *Family and Child Commission Act 2014*, the QFCC has the functions to:

- provide oversight of the child protection system
- promote and advocate for the safety and wellbeing of children and young people, particularly children in need of protection or in the youth justice system
- analyse and evaluate at a systemic level, policies and practices relevant to the child protection system and the performance of relevant agencies in delivering services.

In 2022–23, we routinely gathered information and insights from young people and families, strategic partners, advisory groups, research bodies, and the public, to identify and report on trends or emerging issues. Together with our child death register data, we improved the sector's understanding of risk factors and supported the development of new policies and practices to reduce harm to children and young people. We completed six oversight reviews, and commenced 15 system reviews listed in our Oversight Forward Workplan, which we launched in July 2023.

We:

- published a review into supports delivered to children and families during Intervention with Parental Agreements (IPA), which made five recommendations
- published *Yarning for Change*, a review into the lived experiences of children in the youth justice system
- completed Pre-sentence Report (PSR), a review of frequently arrested children which provided information to government agencies about the health, education and disabilities of children and the appropriateness of PSR regulation
- published a review into decision-making in placing First Nations children in residential care, which provided information for practitioners and policy makers regarding the implementation of the child placement principle
- completed a review into swimming pool immersions of young children in Queensland between 2011 and 2021, which considered fatal and non-fatal incidents to identify regional patterns and findings for child death prevention mechanisms.



Publications

- Safer Pathways Through Childhood Action Plan 2022–23
- Swimming Pool Immersions of Young People in Queensland, 2011–2021
- Australian Child Death Statistics 2020
- Community Perceptions Survey 2022
- Workforce Survey 2022
- Keeping children in focus: A systemic review of supports delivered to Queensland children and families during Intervention with Parental Agreement
- Seeking Safety: Keeping children safe when they remain at home during Child Safety interventions
- Statewide and Regional Over representation Snapshots 2021–22
- The decision to place an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child or young person in residential care
- Child Death Review Board - Reviewing the child protection system's response to violence within families
- Child Death Review Board Sudden unexpected death in infancy among vulnerable families in Queensland

Transparent Oversight

We completed our *2023–2027 Oversight Framework* and *2023–24 Oversight Forward Workplan*, delivering on a strategic priority to be transparent in our oversight work. The Oversight Framework articulates how we will deliver reviews, audits and evaluations that influence positive change. The *Oversight Forward Workplan* outlines the systemic oversight work that we will undertake in 2023–24 and beyond. Our oversight work applies a systemic lens, recognising that Queensland children and families interact with multiple systems, including health, education, housing, employment, child protection, family support and youth justice. Children and families often move between and across systems depending on the complexity and severity of issues they experience. Understanding how different systems interact and influence one another assists in determining the overall impact on children and families and how legislation, policies and programs need to be improved for better outcomes.

Information Requests

We exercised our legislative powers on 15 occasions to request general information about data, funding and service delivery from other public entities. This included requests for information about children and young people's involvement in family support, child protection, youth justice, policing and education systems and data on placement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. Agencies complied with our requests by sharing data to inform our monitoring and review functions.



Child Death Register

We continued to record, learn from, and work to prevent child deaths in Queensland. This included sharing our child death prevention and review reports with stakeholders and the public to promote the individual accountability and systemic improvements needed to safeguard children and young people. We use data and information from our register to improve the understanding of risk factors and inform the development of policies and practices to help reduce child deaths in Queensland.

In December 2022, our *Annual Report: Deaths of children and young people Queensland 2021–22* was tabled in Queensland Parliament. Preliminary data for the 2022–23 report shows an increase in child deaths compared with 2021–22. The number of child deaths from natural causes has increased, while the number from external causes, including transport incidents or non-intentional injury-related deaths, has decreased.

