

2026

# Oversight Forward Workplan

## Monitoring

The Queensland Family and Child Commission (Commission) is charged with responsibilities to review and improve the systems that protect, safeguard and support Queensland children and their families. Our vision is that Every Queensland child is loved, respected and has their rights upheld. We pursue this vision by influencing systemic change that improves the safety and wellbeing of Queensland's children and their families.

Our Oversight Framework 2023–2027 articulates the model, principles and methodologies that apply to how the Commission delivers impactful reviews, audits and evaluations that influence positive change, and this document, the Oversight Forward Workplan 2026 (Workplan), contains the proposed future oversight work of the Commission as at February 2026.

The Commission develops a Workplan to set its systemic oversight priorities and ensure transparency. The Workplan is deliberately agile. While we list the topics we intend to examine, they are subject to review and revision to ensure the Commission's investment is focused on the areas most likely to have the greatest positive impact on Queensland children and families at the time. The Workplan undergoes regular priority review through a consultative approach and is published on the website annually.

The Commission uses a four-staged approach to scope and design its oversight work, applying an escalating approach based on the evidence and facts obtained in the earlier stages. The most intensive reviews, discovery and examination reviews, include dedicated resources and delivery against a formal project methodology. Our monitoring activities are deliberately agile and inform the need for deeper reviews.

The Commission becomes aware of review opportunities in several ways, mostly by means of working closely with our advisory councils, strategic partners, agencies, youth advocates, young people and families, and the general public. Issues may also be identified through data monitoring and review activities. Consultation with a range of stakeholders including government and non-government agencies, peak bodies, the community, and young people, guide the design and conduct of our review work.

The systems we provide oversight of are complex and multifaceted and there are many experts across Queensland working to reduce risks to children. The Commission values the expertise of others and proactively seeks to work with stakeholders undertaking related initiatives. This ensures that oversight decisions are informed, evidence-based, objective, and in the best interests of children and families.

We look for patterns and relationships in evidence to more precisely identify issues, and determine whether or not further discovery action is needed. We raise issues with responsible agencies for their consideration and action and/or determine whether the issue should be listed on the Commission's forward oversight agenda for further discovery work.

Product	System portfolio	Lead	Status
Principle Focus – Child Protection	Child Protection	OATSICC	Ongoing
Principle Focus – Youth Justice	Youth Justice	OATSICC	Ongoing
Uptake and outcomes of extended post care support	Out-of-home care	Strategy and Impact	Ongoing
Impact of amendments to National Disability Insurance Scheme on children	Disability	Strategy and Impact	Ongoing
Impact of the extra-curricular investment for children in care	Out-of-home care	Strategy and Impact	Ongoing
Trends in recidivism rates following detention	Youth Justice	Strategy and Impact	Ongoing
Review the use and success of youth foyers	Housing	Strategy and Impact	Ongoing
<b>Child Safety data</b> - Intakes, Child Concern Reports, Notifications, Investigations finalised, Substantiations, Children subject to IPA, Children on Child Protection and Permanent Care Orders	Child Protection	Strategy and Impact	Ongoing
<b>Out-of-Home Care data</b> - Total children by care type (foster, kinship, residential, other); total carer families (foster and kinship)	Child Protection	Strategy and Impact	Ongoing
<b>Youth Justice data</b> - Children in watch houses - daily number; days held; under 14 years; length of stay. Children in detention - daily number; centre utilisation rates; aged 10-13 years; returned to supervision within 12 months	Youth Justice	Strategy and Impact	Ongoing
<b>Child death data</b> - Children aged 0-17 years; known to Child Protection system; categorisation of death	Child Protection	Strategy and Impact	In progress
Redefining fatal assault and neglect in the Child Death Register	Child Protection	Child Death Prevention	In progress

**In Progress:** Commenced   **Ongoing:** Continuous and regular data monitoring  
**Planned:** Scoped for commencement   **Proposed:** Identified but not commenced

**OATSICC:** Office of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Commissioner

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## Insights and Discovery Reviews

We scan and analyse what is known about an issue and the broader system policy, program, practice and reform environment. We do this by gathering, reviewing and analysing legislation, policies, procedures, practices, literature, quantitative data and interjurisdictional models to understand the operating environment (including improvements underway) and intended outcomes for children and families. We may engage young people, responsible agencies, sectors, and other stakeholders to help identify the causes of the issue, the impact it is having on children and families and opportunities for improvement.

