

Government Response to the Child Death Review Board 2024-25 Annual Report

Background

The Child Death Review Board (the Board) was established on 1 July 2020 under the *Family and Child Commission Act 2014* (Qld) (the Act), as an independent model for reviewing the deaths of children connected to the child protection system.

Pursuant to section 29A of the Act, the Board's purpose is to identify opportunities for continuous improvement in systems, legislation, and practices, as well as to identify preventative mechanisms to help children and prevent deaths that may be avoidable.

To achieve its purpose, the Board carries out systems reviews; analyses data, and applies research to identify patterns, trends and risk factors in relation to the child protection system following relevant child deaths. In addition, the Board makes recommendations about any legislative change and improvements to systems, policies and practices, which are annually reported on via an Annual Report submitted to the responsible Minister (the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity (the Attorney General)).

The Annual Report is also a mechanism with which the Board carries out its function of monitoring and reporting on the implementation of its previous recommendations.

2024-25 Annual Report

The Attorney-General, Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity tabled the Board's Annual Report 2024-25 in the Legislative Assembly on 19 December 2025. In this report, the Board reviewed 64 cases relating to the deaths of children and young people who were connected to the child protection system.

The Board made nine recommendations aimed at improving the child protection system to prevent future child deaths. The recommendations emphasise the need for a holistic, health-focused and responsive approach to child protection, prioritising early intervention, integrated support systems and cross-agency collaboration to mitigate risks to vulnerable children and families.

Government's response

The Queensland Government honours the memory of the children who have died and acknowledges the profound and lasting impact of these losses on their families, communities and loved ones.

The Government thanks the Child Death Review Board and its Secretariat for their important work in examining the circumstances surrounding child deaths and identifying opportunities to strengthen safeguards and address preventable deaths of children and young people across Queensland.

Keeping children safe is one of the Queensland Government's highest priorities. This commitment is reflected in the Government's decision to commission the Board to review system responses to child sexual abuse and launch the landmark Commission of Inquiry into the Child Safety System.

In response to both the *In Plain Sight: Review into System Responses to Child Sexual Abuse* report (In Plain Sight) and the Commission of Inquiry's report, *From Pressure to Purpose: Reforming Child Protection in Queensland* (the Inquiry), the Queensland Government has committed to significant reforms aimed at strengthening child protection, improving service responses and delivering better outcomes for children, young people and families. To support this work, the Government has established a Child Safety Cabinet Committee to oversee the development and implementation of its response to the Commission of Inquiry to deliver sustained reform across the child protection system.

When considered collectively, the Board's 2024–25 recommendations highlight several interconnected themes with both In Plain Sight and the Inquiry, including opportunities to improve system responses to mothers with unborn children, improve information sharing and cross-government coordination to support vulnerable children experiencing housing instability, domestic and family violence or criminal drug use.

The Government notes the Board's recommendations and will consider them through the Child Safety Cabinet Committee when implementing its response to both the In Plain Sight and the Inquiry reports as part of its broader commitment to improving child safety systems and addressing preventable deaths of children and young people in Queensland.