Deaths of children and young people	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23 (preliminary)
Total	398	410	446
Cause of death			
Natural causes (e.g. disease)	280	269	320*
Transport	31	33	28
Drowning	10	10	10
Other non-intentional injury	14	17	4
Suicide	30	20	20
Fatal assault and neglect	3	8	5
Unexplained cause (SIDS and Undetermined)	30	35	5*
Cause pending autopsy or coronial	0	18	54

*Numbers may increase once deaths pending a cause are finalised

Swimming Pool Safety

We used data in the Child Death Register to guide the child death prevention activities under our framework, *Safer Pathways Through Childhood: Framework for the Queensland Family and Child Commission’s Child Death Prevention Activities 2022–2027*, and associated action plans. Under our first *Safer Pathways Through Childhood: Action Plan 2022–23*, we undertook projects to examine child mortality and promote preventative messages. One of our first actions was to identify ways to improve the safety of young children around swimming pools. In the paper, we analysed data from the Child Death Register, immersion notifications and the Queensland Pool Register and identified critical compliance issues with pool fencing regulations and issues surrounding the supervision of young children in and around pools.



OUR WORK

2 *Raise awareness and advocate for children and their families*

The QFCC provides leadership on matters that impact on the safety, rights and wellbeing of Queensland's children and their families. We do this by raising awareness and advocating for them. We are in a unique position to do this with a legislated mandate and a system-level perspective. We deliver objective analysis and advice that supports government decision-making and system improvement. Our advice is used to influence legislation, policies and practices. We also use various forums and channels to raise community awareness and influence change across Queensland.

Our advocacy and issue reports draw on data, research and insights from young people to raise issues and identify potential solutions. In 2022–23, we published the following:

- ***Designing a better response to youth offending—Raising the Age of Criminal Responsibility*** - In this report, we continued to advocate for an evidence-based response to youth offending. We described how a supportive, restorative justice approach is more effective than a criminal response for reducing youth crime. We outlined evidence showing that criminal justice responses were not working and can do more harm than good.
- ***Growing Up in Queensland 2022: Safe Spaces*** - This report advocated for measures to help young people feel safer in public spaces in their communities. It was informed by the views of young people in the Growing Up in Queensland survey and in three focus group discussions held in regional locations. It was shared with stakeholders, including local councils and the Queensland Police Service, who were best placed to make changes based on its findings.
- ***Barriers to Accessing the National Disability Insurance Scheme in Regional and Remote Queensland for Children with Cognitive Disabilities and Their Families*** - This report outlined barriers experienced by children with cognitive disabilities when accessing the National Disability Insurance Scheme, with a particular focus on the experiences of First Nations children and families and those living in regional and remote areas.
- ***Non-systemic barriers to young people's use of mental health services*** - Mental health concerns are common among young people, but many do not seek formal support due to systemic and non-systemic barriers. This report brought attention to two specific non-systemic barriers to seeking help: stigma regarding mental health concerns and lack of knowledge about mental health services.



Providing clear advice to policy makers

We contributed evidence-based advice and solutions to government and other stakeholders on a broad range of policy and legislative issues impacting the safety, wellbeing and best interests of children and families. In 2022–23, we provided evidence at the following Queensland Parliamentary hearings:

- Legal Affairs and Safety Committee – Inquiry into the Working with Children (Indigenous Communities) Amendment Bill 2021** - On 10 October 2022, Commissioner Lewis gave evidence in support of the bill’s intent, but raised concerns about its operation and the need to further explore options to overcome limitations in the blue card system. We outlined the barriers experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples engaging with the blue card system.
- Legal Affairs and Safety Committee – Domestic and Family Violence Protection (Combative Coercive Control) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022** - On 7 November 2022, Commissioner Twyford gave evidence in support of the bill. We highlighted that the bill recognises that domestic and family violence need not include physical contact and that a pattern of behaviour over time can be as harmful and wrong as a single incident. We also raised the impact of violence on children, including the negative long-term impact of growing up in fear.
- Legal Affairs and Safety Committee – Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022** - On 24 January 2023, Commissioner Twyford shared the views and experiences of QFCC Youth Advocates and raised concern about the fear of prejudice, violence and bias against gender-diverse people and lack of privacy they experience.
- Economic and Governance Committee – Strengthening Community Safety Bill 2023** - On 28 February 2023, Commissioner Twyford asserted the importance of understanding and addressing the underlying drivers of offending behaviours and circumstances that lead young people to offend. Our evidence reiterated the dual purposes of the youth justice system—to keep the community safe and change the behaviour of young people—and advocated for evidence-based solutions to prevent offending and reoffending.
- Health and Environment Committee – Inquiry into reducing e-cigarette use in Queensland** - On 31 May 2023, Commissioner Twyford shared the views and perspectives of Youth Advocates on e-cigarette use and voiced concerns about the lack of Queensland data. We raised the dangers of the toxins and chemicals, including nicotine, found in e-cigarettes and called for action in addressing their use among children and young people.
- Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability – Public Hearing 33** - The hearing examined the nature and extent of government agencies’ actions to prevent violence, abuse and neglect. On 9 May 2023, Commissioner Twyford gave evidence about the QFCC’s legislative powers and role in undertaking systemic reviews and the strategic connections to delivering on a rights-based agenda.
- Coronial inquest into the deaths of an adult and children** - On 16 June 2023, Commissioner Twyford provided evidence about systemic issues and potential solutions and risks to children and families who experience complex or adverse circumstances. Evidence and insights provided will assist the coroner to determine whether recommendations are needed to prevent similar deaths.

In 2022–23, we contributed

25 WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

with recommendations and advice to state and national reviews and inquiries.



Raising awareness through media and digital platforms

Between May 2022 and April 2023, the QFCC featured in 607 media reports. Overall, 89 per cent of coverage was positive or very positive in tone, a significant increase from 66 per cent the previous year. Analysis shows that our key messages resonated with our audiences. These messages aligned with our strategic plan and centred around advocating for children, supporting the child protection and family support sector and its workforce, our oversight of the Queensland child protection system, our commitment to listening to children and young people, and our advocacy for the rights of children and young people. The topics that attracted greatest media coverage and interest in 2022–23 included:

- our report into the deaths of Queensland children *Seeking Safety: Keeping children safe when they remain at home during Child Safety Investigations* about the use of Interventions with Parental Agreement
- detention of children for extended periods in Queensland watchhouses and our subsequent announcement of our watchhouse review
- release of our 2021–22 Child Death and Child Death Review Board annual reports
- our recruitment drive in Cairns to expand our Youth Advocate network
- our *Swimming pool immersions of young people in Queensland, 2011–2021* paper.

Increasing advocacy using digital channels

Our website received more than 135,000 views since it was relaunched with a new user-centric design in 2023. We also recorded positive shifts in our social media engagement and performance on Facebook and Instagram, recording a 10 per cent engagement rate, and on LinkedIn recording a 373 per cent increase in our follower count and more than 10,000 clicks on our posts.

We share content with over 1200 sector and community partners through our quarterly newsletters, with information on our focus areas, deliverables and key activities being led by Youth Advocates and our partners.

Advocating for a Child Rights approach

On 21 June 2023, we hosted our first Child Rights Dialogue, which explored child rights decision-making involving children and young people in conflict with the law. The event provided an opportunity for stakeholders and experts to discuss how international human rights instruments, including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, can be applied to decisions that affect children and young people in justice settings. The event forms part of a series exploring the value and practical application of the UN Convention in different settings.

607
MEDIA REPORT FEATURES

89%
POSITIVE TONE

135,000
WEBSITE VIEWS



OUR WORK

3 Empower children and their families to influence decisions that affect their lives

Empowering children and families to share their stories is a critical part of our work. We amplify the voices of Queensland children and their families, particularly those with lived experience of inequity, vulnerability or marginalisation, and we have made an explicit commitment to First Nations children and families. Our Child and Youth Participation Framework outlines how we give children and young people genuine opportunities to participate in decision-making. This framework demonstrates our commitment to connecting with young people, supporting them in sharing their views, amplifying what they tell us, and influencing decision-makers with their ideas.