Review	System portfolio	Description	Lead	Status
Complaints, remedies and access to justice for children	Youth Justice	Assessing the accessibility and effectiveness of complaints and remedy pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.	OATSICC	Planned
Supporting educational inclusion to prevent youth justice contact	Youth Justice	Examining links between school exclusion practices and pathways into youth justice and identifying effective, rights-based approaches to keeping children engaged in education.	OATSICC	Planned
Strengthening youth justice systems and oversight	Youth Justice	Contributing to state and national reform processes and supporting improved oversight arrangements for children deprived of liberty.	OATSICC	Planned
Mental health impacts of being in out-of-home care	Out-of-home care	Analysis of the correlation between contact with Child Safety and the prevalence of psychiatric hospital admissions by age 30 and the use of a mental health strategy for maltreatment healing.	Research Partnership	In progress
Drivers and protective factors in youth suicide	Whole of Government	Descriptive statistics on trends and risk factors for youth suicide in Queensland, including a regional analysis tailored to Primary Health Network areas.	Research Partnership	Proposed
Timeliness and permanency in transfers of parental responsibility	Child Protection	Summary review on timeliness and permanency outcomes following transfers of parental responsibility to the Chief Executive under the Child Protection Act 1999 (Qld).	Child Death Review Board	In progress
Abuse beyond physical acts of domestic violence	Child Protection	Summary review to understand and recognise abuse beyond physical acts of domestic and family violence and the harmful impacts on children with focus on coercive control behaviours and links to child protection.	Child Death Review Board	In progress
Children who have died of medical conditions secondary to neglect	Child Protection	Summary review to examine children known to the child protection system died from medical conditions, with a particular focus on failures in timely recognition, assessment, and response to medical neglect and unmet health needs.	Child Death Review Board	In progress
Understanding police decision-making in child harm report triage	Child Protection	Summary review exploring police responses to suspected child harm, with a focus on Child Harm Reports completed by responding officers that do not progress to Child Safety following assessment by a police SCAN representative	Child Death Review Board	In progress
Annual family and community survey	Whole of Government	Survey to understand Queensland families' and communities' perceptions of the child protection and family support systems.	Strategy and Impact	Planned
Monitoring of recommendations	Whole of Government	Monitoring the implementation of the recommendations made to government by the Commission and the Child Death Review Board.	Strategy and Impact	Planned
Family support system scan	Whole of Government	Scan of how the commonwealth, state and local government funds support services for Queensland families experiencing vulnerability.	Strategy and Impact	Proposed
Impact of parental methamphetamine use for children	Whole of Government	Assessment of the impacts of parental methamphetamine use on children, with a focus on child deaths, through analysis of data from the Child Death Register.	Child Death Prevention	In progress
Dangers in the natural environment	Whole of Government	Assessment of child deaths by drowning at waterfalls and rockpools, and incidents of child deaths resulting from animal bites and stings.	Child Death Prevention	Planned
Child deaths by quad bikes and side-by-side vehicles	Transport	Analysis of trends, patterns and risk factors for child deaths involving quad bikes and side-by-side vehicles.	Child Death Prevention	In progress

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## Examination Reviews

We extensively research, analyse and synthesise systemic issues and determine solutions-focused recommendations for change. We examine the broad system including the structural and relational elements driving an issue, the experiences of children, families and the sector and the changes needed to make improvements. We may do this by undertaking a comprehensive review of the system in consultation with stakeholders and by gathering insights from children, families, the sector and the public. We gather submissions and facilitate consultation sessions and interviews to identify solutions for, and intended outcomes of, positive system change.

Review	System portfolio	Description	Lead	Status
<b>Child Rights Report</b>	Whole of Government	Analysis of how Queensland upholds children's rights identifying the changes needed to embed a child rights approach across government policy, legislation and systems to deliver better, more equitable outcomes.	OATSICC	In Progress
<b>Child poverty</b>	Child Protection	Examines poverty as a driver of child protection and youth justice involvement and identifying opportunities to strengthen prevention and early support.	OATSICC	Proposed
<b>Annual Report on the Performance of the Child Protection System – s40</b>	Whole of Government	Annual report on the performance of the child protection system against state and national goals, as required by s40 of the Family and Child Commission Act 2014 (Qld).	Strategy and Impact	In progress
<b>Growing Up in Queensland</b>	Whole of Government	Quantitative and qualitative review of children and families across wellbeing domains, presenting lived experience case studies with a focus on out-of-home care and youth justice cohorts.	Strategy and Impact	In progress
<b>Provision of support for foster and kinship carers</b>	Whole of Government	Examine the quality and sufficiency of carer assessment and support arrangements in Queensland, with a focus on ensuring foster and kinship care placements are safe, appropriately assessed, and effectively supported.	Child Death Review Board	In progress
<b>Responses to young people in the youth justice system</b>	Child Protection	Examines the complexity of the youth justice system and focus on how services responded to the needs of young people who have had contact with the system.	Child Death Review Board	Proposed
<b>Capacity and functioning of secondary service system</b>	Child Protection	Examines how the capacity and functioning of secondary service systems affect children's lives.	Child Death Review Board	Proposed
<b>Recognising and responding to cumulative harm</b>	Child Protection	Examines how agencies identify, assess, and respond to cumulative harm in children's lives.	Child Death Review Board	Proposed
<b>System responses to chronic neglect</b>	Child Protection	Examines how the child protection system identifies, assesses and responds to chronic neglect.	Child Death Review Board	Proposed
<b>Infants in high risk environments</b>	Child Protection	Examines how government and community services identify, assess and respond to infants living in high-risk environments.	Child Death Review Board	Proposed
<b>Recognising and improving family domestic violence-informed practice</b>	Child Protection	Examines how the child protection and broader service systems identify, assess and respond to risks of domestic and family violence impacting children and young people, with a specific focus on young people who use violence.	Child Death Review Board	In progress
<b>The impact of workforce issues on timely service delivery</b>	Child Protection	Examines how workforce-related factors influence the timeliness, consistency and quality of service delivery to vulnerable children and families.	Child Death Review Board	In progress
<b>Identification and responses to child sexual abuse</b>	Child Protection	Examines the identification, assessment, and system response to child sexual abuse, including instances of sexual abuse and exploitation of children in care.	Child Death Review Board	Proposed
<b>Responding to the mental health needs of children in care</b>	Child Protection	Examines how the child protection system responds to the mental health needs of children and young people living in residential care, with a particular focus on cases where death by suicide has occurred.	Child Death Review Board	Proposed
<b>Emotional abuse</b>	Child Protection	Examines how systems and professionals identify, assess and respond to emotional abuse, with a focus on enhancing early recognition and effective intervention.	Child Death Review Board	Proposed