

AUGUST 2025

Submission on
Far North
Queensland
Region Issues

Luke Twyford
Principal Commissioner

List of issues for Cairns public hearing

In response to the Commission of Inquiry's call for submission on regional issues in Cairns, the Queensland Family and Child Commission (the Commission) has responded using the numbering in the list of issues in the submission below, for ease of reference.

A. Regional Child Safety Challenges

The challenges experienced by children and families within the context of the child protection system in regional Queensland has been considered by a number of child safety inquiries and reviews, including the *1998 Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions*, (the Forde Inquiry), the *2004 Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Foster Care conducted by the Crime and Corruption Commission*, the *2013 Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry* (the Carmody Inquiry) and the *2017 Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse*.

These previous reviews and inquiries undertaken by Queensland and Federal Governments have continued to highlight that while progress has been made, the child protection system in Queensland remains under pressure, particularly with the growing number of children, young people and families presenting with multiple and complex issues who need intervention and, at times, protection for the safety of children. These complex issues are magnified for those children, young people and families living in regional Queensland with the associated geographical constraints compounding accessibility and availability of suitable placements and secondary support services.

Recent reports published by the Commission include the *June 2024 Queensland Foster Carer Demographic Insights Report*,¹ published in partnership with PeakCare. This report highlighted the significant challenges faced by the sector with respect to the recruitment and retention of carers, as well as the particular demographic challenges for child safety in regional Queensland.

The Commission has additionally published a number of reports and discussion papers which have highlighted the particular issues experienced by children, young people and families in regional Queensland, both in relation to the local context of child protection, and the lived experiences of children and young people in care more broadly.

Appendix 1 contains a table listing these reports and discussion papers.

B. Carmody Implementation

The Commission's first fulsome evaluation of the extent in which the recommendations made in the *Taking Responsibility: A Roadmap for Queensland Child Protection final report* (Carmody Inquiry) had been implemented was published in the 2019 final report - *Queensland Child Protection Reform Program (2014-2024) Implementation Evaluation*.²

The evaluation outcomes found that while significant changes had occurred during the first three years of implementation, with early evidence that new policies, practices and services were functioning as intended, there were opportunities for further refinement, including the need for increased oversight from independent governance groups, further opportunities to explore collaboration and information sharing, as well as incorporating the perspectives of children, young people and families in evaluation outcomes.

¹ Queensland Foster Carer Demographic Insights Report "Preserving a Vital System – The Future of Foster Care"

² Queensland Child Protection Reform Program (2014-2024) Implementation Evaluation

The Commission subsequently undertook the next evaluation of the Child Protection Reform Program and published the results in the 2021 report³ titled *Measuring What Matters – Evaluating outcomes achieved through the Queensland Child Protection Reform Environment (2014-2020)*.

Evaluation outcomes found that demand for the statutory system remained high, and while there had been significant investment in the secondary service system, more was required as the system did not have enough capacity to meet demand, which meant vulnerable families were not always receiving support when they needed it. In addition, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people were found to be even more over-represented in the system than they were at the time of the Carmody Inquiry.

Appendix 1 contains a table listing these reports and additional reports and discussion papers published by the Commission which have considered the evaluation of the implementation of the Carmody Inquiry recommendations in Queensland.

C. Increase in the Numbers of Children in, and the Cost of, the Child Safety System

In mid-2023, Queensland's residential care system came under intense scrutiny due to a series of deeply concerning trends. These included a significant increase in the number of children placed in residential care. Queensland experienced an 85 per cent rise in out-of-home care placements over five years, housing 40 per cent of Australia's residential care placements despite having just over a fifth of the national population of children in care. In response, the then-Minister for Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services initiated a Review into Residential Care and requested that the Principal Commissioner provide independent oversight and advice.

Over the following months, the Commission engaged extensively with the sector, departmental staff, children and young people and community. The then-Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services published *A roadmap for residential care in Queensland* (the Roadmap) on 6 February 2024, including 31 discrete actions for system transformation.⁴ In April 2024, the Commission released *A System That Cares: Queensland Family and Child Commission response to Child Safety's 'A Roadmap for Residential Care in Queensland'*.⁵ This report responded directly to the 31 actions of the Roadmap, and provided specific expectations on the reform needed and strategies to be undertaken by the Department and the Sector to improve outcomes for children in residential care.

Key relevant insights from *A System That Cares* included:

- Increasing investment and effort in early intervention to keep children and families safe should be the goal of all social service departments in Queensland. It is not viable to take ever increasing amounts of public money to deal with the ever-increasing impact of failing to intervene early.⁶
- Over the last five years residential care placements increased year-on-year by an average of 16.8 per cent, from 814 placements in 2018 to 1,763 placements in 2023. After peaking at 21 per cent year-on-year growth in 2021, the rate of growth slowed to 15.1 per cent in 2022 and 11.4 per cent in 2023.
- During 2022-23, 101 new foster and kinship carers joined the system, but this increase has not kept pace with the growth in the number of children needing care. In addition, the high rate of foster carers exiting the system need to be addressed to have any significant impact on the continued growth and unnecessary overreliance on the residential care system.⁷

³ *Measuring What Matters – Evaluating outcomes achieved through the Queensland Child Protection Reform Environment (2014-2020)*.