In September 2022, we launched our new video series *Queensland Families Say* on our website and across our social media channels. The videos celebrate the diversity of Queensland families, with candid observations from parents and carers about the highs and lows of being a parent or carer. To complement the series, we teamed up with Parentline to produce a webinar series to help Queensland parents and carers tackle the challenges of parenthood.

Measuring community sentiment

In 2022–23, we completed four surveys:

- a 2022 community survey on the perception of the child protection system
- a 2022 sector survey of the frontline child protection, youth justice and family support workforce
- a 2023 community survey on the perception of the child protection system
- a 2023 survey of parents involved with the child protection system.

We released results for our annual community and workforce surveys, which provide evidence on the performance of the child protection, youth justice and family support systems and contemporary insights into the issues of importance to the Queensland community and workforce.

Our surveys attracted responses from:

2,509
COMMUNITY MEMBERS

431
FRONTLINE WORKERS

across the child protection, youth justice and family support sector

In May 2023, we launched the 2023 iteration of the surveys and received responses from:

3,154
COMMUNITY MEMBERS

500+
FRONTLINE WORKERS

as at 30 June 2023



Youth Participation

We collaborate with young people aged 14 to 25, referred to as Youth Advocates, to share their thoughts, views and experiences, which informs our work. Youth Advocates bring valuable insights, creative solutions and understanding of the challenges and aspirations of their generation. Their influence on government policies and initiatives helps to ensure that these are relevant, effective and sustainable.

In 2022–23, we funded almost 500 hours of youth participation, including:

- engaged in the Brisbane 2032 Legacy Forum with members of the 2023 Olympic and Paralympic Games Board and key stakeholders
- contributed stories to the Right to Learn campaign to raise awareness about the right for all children to access education
- engaged in workshops to support the implementation of *Achieving Balance: The Queensland Mental Health Commission's Alcohol and Other Drugs Plan 2022–2027*
- met with the Australian Bureau of Statistics to discuss what topics and issues should be included in the 2026 Australian census
- advised on the development of a pilot program for young people with a disability in the youth justice system.

QFCC Youth Advocates also assisted the QFCC by:

- co-designing the dedicated youth space on the QFCC website
- co-designing the QFCC's 2023 Youth Engagement Model, which supports delivery of our Child and Youth Participation Framework
- sharing insights and perspectives to inform *Growing Up in Queensland 2022: Safe Spaces*; child rights monitoring and policy submissions to Queensland Parliament; and government inquiries relating to family law, e-cigarettes, mental health and gender awareness
- writing blogs and social media content on topics including domestic and family violence, mental health and discrimination
- travelling with QFCC staff to regional locations to meet young people and other stakeholders to promote Youth Advocate recruitment
- participating in Youth Week events and a two-week social media campaign showcasing the achievements and contributions of young people in Queensland.

25 of the QFCC Youth Advocates were members of our Youth Advisory Council, providing youth perspectives and leadership to the QFCC. The Council met quarterly, providing advice to QFCC staff and Commissioners on the significant topics for children and young people in Queensland. The Council's terms of reference and discussion items were co-designed with the Council members.



Towards Ending Homelessness for Young Queenslanders 2022–27

In October 2022, Youth Advocate Holly courageously shared her story of homelessness as part of the media launch of the Queensland Government’s policy *Towards ending homelessness for young Queenslanders 2022–2027*. Since the launch of the strategy, Holly continues to promote the housing needs of young people and has since joined the Queensland Government ministerial roundtable as a youth representative.



National Child Protection Forum

In December 2022, Youth Advocate Jessy presented at the National Child Protection Forum in Perth, attended by over 150 representatives of government and non-government organisations, services and advocacy groups. Jessy spoke about the importance of including young people’s voices and perspectives in projects, policies and programs that impact them, and she shared recommendations for how organisations can increase youth participation. Jessy chaired the final day and provided closing remarks for the forum.



