

Communique – Queensland First Children and Families Board Meeting

1 -2 November 2018

The Queensland First Children and Family Board held their inaugural meeting on the 1st and 2nd November in Brisbane.

The Board is made up of nine Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders, along with two Directors General, Dr Chris Sarra and Mr Michael Hogan, who bring a wide range of lived experience, work histories and skills needed to guide the implementation of the Our Way: A generational strategy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families 2017-2037 (the Our Way Strategy), and its first action plan, Changing Tracks: An action plan for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families 2017-2019.

A full Board membership list is attached.

The Our Way strategy commits the Queensland Government over the next 20 years to confront and address the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the child protection system.

Co-Chair of the Board, Mick Gooda said:

“Our Board members are humbled to be asked to undertake this work, we understand the magnitude of the challenge, but we are optimistic that by Government working with our children, families and communities, great progress and transformational change can be achieved.”

The Board was particularly pleased to meet with the Deputy Premier, the Hon Jackie Trad, Treasurer and Minister for the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, and the Hon Di Farmer, Minister for Child Safety Youth and Women, to hear firsthand their commitment and support of the Board as we embark on a journey to deliver a system that protects our most precious and most vulnerable, our children.

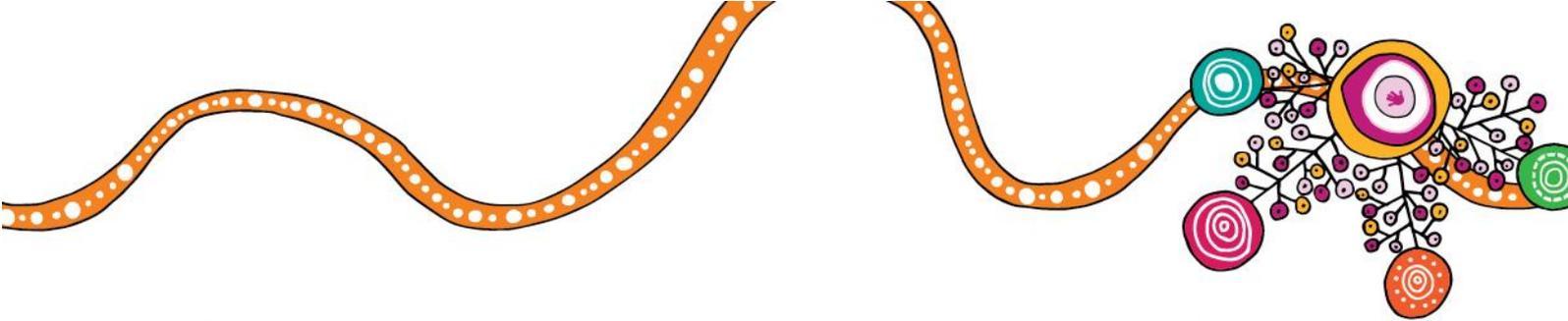
Those commitments present great opportunities, give proper meaning to the often quoted, but almost universally hollow rhetoric, of governments working with us and not doing things for us or to us.

A fair proportion of the meeting was dedicated to establishing the relationship with the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women, where we were pleased to be told by the Director General, Michael Hogan, that no part of the Department or its operations were ‘off limits’ to the Board.

The first decision of the Board reinforced the understanding that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture is one of the most effective protective measures in sustaining and protecting our children and committed to ensuring that our culture will be a principle to guide all of our work.

An ambitious agenda over the next three months was set to get the internal infrastructure in place that will facilitate the Board’s stewardship of the Our Way strategy. This includes amongst other initiatives:

- Endorsed a set of principles that will guide all of our work. As mentioned earlier it was decided that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture will both guide our work as well as the implementation of the Our Way strategy, but other principles will also be included.
- Agreed to partner with Investment and Commissioning to provide guidance about changes to investment policy, program design and practice that would have a significant impact on the achievement of improved



life course outcomes for children, young people, families and women experiencing vulnerability. In the 2017-18 financial year the Department invested over \$610M in outsourced service delivery. The Board wants to ensure organisations working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are competent to do so, and that there are increasing opportunities for Indigenous and community controlled organisations to deliver services to their mob.

