

Deliver in 2024-25

Examination reviews



Family support service system efficacy

A qualitative look at the family support service system and how it supports and prevents families holistically to prevent their entry into child protection and youth justice. The review will include an economic lens on the impact of early intervention in youth justice building on work being undertaken by 54 Reasons and Australian Child Rights Taskforce.



Growing up in Queensland – voices and stories

A compendium of stories by children and families across the life domains with specific focus on out-of-home care and youth justice cohorts.



Cognitive disability in youth justice cohorts

An examination of Queensland's approach to undiagnosed cognitive disability in youth justice populations, its prevalence and role as a risk factor, with an opportunity to build on the experiences of other Australian and international jurisdictions.

Discovery reviews



Regulation of home education

A review of the prevalence of home education in high-risk home environments, including an analysis of the regulations of home education in Queensland.



Sibling carers

Data analysis to identify the occurrence of sibling groups in out-of-home care, and the incidence of care leavers being registered as carers for their siblings.



Kinship carer support and recruitment

Analysis of the policies and practice that support the recruitment and retention of kinships carers.



Unregistered child deaths

A data analysis to investigate and quantify the under registration of child deaths to better understand the causes of this emerging issue.



Placement turnover, stability and self-placing

A quantitative analysis of the experience of children in out-of-home care looking at their placements, including comparison and practice changes across Australia.



Implementation of recommendations

An assessment of the actions taken in response to outstanding Royal Commission, CDRB and QFCC recommendations.



Redefining assault and neglect

Revise definitions and classifications and identify clear screening criteria to more confidently identify child deaths due to assault and neglect.



Implementing paediatric sepsis mortality study recommendations

Work with agencies to implement practice improvements and recommendations identified in the paediatric sepsis mortality study.



Critical incidents in residential care

A quantitative look at the incidence of negative events in residential care and a review of the laws, policies and systems that are employed. This review will include jurisdictional comparison.



Information sharing success

A look at the information sharing frameworks and innovations in place to keep children and families safe, both within government, and between the government and non-government sectors.



Trends in youth suicide

A research paper to provide descriptive statistics on trends (such as demographic changes) and risk factors for youth suicide, including a regional analysis tailored to Primary Health Network areas. This project will include an evaluation of coroners' classification to consider the factors leading to the under-documentation of childhood suicide.



Complaints by children in watch houses

The *Public Guardian Act 2014* provides the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) with the ability to make an official complaint about a matter on behalf of a child. This project seeks to document the outcomes of complaints by the OPG to the Police Service about watch houses.



Child car restraint use

A quantitative study to understand the use and impact of child car restraint in motor vehicle crashes.



Workforce - Youth Justice and Child Protection

A quantitative look at the capacity and trends in the Youth Justice, child protection and out-of-home care workforce and analysis of the roles, skills and structures used in these systems.



Student disciplinary absences

Ensure the voices of marginalised children and young people who are suspended or excluded from school are heard.

Looking forward – priorities for 2025-26

Examination reviews

Growing up in Queensland

A quantitative review of Queensland's children and families across the life domains, presenting a regional focus with case studies on the lived experience of Queenslanders including with specific focus on out-of-home care and youth justice cohorts.

Mental health assessments in the youth justice system

An exploration and analysis of the fitness to plead, soundness of mind and Mental Health Court process, including mapping the frequency of assessments, impact of delays in the Childrens and Mental Health Courts and mechanisms for ensuring the prioritization of young people in the mental health court.

Parental neglect

A review of neglect cases to identify how poverty and support service access are factors in the assessment of "willing and able" and therefore shaping the experience of socially disenfranchised parents and families.

Discovery reviews

Child sexual abuse in Queensland

A quantitative look at the incidence of child sexual exploitation and the programs and policies in place to respond.

Life outcomes for children in out-of-home care

An early look at the impact of implementing Support21 including a quantitative assessment of post-care life domain measures (i.e. housing, employment, health, etc.).

Legal support for children and families in the youth justice system

A qualitative analysis of the views and experiences of children, parents and the sector about a child's access to and experience of legal advice they access in the youth justice system.

School reengagement system

A quantitative and case file read on how young Queenslanders (particularly those with emerging youth justice exposure) are reengaged into education or employment programs.

Intake and resubstantiation assessment

A quantitative assessment of how the child protection system is assessing risk and safety for children with a focus on how resubstantiation and renotification rates could be reduced.

Residential care

A follow-up review of the residential care system. This will include a series of visits to care facilities, assessment of the cohort of the children in residential care (including the age, sibling group status and child protection history), review of service delivery models and care standards.

School achievement for children in out-of-home care

A quantitative compilation of the trends and changes in school achievement for children in care including performance, attendance and exclusion.

Hearing families and children

An assessment of the child protection and youth justice complaints processes, including a mapping of the oversight entities practices and policies.

Housing, child protection and youth justice

A data analysis to identify how housing services can impact child safety and youth justice outcomes, and conversely how system involvement can impact a family's access to public and social housing.

Sudden Unexpected Deaths in Infancy

Apply an evidence-based algorithm to more accurately identify cases of SUDI with a high likelihood of suffocation, not recognised as such in official causes of death.

Looking forward – priorities for 2026-27

Examination reviews

Growing up in Queensland – voices and stories

A compendium of stories by children and families across the life domains with specific focus on out-of-home care and youth justice cohorts.

Discovery reviews

Re-imagining the response to offending by children and young people

An examination of alternative approaches to responding to offending committed by children and young people away from the criminal justice and legal systems. This project will involve an international scan of alternative models and their impacts and outcomes.

Responding to children as victims of domestic and family violence

A review of interventions specifically designed to respond to children in families where domestic and family violence (DFV) occurs, including an examination of their effectiveness at disrupting the intergenerational nature of DFV and its ongoing impact for individuals.

Blue Card deep dive

A forensic examination of the effectiveness of the Blue Card scheme, considering the implementation of past reforms and those recommendations that have not yet been made.

