



Background

The Queensland Family and Child Commission (QFCC) introduced its Forward Oversight Workplan 2023–27 in June 2023 to provide better clarity about how it undertakes key statutory functions under section 9 of the *Family and Child Commission Act 2014* to review and improve the systems that protect and safeguard Queensland children and their families.

In 2023, the QFCC published its forward review work program – the [2023–24 Oversight Forward Workplan](#) – which sets out the discrete examination and discovery review projects to be prioritised over the 2023–24 financial year and beyond.


The Oversight Framework commits the QFCC to brief stakeholders on progress, to revisit the relevance of listed reviews, and to seek input and consider emerging issues to add to the workplan. Figure 5 in the Oversight Framework (p.15) outlines that the workplan is to be updated annually in January, with a progress update and outcomes to be reported annually in July.

Process for updating the Forward Oversight Workplan

The 2024 Forward Oversight Workplan has been reviewed over recent months, with feedback sought from the QFCC Government Reference Panel¹ as well as the QFCC Advisory Council.








The rest of this document outlines what has changed between the 2024 Forward Oversight Workplan, and the updated 2024-25 Forward Oversight Workplan.





Projects removed or re-adjusted on the 2024-25 Forward Oversight Workplan

Listed project	Outcome	Comment
 Self-placement Analysis of the demographics, locations, patterns and rates of self-placement by cohort including a case file read to assess how safety assessment and practice responses are having effect.	Removed from the workplan for 2024.	Project completed: An Insights paper – Absent from care – was published in May 2024.

¹ The QFCC Government Reference Panel meetings quarterly and comprises representatives of the following government agencies: Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Queensland Police Services, Department of Seniors,





Listed project	Outcome	Comment
 Teenage parenting An analysis of the factors that increase risk of young parenthood in Queensland, identifying and critically examining the services and responses currently in place.	Removed from the 2024-25 workplan	Project completed: An Insights Paper Parenting as a young person was published in May 2024.
 Transition from detention A qualitative review of the experiences of young people and families to understand what supports and services would prevent recidivism following release from youth detention.	Removed from the 2024-25 workplan.	Project completed: The report Exiting youth detention: Preventing crime by improving post-release support was published in June 2024.
 Foster and kinship carer capacity A joint project with PeakCare to assess the turnover of carer households in Queensland compared to other jurisdictions, with analysis of the carer cohort.	Removed from the 2024-25 workplan.	Project completed: The report Preserving a vital system: The future of foster care was published in June 2024.
 Methamphetamine use and interventions A review of the research evidence on effective system responses to methamphetamine use within Queensland families known to the child protection system.	Removed from the 2024-25 workplan.	Project completed: The report Risks for children caused by methamphetamine use by parents was published in 2024.
 Paediatric sepsis mortality An analysis of sepsis related child deaths to better understand the incidence of childhood sepsis and identify opportunities to better identify, treat and prevent it.	Removed from the 2024-25 workplan.	Project completed: As part of the Safer Pathways Through Childhood framework, the Queensland paediatric sepsis mortality study was published in February 2024.
 Exits from care A quantitative analysis (with case file reviews as appropriate) to determine more clearly where children exiting out-of-home care are going.	Removed from the 2024-25 workplan.	Project removed from workplan in place of other priorities, including the residential care review.
 Indicators of adversity and social vulnerability in child mortality Defining, measuring and gathering data to build an evidence base on family-level adversity and social vulnerability and how this relates to child mortality.	Removed from 2024–25 workplan	Project removed from workplan in place of other priorities.

Listed project	Outcome	Comment
 Preventable childhood mortality A quantitative analysis of the rate of preventable conditions resulting in child mortality in Queensland and assessment of measures for preventable deaths.	Removed from 2024–25 workplan	Project removed from workplan in place of other priorities.
 Family support service system efficacy A qualitative look at the family support service system and how it supports and prevents <u>family's</u> holistically to prevent their entry into child protection and youth justice.	Advice from the QFCC's Government Reference Group was that these two projects demonstrated significant overlap. These are now being delivered as a single project.	 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.
 Prevention services in Youth Justice Analysis of how family support programs are assisting to prevent young people's entry into Youth Justice. 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.		

New projects added to the 2024-25 Forward Oversight Workplan

Project	Comment
 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.	Based on the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Young People (ARACY) NEST framework, this publication will feature stories collected from Queensland children and families about the six life domains as a companion to the Growing up in Queensland data compilation project.
 Outcomes of complaints by children in watch houses The <i>Public Guardian Act 2014</i> provides the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) with the ability to help a child make an official complaint about a matter. This project seeks to document the outcomes of complaints by on behalf of children by the OPG to the Queensland Police Service about their experience in a watch house.	In consultation with the Office of the Public Guardian, this project has been added to continue the QFCC's advocacy for children held in adult watch houses in Queensland.

Project	Comment
<p> Unregistered child deaths</p> <p>A data analysis to investigate and quantify the under registration of child deaths to better understand the causes of this emerging issue.</p>	<p>Added to the workplan to reflect the Safety Pathways through Childhood Action Plan.</p>
<p> Implementing <u>paediatric sepsis mortality study</u> recommendations</p> <p>Work with agencies to implement practice improvements and recommendations identified in the <u>paediatric sepsis mortality study</u>.</p>	<p>Added to the workplan to reflect the Safety Pathways through Childhood Action Plan.</p>