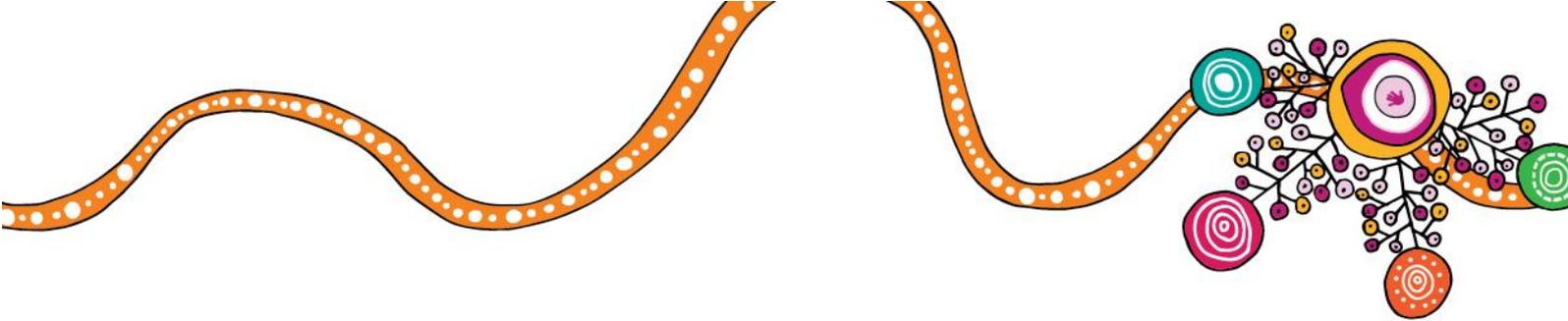
- Endorsed the development of a Queensland wide Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander healing strategy.
- Endorsed the development of a Monitoring and Evaluation framework. The Board acknowledges that it is important that the progress of the Our Way strategy and Changing Tracks Action plan are regularly monitored, reviewed and evaluated to ensure accountability and the delivery of quality outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families and communities.
- Gave in-principle support to a proposed child and family service reform initiative in a number of discrete communities subject to approval by the Premier, and
- Strongly recommended that a robust Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander communication and engagement strategy be developed and implemented to proactively promote the National Redress Scheme to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities.

Finally, the Board will give as many people as practicable the opportunity to engage with the Board on initiatives to eliminate the disproportionate representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the child protection system in Queensland.

The Board welcome queries or suggestions which can be emailed to Stacey Brooks the Secretariat for the Board through the following email address; gfcfbsec@csyw.qld.gov.au

Mick Gooda Professor Boni Robertson

Co-chair Co-chair



Queensland First Children and Families Board Membership List

We are pleased to advise, the Board will be constituted by the following 11 members (including three standing office-holder appointments):

Non-government members

Professor Boni Robertson - Professor of Indigenous Community Engagement, Policy and Practice at Griffith University (appointed as Co-Chair of Board)

Mr Michael Gooda - former Commissioner for the Royal Commission into the Child Protection and Youth Detention Systems of the Northern Territory and former Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner (appointed as Co-Chair of Board)

Ms Rachel Atkinson - Co-Chair of Family Matters Queensland, Chief Executive Officer of Palm Island Community Company and Board Executive of SNAICC – National Voice for our Children

Ms Nyoka Fetoa'i - Chief Executive Officer of Darumbal Community Youth Services and Board Director of Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Legal Service

Ms Natalie Lewis - National Co-Chair of Family Matters, Chief Executive Officer of the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak and National Executive of SNAICC – National Voice for our Children

Ms Latoya Nakata - Manager of Mura Kosker Sorority Inc

Mr Clinton Schultz - registered Psychologist and Senior Teaching Fellow at Bond University Medical School

Ms Ada Woolla - Commissioner of the Family Responsibilities Commission and Councillor of Aurukun Shire Council

Dr Gerald Featherstone - Chief Executive Officer of Kummara Association Inc and Co-Chair of Family Matters Queensland (office-holder)

Government members

Mr Michael Hogan - Director-General of the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women (office-holder)

Dr Chris Sarra - Director-General of the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (office-holder)