Home Stretch campaign

Youth Advocate Caroline advocated to Queensland ministers for options to extend support and housing for children in care. In June 2023, Caroline presented the closing speech at the Home Stretch Symposium in Melbourne, involving state, territory and national government representatives; out-of-home care service providers; and academics and researchers and peak bodies. She advocated for the extended care model and urged governments to ensure that no young person is left behind. Drawing on her own lived experience, Caroline emphasised the importance of inclusivity in extended care support plans.



OUR WORK

4 *Support, connect and collaborate with organisations that advance the rights, safety and wellbeing of children*

Our partnerships have strengthened over the past 12 months, expanding to research bodies, peak bodies and industry. We have also presented at several key events and consulted on significant matters. Our partnerships extend our ability to influence child-related laws, policies, programs and systems, and we ensure the sector is informed of, and can provide input into, our oversight work.

We shared advice, data and insights on systemic issues, facilitated youth engagement and supported collective and powerful advocacy across government portfolios. The QFCC Advisory Council consists of more than 30 members from across government and non-government organisations.

We have convened the Australian Children's Commissioners and Guardians group and the inaugural First Nations Children's Commissioners, Guardians and Advocates group to work alongside national, state and territory leaders. Through our sponsorships and research agenda, we have also empowered other agencies and organisations to deliver meaningful support to children and young people.

Our partnerships have enabled us to incorporate diverse perspectives on child-related issues, leverage our collective expertise to empower others to undertake meaningful work and offer expert and objective advice to sector leaders and service providers. In 2022–23, we:

- sponsored the International Congress on Evidence-based Parenting Support, bringing together 790 researchers, program developers, policy makers and service providers from 62 countries to share evidence and research and discuss best-practice parenting and support for families
- continued to share information from our Child Death Register with the Department of Education to inform the development of student wellbeing policies and inform suicide postvention support in school
- worked with the Office for Youth, including embedding a QFCC staff member, to help provide strategic and best-practice guidance to improve Queensland Government responses to the needs of young people.



In 2022–23 we provided sponsorships and funding to:

- **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service Brisbane** to provide Young, Black and Proud scholarships to First Nations young people to pursue their academic, sporting and artistic aspirations
- **Children’s Rights Queensland** to provide grants to community organisations and support initiatives across Queensland during Children’s Week
- **Hymba Yumba Independent School** to support the implementation of a school program and post school pathways
- **Parenting and Family Research Alliance** to launch the International Congress on Evidence-based Parenting Support to advance research, policy and practice in parenting
- **ARACY** to deliver on the Thriving Queensland Kids Partnership to increase community understanding on the importance of the early years and change behaviours
- **54 Reasons** to engage Frameworks Institute to undertake research on framing child rights
- **SNAICC** to support delivery of the National Conference
- **Awards Australia** to sponsor Young Achiever Awards and Community Achievement Awards
- **PeakCare** to undertake work to review family and kinship capacity in Queensland.

In 2022–23, we shared evidence and insights and connected with stakeholders by:

- presenting to the North Queensland Child Protection Symposium in September 2022 on contemporary challenges facing children and families
- facilitating a panel discussion at the Asia Pacific Coroners conference in November 2022 on how responders to sudden unexpected death in infancy can assist families with compassion while improving investigations
- co-designed a series of animated videos with the Queensland Mental Health Commission to help young people understand more about mental health services and how to access them
- delivered a workshop with the Queensland Mental Health Commission, bringing together government and non-government stakeholders to discuss ways to support vulnerable children and young people who exhibit complex behaviours and needs and to inform the development of phase two of the Queensland Suicide Prevention Plan
- commenced a partnership with Thriving Queensland Kids Partnership to deliver on the Core Story Initiative and increase community understanding on the importance of early years and sharing informative resources with the sector. As part of this model, we have an ARACY-funded position embedded within the QFCC to engage and collaborate with Queensland organisations and practitioners
- connecting with the Queensland Equal and Together Alliance in February 2023 to identify collaborative actions to promote equality and prevent violence
- connecting with policy makers and researchers at the National Public Education Wellbeing Summit in February 2023 to discuss how education systems can better respond to the wellbeing needs of children
- addressing the Foster and Kinship Care conference in April 2023 as a keynote speaker, Commissioner Twyford highlighted the value and efforts of foster carers and guardians
- engaging with children and young people, decision-makers and practitioners at the Childhood Summit in June 2023 to discuss actions to protect children’s health and wellbeing.