⁴ Queensland Government – Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety (2024). *Queensland Residential Care systems review. Queensland Residential Care Systems Review | Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety*

⁵ Queensland Family and Child Commission (2024). *A system that cares: Queensland Family and Child Commission response to Child Safety's 'A Roadmap for Residential Care in Queensland'*. [Microsoft Word - Final - QFCC Response - A Roadmap for Residential Care in Queensland](#)

⁶ *ibid* p 39

⁷ *ibid* p 15

- Improving the wellbeing of children, young people and families at population-level requires flexible and responsive systems, equipped to respond to emerging issues and challenges before they manifest. The return on investment for prevention and early intervention is consistently greater than remedial or crisis responses.⁸

Appendix 1 contains a table listing reports and discussion papers published by Commission, which have considered the increase in the numbers of children in care of the State, and the attributed financial cost of reliance upon the child safety and residential care systems.

D. Disconnect Between Duty and Authority

The retention of carers provides the greatest opportunity to decrease our need for residential care, however, each year roughly as many carers leave the system as are recruited.⁹

The research in the Children and Youth Services Review,¹⁰ considered by the Queensland Family and Child Commission in the July 2025 Sector Insights Paper, noted:

carers report significant challenges due to inconsistent application of rules and policies, which creates confusion, uncertainty and frustration, making it difficult for carers to navigate their responsibilities effectively and confidently in consideration of children and young people in their care.¹¹

Carers reported their experiences of finding the child protection system as punitive and overly focused on risk assessment, leading to a climate where carers felt scrutinised rather than supported. In addition, carers frequently encountered difficulties in establishing and maintaining trust with child protection staff, which can lead to feeling undervalued and unsupported by the system they are working with.¹²

Carers are the backbone of the child safety system, and their contribution is crucial in protecting and supporting those children and young people who have been exposed to harm and maltreatment. The National Standards for out-of-home care acknowledges carers rely on the provision of timely and responsive support from the child protection system in addition to the provision of ongoing training and development to allow for care which is the best interests of the children and young people entrusted to them.¹³

Appendix 1 contains a table listing reports and discussion papers published by the Commission, which have considered the particular issues experienced by carers with respect to their duty of care and authority in relation to the children in their care, including the requirement for ongoing training and development.

⁸ Ibid p 39

⁹ "Queensland Family and Child Commission (2024). *A system that cares: Queensland Family and Child Commission response to Child Safety's 'A Roadmap for Residential Care in Queensland'* p 47

¹⁰ Riggs, D.W., Lohmeyer, B., Rosenberg, S., & Due, C. (2025). 'The whole system is designed to create more trauma than it solves': Australian foster and kinship carers navigating child protection systems, Children and Youth Services Review, 2025.

¹¹ July 2025 Sector Insights Paper p 3

¹² ibid

¹³ The National Standards for out-of-home-care

E. Residential Care

The Commission has consistently emphasised the importance of child's right to a stable, loving and supportive environment, and that the standard of care we should accept for the most vulnerable children and young people of our community, should mirror the same standard of care we would expect for our own children.

In April 2024, the Commission published its response to the Roadmap for Residential Care in Queensland reform, providing further actions required for successful implementation *A System that Cares: Queensland Family and Child Commission response to Child Safety's 'A Roadmap for Residential Care in Queensland'*.¹⁴

This report and work related to the Roadmap For Residential Care in Queensland reform was further considered by the Child Death Review Board (the Board) in their 2023 – 24 Annual Report.¹⁵ Consistent conclusions were drawn by the Board; that the residential care system was unable to meet the fundamental needs for connection, love, safety and stability for children and young people in its care, and the Child Safety placement models did not adequately recognise or respond to the complex and unique needs of the children and young people placed in residential care. This failure to meet the needs of children and young people who are placed in residential care is consistently resulting in a path of placement instability, transience, self-placing, increasingly high-risk, and ultimately self-destructive, behaviours.

System issues identified included; a lack of therapeutic care placements, noting statistics provide that families who have a child with disability are reported to be at greater likelihood of statutory child protection involvement,¹⁶ poor placement matching, and a lack of system flexibility and capacity contributed to a path where these young people experienced further harm and trauma through their experiences of placement instability, homelessness, sexual and criminal exploitation, and unmet basic needs.¹⁷

Appendix 1 contains a table listing the reports and discussion papers published by the Commission which have considered the issues relating to the Queensland's child protection system's growing reliance on residential care.

F. Family-Based Care (Foster and Kinship Care)

The Commission recognises the critical frontline role that foster and kinship carers play in supporting better outcomes for children who have been exposed to the trauma of abuse and maltreatment.

With a reduced number of people choosing to be foster and kinship carers in Queensland, there is a critical need for reform and re-design of the current system, to that of a more modern and flexible system which is responsive to the evolving needs of carers and the children they care for.¹⁸

In its 2023 -24 Annual Report on the Performance of the Queensland Child Protection System,¹⁹ the Commission noted that between 30 June 2019 and 31 March 2024, there was a 40.7% increase in kinship carers from 1610 to 2265, however the number of foster carers exiting the system increased from 3522 to 2678.

¹⁴ "Queensland Family and Child Commission (2024). *A system that cares: Queensland Family and Child Commission response to Child Safety's 'A Roadmap for Residential Care in Queensland'*"

¹⁵ Child Death Review Board Annual Report 2023 -24 - A report on the operations and systemic findings of the Queensland Child Death Review Board

¹⁶ Queensland's Family Support System Service Context & Drivers into Statutory Systems Summary Evidence Report Queensland's Family Support System Service Context & Drivers into Statutory Systems p 15.

¹⁷ Child Death Review Board Annual Report 2023 -24 - A report on the operations and systemic findings of the Queensland Child Death Review Board p40

¹⁸ *Queensland Foster Carer Demographic Insights Report "Preserving a Vital System – The Future of Foster Care"*.

¹⁹ Annual Report on the performance of the Queensland Child Protection System 2023 -24 p24

The *June 2024 Queensland Foster Carer Demographic Insights Report*,²⁰ published in partnership with PeakCare, further emphasised the importance of innovative and flexible approaches to future foster carer recruitment, in addition to improved support systems, and greater flexibility for potential carers. This included a review of current blue card requirements for kinship carers, in order to revitalise this vital part of the child protection system.

The Commission has published a number of reports and discussion papers which have considered the particular issues impacting the availability and retention of foster and kinship carers, highlighting the need to build a more robust and responsive system to ensure the continuing improved outcomes for children in family-based care.

Appendix 1 contains a table listing these reports and discussion papers.

G. Reunification Principle

Ongoing efforts to ensure a child or young person can be reunited with their family are critical, with particular emphasis on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle, which recognises the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people to be raised in their own culture and with meaningful connection to their family, extended family, and community.²¹

The effective operation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle is contingent on the principle being applied within crucial decision-making in relation to child protection. Queensland has one of the lowest percentages of children and young people living in out-of-home care who were placed with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander or non-Indigenous relatives or kin or other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander caregivers.²²

Queensland additionally has the second highest number nationally of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children subject to unborn reports. Apart from a minor increase in 2020, the number of unborn reports for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in Queensland has remained relatively stable between 2018 and 2023. There is, however, a lack of consistent, and comprehensive data for unborn reports across the nation, which makes inter-jurisdictional comparisons problematic.

When Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people are reunified with their families, it is almost always successful. While the number of reunifications is low, it has been gradually increasing over time. In 2022–2023, 239 Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people were reunified with their families and 215 (90.0%) did not return to care within 12 months.²³

The Commission has published a number of reports and discussion papers which have considered the various influencing factors and outcomes of the reunification of children and young people with their family of origin, kinship, and community.

Appendix 1 contains a table listing these reports and discussion papers.

²⁰ *Queensland Foster Carer Demographic Insights Report "Preserving a Vital System – The Future of Foster Care"*

²¹ Queensland Family and Child Commission (2024). *A system that cares: Queensland Family and Child Commission response to Child Safety's 'A Roadmap for Residential Care in Queensland'* p 39.

²² *ibid*

²³ 2023 -24 Annual report on the performance of the child protection system p 54

H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people continue to be overrepresented throughout the Queensland child protection system.

Many factors contribute to the over representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and families within the broad scope of the child protection system, including individual and intergenerational experiences of trauma, racism, socioeconomic disadvantage, family violence, drugs and alcohol, mental health issues and lack of access to suitable housing.²⁴

Australia's National Agreement on Closing the Gap outlines targets to reduce inequality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with a target date of 2031. Reducing disproportionate representation in child protection is one of the agreement's economic outcome areas. Other targets relate to early childhood, schooling, health, economic participation, housing, safe communities, and disproportionate representation in youth justice. Disproportionate representation in the statutory systems does not occur in isolation.²⁵

While there are still opportunities to drive down disproportionate representation within the secondary and tertiary child protection system, the greatest drivers to eliminate disproportionate representation are the universal, secondary and tertiary supports across the *Our Way* wellbeing domains (health, home and environment, learning and skills, safety, culture and connections, mental health and emotional wellbeing, empowerment and economic wellbeing).²⁶

The Commission has published a number of reports and discussion papers which have highlighted the complexity of issues related to the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people within the child safety system.

Appendix 1 contains a table listing these reports and discussion papers.

I. Removal of Newborn Children

The Child Death Review Board (the Board) made an overarching recommendation to promote the safety of infants and unborn children, as outlined in the Child Death Review Board Annual Report 2021-22.²⁷ The recommendation, in part, focuses on the extension of health home visiting programs with a view to supporting and monitoring the wellbeing and development of an infant within the family home and addressing families' health and psychosocial needs and wellbeing as they arise. The report provides thematic analysis of the risks experienced by this vulnerable cohort. The 2023-24 Annual Report notes the closure of this recommendation and action taken by government.²⁸

In the Board's Annual Report 2022-23,²⁹ Chapter 5 of the report identifies the vulnerability of infants and very young children where they are exposed to parental substance and methamphetamine use, highlighting the necessity of care being provided by a safe adult who is consistently responsive to the infant's needs. The report identifies the lifelong impact cumulative harm has on a child and features a case example of exposure in-utero.

Recommendation 5 (now recommendation 9 in the 2023-24 Annual Report) focuses on strengthening child safety practice in response to parental substance and methamphetamine use.³⁰

Appendix 1 contains a table listing these reports and relevant discussion papers.

²⁴ *Measuring what matters Evaluating outcomes achieved through the Queensland Child Protection Reform Environment (2014 – 2020)* p 10

²⁵ 2023 -24 Annual report on the performance of the child protection system p 51

²⁶ 2023 -24 Annual report on the performance of the child protection system p 58

²⁷ Child Death Review Board Annual Report 2021 -22

²⁸ Child Death Review Board Annual Report 2022 -23

²⁹ Child Death Review Board Annual Report 2023 -24

³⁰ Risks for Children caused by Methamphetamine use by parents.

J. Complaints, Concerns and Feedback

In the Commission's first submission to the Commission of Inquiry regarding complaints and incident systems, the Principal Commissioner asserted that *complaints are a fundamental component of an accountable child safety system. They serve not only as mechanisms for resolving individual concerns but as critical indicators of where the system is falling short in meeting the needs of children, young people, and families.*³¹

Key insights from this submission include:

- A good complaints process with oversight is what distinguishes a just child protection system from a coercive one. It reassures the public that state intervention is not arbitrary, but lawful, accountable, and transparent.³²
- Parent concerns typically arise from experiences of disempowerment, lack of transparency, limited or inconsistent contact with their children, and insufficient support to keep families safely together or achieve reunification.
- Children and young people in care also raise complaints, although far less frequently than might be expected given the complexity and risks inherent in their placements. When children speak out, their concerns often relate to their immediate safety, a lack of stability, being ignored, or having their daily needs go unmet. The underrepresentation of child-initiated complaints is a significant system failure, with many children reporting that they are unsure of how or where to raise concerns, fear not being believed or facing retribution, or that past complaints were ignored. These experiences severely undermine trust and discourage future concerns from being raised.³³
- Foster and kinship carers are also key participants in the complaints landscape. Foster carers frequently report concerns related to inadequate support, lack of consultation, poor communication, and insufficient information about the children in their care. Kinship carers also face unique challenges. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kinship carers, additional concerns around cultural safety and the failure to honour kinship ties are frequently raised, but not always formally documented due to cultural obligations, systemic mistrust, or lack of access to advocacy.³⁴

The Commission has published a number of reports and discussion papers which have highlighted the particular issues related to complaints and feedback, including the vulnerability of children and young people, and the need for trauma-aware care.

Appendix 1 contains a table listing these reports and discussion papers.

K. Self-Placing or Missing Children In Care

When children and young people leave their primary care placement, it is referred to as the child or young person as having "self-placed," but this label reflects a dismissive view that it is an autonomous decision the child or young person has made independently, and denigrates the responsibility of the carer to prevent the child from leaving the approved placement, or an ongoing responsibility of the carer to provide support once the young person or child has left their care.

Queensland does not hold centralised real time data on the number of children in the child safety system who have left their placement, how long the child has left the placement and whether safety assessments and case plans were in place or reviewed at the time they did so.³⁵

³¹ Submission on Complaints and Incident Systems – July 2025 – Luke Twyford Principal Commissioner p 4

³² Submission on Complaints and Incident Systems – July 2025 – Luke Twyford Principal Commissioner p 3

³³ Submission on Complaints and Incident Systems – July 2025 – Luke Twyford Principal Commissioner p 9

³⁴ Submission on Complaints and Incident Systems – July 2025 – Luke Twyford Principal Commissioner p 10

³⁵ Insights Paper – Absence from Care – May 2024 p 3

In conjunction with PeakCare, and as part of Project Paradigm, the Queensland Family and Child Commission has released a best practice guide for workers when children and young people in out-of-home care go missing; *Safe & Sound in Queensland: Enhancing safety for young people who go missing from care*, (the practice guide).³⁶

The practice guide notes that missing episodes (where the child's location is unknown) and homelessness are both issues for children living in out-of-home care who experience sexual and criminal exploitation and provides a guide on the warning signs/indicators and behaviours to be aware of.³⁷

As of 31 December 2022, there were an estimated 833 Queensland children in care staying at a place that was not their approved placement. This represents 7.6 per cent of all children involved with Child Safety and is representative of vulnerable children and young people who are at an increased risk of harm and exploitation.³⁸

The Commission has published a number of reports and discussion papers which have considered the particular nuances and issues of concern with respect to when a child or young person leaves their primary care placement and is reportedly "missing."

Appendix 1 contains a table listing these reports and discussion papers.

L. Models of Care

The Child Death Review Board's Annual Report 2023 – 24, revealed a concerning pattern of children in-care experiencing instability in their placements, unmet health needs, poor educational outcomes, and a lack of meaningful family or cultural connection.³⁹

Location accessibility shortages for specific services to support children in out-of-home care and residential care is impacting access and engagement in tailored, specialised treatment. Lengthy waitlists and a shortage of specialist allied health professionals delays access to assessment and treatment for children in out-of-home care and results in circumstances where children can go months or years without a comprehensive assessment. Consequently, services do not have a clear understanding of how to best meet children's needs with a safe and appropriate approach.⁴⁰

Notably, there are several actions in the *Queensland Roadmap to Residential Care reform* program that aim to identify and trial alternative care models to better meet the needs of children and young people. Such alternative care models include respite care, short-stay assessment centres, house parents, and transition to independent living. These alternative care models are in addition to innovative models of foster and kinship care, such as respite care, shared care, specialist family-based care, and professional care.

The trialling of alternative care models would provide a more responsive care system, and one which reduces over-reliance on the formal residential care system. This would also allow the ability of building an evidence base with outcomes data, which would ultimately support the evaluation of what works to meet the needs of Queensland children, young people and their families in the context of child protection.⁴¹

The Commission has published a number of reports and discussion papers which have considered alternative and current models in the context of best outcomes for our most vulnerable children and young people.

Appendix 1 contains a table listing these reports and discussion papers.

³⁶ *Safe & Sound in Queensland: Enhancing safety for young people who go missing from care*.

³⁷ Child Death Review Board Annual Report 2023 -24 p 39

³⁸ Child Death Review Board Annual Report 2023 -24 p 50

³⁹ Child Death Review Board Annual Report 2023 -24

⁴⁰ Queensland Family and Child Commission (2024). *A system that cares: Queensland Family and Child Commission response to Child Safety's 'A Roadmap for Residential Care in Queensland* p 10

⁴¹ *ibid* p 40

M. Definitions of Success in the Child Safety System

The Child safety system has four main elements - preventing child abuse and neglect; intake; investigations; and care.

Given the diverse purposes of these separate elements, they each need their own detailed and strategically crafted definition of success. Put in very simple terms the success definition of each element should be:

1. The child safety system assists and supports parents to keep their children safe
2. The Child safety system responds to concerns about the risks a child is exposed to in a timely and effective way
3. The Child safety system addresses and resolves safety concerns in the most efficient and sustainable way
4. The Child safety children equips and empowers children in care to thrive by meeting needs, addressing past trauma and parenting with long term outcomes in mind.

The Commission has published a number of reports and discussion papers which have considered the “definitions of success in the child safety system.

Appendix 1 contains a table listing these reports and discussion papers.

Appendix 1

List of Reports, and Discussion Papers published by the Queensland Family and Child Commission

| Publication Title | Date | Terms Of Reference Issue Related to Publication |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Queensland Child Protection Reform Program (2014-2024) Implementation Evaluation</u> | 2019 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A. Regional Child Safety Challenges ▪ B. Carmody Implementation ▪ C. Increase in the Number of Children In, and the Cost of the Child Safety System ▪ E. Residential Care ▪ G. The Reunification Principle ▪ H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People ▪ J. Complaints, Concerns and Feedback ▪ K. Self -Placing or Missing Children in Care ▪ L. Models of Care ▪ M. Definitions of Success in the Child Safety System |
| <u>Seeing They are Safe – Responsiveness to 5 day and 10 day notifications of child harm in Queensland</u> | 2019 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A. Regional Child Safety Challenges ▪ C. Increase in numbers of children in, and the cost of, the child safety system ▪ H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People ▪ M. Definitions of Success in the Child Safety system |
| <u>Measuring what matters – Evaluating Outcomes achieved through the Queensland Child Protection Reform Environment (2014 – 2020)</u> | 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regional Child Safety Challenges ▪ B. Carmody Implementation ▪ C. Increase in the Number of Children In, and the Cost of the Child Safety System ▪ E. Residential Care ▪ F. Family-Based Care (Foster and Kinship Care) ▪ G. The Reunification Principle ▪ H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People ▪ J. Complaints, Concerns and Feedback ▪ L. Models of Care ▪ M. Definitions of Success in the Child Safety System |
| <u>Deep Dive #1 Investing in family support services – Has it reduced demand on the child protection system and improved outcomes</u> | 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regional Child Safety Challenges ▪ B. Carmody Implementation ▪ C. Increase in the Number of Children In, and the Cost of the Child Safety System ▪ E. Residential Care ▪ G. The Reunification Principle |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People ▪ J. Complaints, Concerns and Feedback ▪ L. Models of Care ▪ M. Definitions of Success in the Child Safety System |
| <u>Deep Dive #2 Respecting the workforce – How did the Queensland Child Protection Reform Environment impact the frontline Child Safety workforce?</u> | 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A. Regional Child Safety Challenges ▪ B. Carmody Implementation ▪ C. Increase in the Number of Children In, and the Cost of the Child Safety System ▪ H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People ▪ J. Complaints, Concerns and Feedback ▪ L. Models of Care ▪ M. Definitions of Success in the Child Safety System |
| <u>Deep Dive #3 Learning from evaluations – What have we learned and how has the child protection system responded?</u> | 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A. Regional Child Safety Challenges ▪ B. Carmody Implementation ▪ C. Increase in the Number of Children In, and the Cost of the Child Safety System ▪ H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People ▪ L. Models of Care ▪ M. Definitions of Success in the Child Safety System |
| <u>Rights Voices Stories: Project report: identifying what matters to children and young people involved with the Queensland child protection system</u> | 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ E. Residential care ▪ L. Models of Care ▪ M. Definitions of Success in the Child Safety System |
| <u>First Nations Children's Report</u> | 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People |
| <u>Principle Focus – A child-rights approach to systemic accountability for the safety and wellbeing of Queensland's First Nations children</u> | 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ C. Increase in Numbers of Children in, and the Cost of, the Child Safety System ▪ D. Disconnect Between Duty and Authority ▪ E. Residential Care ▪ F. Family-Based Care (Foster and Kinship Care) ▪ G. The Reunification Principle ▪ H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People ▪ L. Models of Care ▪ M. Definitions of Success in the Child Safety system |

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| <u>Rights, Voices, Stories: Activity Report 2021 – 22</u> | 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ E. Residential care ▪ L. Models of Care ▪ M. Definitions of Success in the Child Safety System |
| <u>Keeping children in focus – A systemic review of supports delivered to Queensland children and families during Intervention with Parental Agreement</u> | 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ C. Increase in Numbers of Children in, and the Cost of, the Child Safety System ▪ H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People ▪ L. Models of Care ▪ M. Definitions of Success in the Child Safety system |
| <u>Yarning for Change Listen to my voice</u> | September 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ C. Increase in the Numbers of Children In, and the Cost of, the Child Safety System ▪ E. Residential Care ▪ F. Family-Based Care (Foster and Kinship Care) ▪ H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People |
| <u>The decision to place an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child or young person in residential care</u> | 9 December 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ C. Increase in the Numbers in, and the Cost of, the Child Safety System ▪ E. Residential care ▪ F. Family – Based Care (Foster and Kinship Care) ▪ G. the Reunification Principle ▪ H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People ▪ L. Models of Care |
| <u>Growing up in Queensland - A story of child and family wellbeing</u> | 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A. Regional Child Safety Challenges ▪ C. Increase in Numbers of Children in, and the Cost of, the Child Safety System ▪ D. Disconnect Between Duty and Authority ▪ E. Residential Care ▪ F. Family-Based Care (Foster and Kinship Care) ▪ H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People ▪ L. Models of Care ▪ M. Definitions of Success in the Child Safety system |
| <u>Queensland Child Rights Report 2023</u> | 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A. Regional Child Safety Challenges ▪ C. Increase in Numbers of Children in, and the Cost of, the Child Safety System ▪ E. Residential Care ▪ F. Family – Based Care (Foster and Kinship Care) ▪ G. The Reunification Principle |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People ▪ J. Complaints, Concerns, Feedback ▪ K. Self – Placing or Missing Children in Care ▪ L. Models of Care ▪ M. Definitions of Success in the Child Safety system |
| <u><i>Making children’s rights real</i></u> | 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People ▪ J. Complaints, Concerns, Feedback |
| <u><i>Lessons from the life-story timelines of 30 Queensland children who have died: A small sample review of commonalities in child and family trajectories considered at the Child Death Review Board</i></u> | June 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A. Regional Child Safety Challenges ▪ C. Increase in the Numbers of Children, and the Cost of, the Child Safety System ▪ H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People |
| <u><i>System review into the use of Permanent Care Orders for First Nations children</i></u> | July 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regional Child Safety Challenges ▪ B. Carmody Implementation ▪ H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People ▪ F. Family-Based Care (Foster and Kinship Care) ▪ G. The Reunification Principle ▪ L. Models of Care ▪ M. Definitions of Success in the Child Safety System |
| <u><i>“I was raised by a checklist”</i></u> | October 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ E. Residential care ▪ H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People ▪ L. Models of Care ▪ M. Definitions of Success in the Child Safety System |
| <u><i>Carer allowances – QFCC Insights Paper</i></u> | 2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ C. Increase in the Number of Children in, and the Cost of, the Child Safety System ▪ F. Family-Based Care (Foster and Kinship Care) ▪ L. Models of Care ▪ M. Definitions of Success in the Child Safety System |
| <u><i>Risks for Children caused by Methamphetamine use by parents</i></u> | 2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People ▪ L. Models of Care |

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| <u>Absent from care - Insights paper</u> | May 2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ F. Family-Based Care (Foster and Kinship Care) ▪ K. Self - Placing or Missing Children in Care ▪ L. Models of Care ▪ M. Definitions of Success in the Child Safety System |
| <u>Preserving a Vital System – The future of foster care: Queensland foster carer demographic insights report – Queensland and Family Child Commission and PeakCare</u> | June 2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ F. Family-Based Care (Foster and Kinship Care) ▪ H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People ▪ L. Models of Care ▪ M. Definitions of Success in the Child Safety System |
| <u>Queensland’s Family Support System Service Context & Drivers into Statutory Systems -Summary evidence report</u> | September 2024 [in conjunction with the Parenting Research Centre -PRC] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A. Regional Child Safety Challenges ▪ B. Carmody Reforms Implementation ▪ C. Increase in the Numbers in, and the Cost of, the Child Safety System ▪ G. The Reunification Principle ▪ H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People |
| <u>Australian child death statistics 2022</u> | February 2025 Prepared by QFCC on behalf of The Australian and New Zealand Child Death Review and Prevention Group (ANZCDR&PG) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People |
| <u>Raising expectations – Reforming how we raise children and young people in care – Position Paper</u> | May 2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ F. Family-Based Care (Foster and Kinship Care) ▪ D. Disconnect Between Duty and Authority ▪ L. Models of Care ▪ M. Definitions of Success in the Child Safety System |
| <i>QFCC Oversight of Child Safety’s Queensland Roadmap – A Contemporary care system for Queensland: Review of Residential Care</i> | | |
| <u>Monthly Report – August 2023 - QFCC Oversight of Child Safety’s Queensland Roadmap – A Contemporary care system for Queensland: Review of Residential Care</u> | August 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A. Regional Child Safety Challenges ▪ C. Increase in the Numbers of Children, and the Cost of, the Child Safety System ▪ E. Residential Care ▪ F. Family – Based Care (Foster and Kinship Care) ▪ G. The Reunification Principle ▪ H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People |

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| <u>Monthly Report – October 2023 - QFCC Oversight of Child Safety’s Queensland Roadmap – A Contemporary care system for Queensland: Review of Residential Care</u> | October 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A. Regional Child Safety Challenges ▪ C. Increase in the Numbers of Children, and the Cost of, the Child Safety System ▪ E. Residential Care ▪ F. Family – Based Care (Foster and Kinship Care) ▪ H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People ▪ J. Complaints, Concerns and Feedback ▪ L. Models of Care ▪ M. Definitions of Success in the Child Safety System |
| <u>Monthly Report – September 2023 - QFCC Oversight of Child Safety’s Queensland Roadmap – A Contemporary care system for Queensland: Review of Residential Care</u> | September 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A. Regional Child Safety Challenges ▪ Increase in the Numbers of Children, and the Cost of, the Child Safety System ▪ E. Residential Care ▪ F. Family – Based Care (Foster and Kinship Care) ▪ G. The Reunification Principle ▪ H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People ▪ J. Complaints, Concerns and Feedback ▪ L. Models of Care ▪ M. Definitions of Success In The Child Safety System |
| <u>Treated as Broken – Residential Care Expert Advisory Council – Kingaroy Workshop Report</u> | June 2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A. Regional Child Safety Challenges ▪ B. Carmody Implementation ▪ C. Increase in the Numbers of Children, and the Cost of, the Child Safety System ▪ D. Disconnect Between Duty and Authority ▪ E. Residential Care ▪ F. Family – Based Care (Foster and Kinship Care) ▪ H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People ▪ J. Complaints, Concerns and Feedback ▪ L. Models of Care ▪ M. Definitions of Success in the Child Safety System |
| <u>A system that Cares – Queensland Family and Child Commission response to</u> | April 2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A. Regional Child Safety Challenges ▪ D. Disconnect Between Duty and Authority ▪ E. Residential Care |

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| <u>Child Safety's 'A Roadmap for Residential Care in Queensland'</u> | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People ▪ J. Complaints, Concerns and Feedback ▪ L. Models of Care ▪ M. Definitions of Success in the Child Safety System |
| Annual Performance of the Child Protection System Reports | | |
| <u>Annual Performance of the Child Protection System Report 2023 – 2024</u> | 2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A. Regional Child Safety Challenges ▪ C. Increase in the Number of Children In, and the Cost of the Child Safety System ▪ F. Family-Based Care (Foster and Kinship Care) ▪ G. The Reunification principle ▪ H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People ▪ J. Complaints and Feedback ▪ L. Models of Care ▪ M. Definitions of Success in the Child Safety System |
| <u>Performance of the Queensland Child Protection system – 2022 – 2023</u> | 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ C. Increase in the Number of Children In, and the Cost of the Child Safety System ▪ E. Residential Care ▪ F. Family-Based Care (Foster and Kinship Care) ▪ H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People ▪ L. Models of Care ▪ M. Definitions of Success in the Child Safety System |
| <u>Performance of the Queensland Child Protection system – 2021 – 2022</u> | 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ C. Increase in the Number of Children In, and the Cost of the Child Safety System ▪ F. Family-Based Care (Foster and Kinship Care) ▪ G. Reunification principle ▪ H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People ▪ J. Complaints and Feedback ▪ L. Models of Care ▪ M. Definitions of Success in the Child Safety System |
| <u>Performance of the Queensland Child Protection system – 2020 – 2021</u> | 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ C. Increase in the Number of Children In, and the Cost of the Child Safety System ▪ F. Family-Based Care (Foster and Kinship Care) ▪ G. The Reunification principle ▪ H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People ▪ L. Models of Care ▪ M. Definitions of Success in the Child Safety System |

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| <p><u>Performance of the Queensland Child Protection system – 2019 – 2020</u></p> | <p>2020</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ C. Increase in the Number of Children In, and the Cost of the Child Safety System ▪ F. Family – Based Care (Foster and Kinship Care ▪ G. The Reunification principle ▪ H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People ▪ L. Models of Care ▪ M. Definitions of Success in the Child Safety System |
| <p><u>Performance of the Queensland Child Protection system – 2018 – 2019</u></p> | <p>2019</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ C. Increase in the Number of Children In, and the Cost of the Child Safety System ▪ F. Family – Based Care (Foster and Kinship Care ▪ G. The Reunification principle ▪ H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People ▪ L. Models of Care ▪ M. Definitions of Success in the Child Safety System |
| <p><u>Performance of the Queensland Child Protection System – 2017 – 2018</u></p> | <p>2018</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A. Regional Child Safety Challenges ▪ C. Increase in the Number of Children in, and the Cost of, the Child Safety System ▪ F. Family–Based Care (Foster and Kinship Care ▪ G. The Reunification principle ▪ H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People ▪ L. Models of Care ▪ M. Definitions of Success in the Child Safety System |
| <p><u>Performance of the Queensland Child Protection System – 2016 - 2017</u></p> | <p>2017</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A. Regional Child Safety Challenges ▪ C. Increase in the Number of Children In, and the Cost of, the Child Safety System ▪ F. Family – Based Care (Foster and Kinship Care ▪ G. The Reunification principle ▪ H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People ▪ L. Models of Care ▪ M. Definitions of Success in the Child Safety System |
| <p><u>Performance of the Queensland Child Protection System – 2015 - 2016</u></p> | <p>2016</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A. Regional Child Safety Challenges ▪ C. Increase in the Number of Children In, and the Cost of, the Child Safety System ▪ F. Family–Based Care (Foster and Kinship Care ▪ G. The Reunification principle ▪ H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People ▪ J. Complaints and Feedback |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ L. Models of Care ▪ M. Definitions of Success in the Child Safety System |
| Monthly Sector Insight Papers | | |
| <u>Sector insights paper – July 2025</u> | July 2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A. Regional Child Safety Challenges ▪ C. Increase in the Numbers of Children, and the Cost of, the Child Safety System ▪ E. Residential Care ▪ F. Family–Based Care (Foster and Kinship Care) ▪ G. The Reunification Principle ▪ H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People ▪ J. Complaints, Concerns and Feedback ▪ L. Models of Care ▪ M. Definitions of Success in the Child Safety System |
| <u>Sector insights paper – May 2025</u> | May 2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ C. Increase in the Numbers of Children, and the Cost of, the Child Safety System ▪ E. Residential Care ▪ F. Family – Based Care (Foster and Kinship Care) ▪ G. The Reunification Principle ▪ H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People ▪ J. Complaints, Concerns and Feedback ▪ L. Models of Care ▪ M. Definitions of Success in the Child Safety System |
| <u>Sector insights paper - April 2025</u> | April 2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ F. Family–Based Care (Foster and Kinship Care) ▪ G. The Reunification Principle ▪ H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People ▪ J. Complaints, Concerns and Feedback ▪ L. Models of Care ▪ M. Definitions of Success in the Child Safety System |
| <u>Sector insights - March 2025</u> | March 2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ E. Residential Care ▪ F. Family–Based Care (Foster and Kinship Care) ▪ G. The Reunification Principle ▪ H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People ▪ J. Complaints, Concerns and Feedback ▪ L. Models of Care ▪ M. Definitions of Success in the Child Safety System |
| <u>Sector insights - February 2025</u> | February 2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A. Regional Child Safety Challenges ▪ C. Increase in the Numbers of Children and the Cost of, The Child Safety System |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ E. Residential Care ▪ F. Family – Based Care (Foster and Kinship Care) ▪ H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People ▪ K. Self - Placing or Missing Children in Care ▪ M. Definitions of Success in the Child Safety System |
| <u>Sector insights – January 2025</u> | January 2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A. Regional Child Safety Challenges ▪ C. Increase in the Numbers of Children in and the Cost of, the Child Safety System ▪ E. Residential Care ▪ G. The Reunification Principle ▪ K. Self-Placing or Missing Children in Care ▪ L. Models of Care ▪ M. Definitions of Success in the Child Safety System |
| <u>Sector insights – November 2024</u> | November 2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ C. Increase in the Numbers of Children In, and the Cost Of, The Child Safety System ▪ E. Residential Care ▪ H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People ▪ L. Models of Care ▪ M. Definitions of Success in the Child Safety System |
| <u>Sector insights – October 2024</u> | October 2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ E. Residential Care ▪ K. Self - Placing or Missing Children in Care |
| <u>Sector insights - September 2024</u> | September 2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ C. Increase in the Numbers of Children in, and the Cost of, the Child Safety System ▪ E. Residential Care ▪ H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People ▪ K. Self-Placing or Missing Children in Care ▪ L. Models of Care ▪ M. Definitions of Success in the Child Safety System |
| Child Death Review Board Annual Reports | | |
| <u>Child Death Review Board Annual Report 2023 – 2024</u> | 2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A. Regional Child Safety Challenges ▪ C. Increase in the Number of Children In, and the Cost of the Child Safety System ▪ D. Disconnect Between Duty and Authority ▪ E. Residential Care ▪ F. Family – Based Care (Foster and Kinship Care) ▪ H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People ▪ K. Self – Placing or Missing Children in Care |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ L. Models of Care ▪ M. Definitions of Success in the Child Safety System |
| <u>Child Death Review Board Annual Report 2022 – 2023</u> | 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A. Regional Child Safety Challenges ▪ C. Increase in the Number of Children In, and the Cost of the Child Safety System ▪ D. Disconnect Between Duty and Authority ▪ E. Residential Care ▪ F. Family – Based Care (Foster and Kinship Care ▪ H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People ▪ I. Removal of Newborn Children ▪ L. Models of Care ▪ M. Definitions of Success in the Child Safety System |
| <u>Child Death Review Board Annual Report 2021 – 2022</u> | 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regional Child Safety Challenges ▪ C. Increase in the Number of Children In, and the Cost of the Child Safety System ▪ E. Residential Care ▪ F. Family – Based Care (Foster and Kinship Care ▪ H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People ▪ I. Removal of Newborn Children ▪ K. Self – Placing or Missing Children in Care ▪ L. Models of Care ▪ M. Definitions of Success in the Child Safety System |
| <u>Child Death Review Board Annual Report 2020 - 2021</u> | 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ C. Increase in the Number of Children In, and the Cost of the Child Safety System ▪ E. Residential Care ▪ F. Family – Based Care (Foster and Kinship Care ▪ H. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People ▪ L. Models of Care ▪ M. Definitions of Success in the Child Safety System |