Advancing a rights-based agenda

We continued to implement a child rights approach to our work and increased the visibility of the experiences and aspirations of First Nations children, young people and their families. This has been enabled by the establishment of a dedicated First Nations and Child Rights Advocacy workforce, with clear reporting responsibilities to Commissioner Lewis. We forged partnerships with state and national bodies and engaged stakeholders and experts in the first of a series of child rights dialogues about the practical application of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. We have since launched reports celebrating the strengths of First Nations children and examining child rights in Queensland. We will continue to monitor and report on drivers of over-representation in statutory systems and engage stakeholders on creating child rights accountability.



Australian and New Zealand Child Death Review and Prevention Group

In May 2023, we hosted the 2023 Australian and New Zealand Child Death Review and Prevention Group conference, involving specialist teams from across each jurisdiction responsible for child death reviews and registers. The conference focused on:

- data linkage and knowledge-sharing to deepen our understanding child deaths
- identifying and responding to accidental suffocation in sudden infant deaths
- issues for the future of analysis and reporting.

We hosted representatives from across Australia to share experiences, practices, barriers and priorities relating to child death review and prevention. Key focus areas for the group were the development of a national dataset to strengthen child death and injury prevention, research to inform practice and policy, and the varying impacts of the Covid-19 disease.

We provide access to the Child Death Register at no cost to researchers to facilitate learnings from child death statistics and exploration of child death preventative measures. In 2022–23, we responded to 20 requests from researchers and government agencies for detailed data from the register.

Confirming our impact

Since 2014, we have undertaken several system reviews and presented over 200 recommendations to improve the child protection system that have been accepted fully or in principle by government. In July 2022, we published the Review of the Queensland Family and Child Commission's Impact, an independent assessment of how our work contributes to system improvements and influences positive change. The review found that the QFCC has played an important role in leading reforms across the system that supports children, young people and families in Queensland. It also made nine suggestions to improve our influence, all of which were accepted. It considered 208 recommendations, finding 55 per cent had been completed, 34 per cent were still in progress and 3 per cent had not commenced. Based on agency advice, a further 8 per cent will not proceed due to subsequent policy changes or reforms rendering the recommendations no longer relevant.

Oversight of the QFCC

The Legal Affairs and Safety Committee of Queensland Parliament has responsibility to monitor and review the performance of the QFCC's functions. It published a report in August 2022 which included its findings. The committee commended the QFCC's work in raising awareness of issues concerning Queensland children and families, advocating for improvements and ensuring system accountability through independent reviews and strategic alliances.

During the year, we examined how our legislative functions can remain contemporary and effective in a changing landscape. We provided advice and recommendations on the review of our Act, led by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

We advocated for:

- the establishment of a dedicated, independent, appropriately empowered and resourced Commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people
- the establishment of compatible powers for both Commissioners to exercise QFCC functions
- a more explicit role for the QFCC to promote the rights of children and young people
- a new objective to promote the rights, development, wellbeing and best interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people
- new functions to promote accountability for upholding the rights of children and young people and the participation of children and young people in decision-making
- the QFCC to provide leadership for e-safety within Queensland
- the inclusion of a reportable conduct scheme and child safe standards in the QFCC's functions.



Commissioners Luke Twyford and Natalie Lewis

The next year will represent ten years since the establishment of the QFCC. Over that time, we have led critical reviews of child safety and youth justice systems, successfully advocated for reforms, and amplified the voices of Queenslanders with lived experience in the child safety, youth justice and other statutory systems. Importantly, the QFCC has matured and evolved, responding to the changing social and policy landscape and needs of Queensland children and families.

The foundations we have set in 2022–23 will enable us to continue to make a lasting and positive difference in the lives of children and families.



Connect with us:

