

Queensland Government annual progress report
**Royal Commission into Institutional Responses
to Child Sexual Abuse**

December 2018



Queensland
Government

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Message from the Premier



All children have a right to live, grow and learn in safety. As a community, state and nation, we all have a responsibility to make this a reality for our children. The wide-ranging reforms envisaged by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse demand sustained and determined action from us all to ensure that our communities and institutions are safe for children.

My government is working to keep children safe in their homes, schools and communities.

In October, I was pleased to announce that my government has pledged \$3.5 million to protect our children from cyberbullying. My government supports all 29 recommendations made by the Anti-Cyberbullying Taskforce in its report, *Adjust Our Settings: A community approach to address cyberbullying among children and young people in Queensland*. The \$3.5 million commitment comprises:

- \$2 million over two years to develop and roll out awareness and education campaigns to assist the community, parents, carers and young people to understand what cyberbullying is, the harm it can cause, and how we need to address it
- \$1 million for schools, including \$450,000 in funding to Dolly's Dream Foundation in partnership with the Alannah and Madeline Foundation to implement the eSmart Schools Program in Queensland schools. Dolly's Dream Foundation will match this funding with a further \$300,000
- \$500,000 to provide grants to young people and to youth and community organisations that want to undertake their own initiatives to address cyberbullying.

Our progress since June 2018



The Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Taskforce was established by my government on 3 September 2018, with Bob Atkinson, AO APM, appointed as Chair. The Taskforce is made up of nine members, including people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse and representatives from support services. The Taskforce will provide honest, rigorous and transparent advice to the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, the Honourable Di Farmer MP, and work with government to help guide implementation of activities and reform initiatives. It will also help to raise public awareness of the impact of institutional child sexual abuse.

I am pleased to report that my government commenced participation in the National Redress Scheme on 19 November 2018. This follows the passage of landmark legislation in the Queensland Parliament. The Queensland Government's participation means that the approximately 5000 people who suffered sexual abuse as children in Queensland Government institutions will be able to seek redress through the National Redress Scheme. This is a significant step in supporting and acknowledging those who have been abused in Queensland Government institutions.

My government's 2018–19 budget committed \$500 million to support our participation in the National Redress Scheme over the next 10 years. While no amount of money can compensate for the suffering of those who experienced institutional child sexual abuse, the National Redress Scheme is an important step towards healing.

I continue to encourage all non-government institutions to opt in to the National Redress Scheme.

My government is continuing to progress the Royal Commission's recommendations to make institutions child safe and to improve institutional reporting and responding. In June this year, my government accepted in-principle the Royal Commission's Child Safe Standards, recognising that they represent best practice.

The Child Safe Standards were identified by the Royal Commission as the minimum required to make organisations child safe. My government believes it has a responsibility to lead the way in implementing Child Safe Standards and that all departments should be striving to meet this minimum requirement.

The Queensland Government has recognised for a long time that our institutions need to be child safe organisations and we have been working hard to change cultures, processes and policies to achieve this. Consequently there are already some policies and practices in place which capture the key principles of many of the Child Safe Standards. We will now accept the Royal Commission's Child Safe Standards and government departments providing services to, or working with, children will continue to incorporate the Child Safe Standards as best practice.

Work is progressing on developing a model to implement and oversee Child Safe Standards and a model for a Queensland Reportable Conduct Scheme. It is vital we get this right for Queensland and my government has been listening to and learning from the experiences of other Reportable Conduct Schemes in Australia to work towards achieving national consistency as recommended by the Royal Commission.

The Queensland Government also recognises the importance of providing therapeutic support for those who have experienced child sexual abuse. We have committed

\$12 million over four years from 2018–19 for priority actions to respond to youth sexual violence as part of the government response to the Youth Sexual Violence and Abuse Steering Committee’s final report.

This investment includes \$7.7 million for service enhancements to provide additional trauma-informed counselling and support for young people who have experienced sexual violence or child sexual abuse; \$3.3 million for three place-based youth sexual violence trials; and \$1 million for evaluation and research activities.

We have also allocated \$17 million over the next three years to support the implementation of the ‘No Card, No Start’ laws and modernise the blue card application process.

We all have a role to play to ensure the safety of our children. All levels of government and all members of our community have a role in creating a safer environment for children. The Royal Commission recommended significant and fundamental change that will take time to consider and to implement.

This first implementation report for the Queensland Government further demonstrates our commitment to working towards a Queensland in which children can live safe and happy lives.



The Honourable Anastacia Palaszcuk MP
Premier of Queensland and Minister for Trade

Overview

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (the Royal Commission) provided its final report on 15 December 2017. The final report was the culmination of the Royal Commission's landmark five-year inquiry. The Royal Commission's inquiry revealed widespread, systemic failings of institutions to protect children and respond appropriately to child sexual abuse.

In June 2018, the Queensland Government released its response to the Royal Commission's final report and accepted or accepted in-principle more than 240 of the 409 recommendations. The Queensland Government response accepted the Royal Commission's recommendation that all jurisdictions should, beginning 12 months after its Final Report, provide five annual consecutive reports on implementation of recommendations.

Significant reform to improve the safety of children in Queensland, in line with the Royal Commission's central message, has already commenced in Queensland in response to state-based reform programs, inquiries and reviews. Queensland is making great progress, but there is more work to do.

The core message from the Royal Commission is that we must do more to keep our children safe. In recent years, we have consistently heard this same message from reviews of other areas which care for children, including reviews of the child protection system and the youth justice system. The Queensland Government has been making progress on implementing reforms and we are committed to working towards this goal.

The Queensland Government is continuing to implement recommendations it has accepted or accepted in-principle, with many of these already underway including the recommendations which relate to reform activity that is already in progress.

Since June 2018, a further 23 recommendations have now been accepted or accepted in-principle, resulting in 102 recommendations being accepted in full and 165 accepted in-principle. Work on implementing 105 recommendations is complete.

Remaining recommendations are complex and require further consideration in terms of policy, operational and financial implications for government and non-government institutions. The significant change heralded by the Royal Commission will take time. We are continuing to consider how best to implement these recommendations across Queensland to ensure the Royal Commission's intent is achieved.



Shared responsibility

A number of recommendations also fall within the responsibility of the federal government to develop a response in consultation with all states and territories, with 24 identified as priority national recommendations.

The Queensland Government participates in national forums to progress recommendations which require national leadership, consistency or collaboration.

The Queensland Attorney-General recently endorsed National Standards for Working with Children Checks, which aim to establish nationally consistent parameters for screening people who wish to engage in child-related work. These standards were developed together by the federal, state and territory governments with reference to the recommendations of the Royal Commission and existing best practice, and will provide a strong level of safeguards for children.

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Education Council will progress recommendations that require a national response pertaining to teachers and students in schools and early childhood education and care services.

The Queensland Government has been participating in the Child Abuse Royal Commission Senior Officials Working Group established under the COAG Education Council to further consider and progress these recommendations.

The Community Services Ministers (CSM) have endorsed the *National Statement of Principles on Child Safe Organisations* that will now progress to COAG.

The Queensland Government welcomed the National Apology to Australians who experienced institutional child sexual abuse (the National Apology), delivered by the Prime Minister on 22 October 2018. The National Apology was a historic occasion to acknowledge and continue to raise public awareness of the profound and lifelong impacts of institutional child sexual abuse.

In Queensland, the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, the Honourable Di Farmer MP, hosted a concurrent National Apology community viewing event at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, to allow people who have experienced abuse and their supporters to come together to meet and share in the National Apology.



The Queensland Government welcomes the federal government's establishment of the National Office for Child Safety (NOCS) and its announcement to establish a national museum of remembrance and awareness. The Queensland Government will continue to engage with the federal government and the new NOCS, to collaborate on implementing national Royal Commission recommendations, including the development of a national strategy to prevent child sexual abuse and a National Framework for Child Safety.

The Queensland Government looks forward to working with all states and territories and the federal government on the establishment of a national centre of excellence to raise awareness and understanding of the impacts of child sexual abuse, and support the services being offered to people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse.

Partnering with the community

The Royal Commission envisaged reform across all levels of government, in partnership with non-government institutions and community. It recognised that a contribution can be made by all members of the community and at all levels of government.

We know that most institutions are actively and passionately instigating changes to make their organisations safer for children and we applaud their efforts. We also know that there are challenges for organisations, particularly those that are smaller and largely volunteer-based, to fully implement all Royal Commission recommendations. The Queensland Government is committed to continuing to engage with the broader community and non-government organisations over the coming years as we progress further reforms.



Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Taskforce

The Government has delivered on this commitment with the establishment of the Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Taskforce (the Taskforce) on 3 September 2018. The Taskforce held its inaugural meeting on 4 October 2018.

Former Police Commissioner and Commissioner of the Royal Commission, Mr Bob Atkinson, AO APM, has been appointed as Chair of the Taskforce. In addition, the Taskforce is comprised of eight members, including four people with lived experience of institutional child sexual abuse, two representatives of services that support people with lived experience of institutional child sexual abuse, one representative of care providers and one representative of religious institutions and religious schools.

The Taskforce will provide advice to the Queensland Government on key issues relating to the implementation of reforms arising from the Royal Commission. The work of the Taskforce will ensure the Queensland Government's implementation of Royal Commission recommendations continues to be informed by the voices of those with lived experience of abuse as children in Queensland institutions.

The roles of the Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Taskforce



The 2019 work plan for the Taskforce will include raising public awareness of the Taskforce, exploring laws designed to protect children, considering redress and reconciliation as well as looking at the support needs for people with lived experience of institutional child sexual abuse and their families. The Taskforce will also oversee a small grants fund for reconciliation and healing events and memorials.

The Taskforce will operate until December 2022 and will be supported by a dedicated secretariat within the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women.

Queensland Government implementation

The Queensland Government is continuing to consider the Royal Commission's recommendations in the context of the significant body of reform that is currently underway in Queensland. Key achievements are outlined below.

The Royal Commission's messages are consistent with other reviews and inquiries in Queensland and elsewhere, and we continue to progress reforms in tandem with the implementation of the Royal Commission's recommendations to improve the way we care for children.

Progress is being made on reforms arising from the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry, the Queensland Family and Child Commission (QFCC) reviews of the blue card and foster care systems, and the Independent Review of Youth Detention. In addition, the Queensland Government is continuing its transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

The Queensland Government recognises the need to ensure all these reform programs fit together to provide a comprehensive and coordinated reform of services to children.

Final report (2017)

Creating child safe institutions *Child Safe Standards*

The Queensland Government response accepted in-principle the Royal Commission's 10 Child Safe Standards. Work will continue to develop a model to progress their sustainable implementation across both government and non-government institutions across Queensland.

The Queensland Government considers it central to achieving the vision of the Royal Commission that Government institutions are child safe organisations. Consequently the Queensland Government has now accepted the Child Safe Standards as informing best practice for Queensland Government departments. We will continue work to integrate them into the cultures, policies and procedures that support the provision of services to children by the Queensland Government.

Queensland Government departments that work with or provide services to children, will continue to identify how to enhance the policies and practices that guide service delivery to children to ensure they incorporate and align with Child Safe Standards.

As the Queensland Government progresses development of a Reportable Conduct Scheme and a model to implement and oversee Child Safe Standards, we will consider how these impact on or interface with the mandatory frameworks already in place in Queensland that require organisations to have a child and youth risk management strategy under the *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000*.

The Queensland Government will also examine the relationship with existing requirements and quality assurance

frameworks, such as the National Quality Framework and the Human Services Quality Framework (HSQF), to support in-scope organisations to be child safe. We want to make sure that our highly regulated early childhood education and care and outside school hours care, and community-based services are informed and supported. The HSQF is a quality assurance framework administered by the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors for assessing and promoting improvement in the quality of human services.

The Royal Commission's 10 Child Safe Standards

- 1 Child safety is embedded in institutional leadership, governance and culture
- 2 Children participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously
- 3 Families and communities are informed and involved
- 4 Equity is upheld and diverse needs are taken into account
- 5 People working with children are suitable and supported
- 6 Processes to respond to complaints of child sexual abuse are child focused
- 7 Staff are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children safe through continual education and training
- 8 Physical and online environments minimise the opportunity for abuse to occur
- 9 Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is continuously reviewed and improved
- 10 Policies and procedures document how the institution is child safe.

Child Safety

The next stage of reforms to the *Child Protection Act 1999* (the Act) will consider how the Act can be amended to improve the regulation of care in Queensland and reflect the intention of key recommendations of the Royal Commission.

In partnership with services across the state, the Queensland Government has commenced several initiatives to improve the recruitment, training, assessment and support of foster and kinship carers.

Child Safety and non-government foster and kinship care services are now working together with a new tool to better match the needs of children with carers and identify additional supports needed for individual care arrangements. This work is supported by a new operational policy and procedures.

Child Safety has introduced safety and support networks as a key way of supporting children and young people in care. The new Safety and Support Network and High Intensity Response Resource is available to Child Safety staff and has been distributed to partners including Foster Care Queensland and the Office of the Public Guardian. This resource sets out the roles and responsibilities, possible membership, coordination and communication for a safety and support network.

These initiatives give effect to the QFCC's recommendations in *Keeping Queensland's children more than safe: Review of the foster care system* and contribute towards Royal Commission recommendations aimed at improved placement matching and stability.

The trauma-informed Hope and Healing Framework for residential care services will be fully implemented by 31 March 2019 and a new Minimum Qualification Standard for residential care workers was introduced on 1 July 2018.

The Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women will continue to consider implementation of Royal Commission recommendations in the context of the five-year strategic direction for child and family reform. This will include sequencing of reform initiatives and will ensure implementation occurs in a coordinated manner.

Youth Justice

The *Youth Justice Act 1992*, Charter of Youth Justice Principles and the Youth Detention Centre philosophical approach as outlined in the *Youth Detention Centre Operations Manual* are consistent and supportive of the Child Safe Standards.

The government is committed to ensuring that the wellbeing and safety of every young person is core to every component of the youth justice portfolio. This includes embedding this philosophy in organisational leadership and governance. As part of implementation of Youth Detention Review recommendations, the Queensland Government has undertaken activities that support Child Safe Standards, including increasing funding provided for family assisted visits within centres.

Similarly, young people are informed about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously. Youth detention policies and procedures ensure that this standard is upheld through a number of measures, including complaints management and induction.

The Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women is committed to the introduction of body-worn cameras by staff at youth detention centres to better capture interactions between young people and staff, while maintaining privacy. Similarly, the department has established a new policy to specifically consider the privacy and mental health impacts of CCTV. Security upgrades are occurring across the youth detention centres including the installation of cameras, allowing for

clearer vision and better monitoring. CCTV coverage is being expanded to ensure extensive surveillance coverage of the centre, including areas where incidents are more likely to occur (such as young people's accommodation areas).

Education

In April 2018, the COAG Education Council created a special purpose working party, the Child Abuse Royal Commission Senior Officials Working Group, to respond to and progress education-related recommendations to provide advice to the COAG Education Council and COAG.

The Department of Education's Cybersafety and Reputation Management (CSRМ) team has continued to present cybersafety sessions to Queensland state school communities across Queensland. The CSRМ framework was recommended by the Royal Commission as a promising model for state and territory education departments. Since June 2018 the team has presented 165 sessions to more than 21,000 students, staff and parents at 68 state schools. An online course has been developed to educate students on safe and positive online behaviours and is available for state school students to access.

The Queensland Government recently announced a financial commitment to implement the Alannah and Madeline Foundation eSmart cybersafety framework in 500 Queensland state schools. eSmart is a set of educational tools on bullying and cyberbullying for principals, students and parents.

Events such as Safer Internet Day, National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence and Cyber Security week are key events where the Office of the eSafety Commissioner promotes web conference information sessions to Queensland schools. These sessions are supported by the Department of Education and are promoted to all Queensland state schools.

Queensland Police Service

In August 2018, the Queensland Police Service (QPS) hosted the 6th annual Youth, Technology and Virtual Communities conference. This conference brings together national and international law enforcement, government, technology and community industry partners, including representatives from the Office of the eSafety Commissioner, to discuss and identify solutions to online child sexual abuse and exploitation. This year's theme focused on youth perpetrated sexual crime. A range of keynote speakers discussed issues and innovative responses to technology-facilitated sexual crime. The conference also provided opportunities for attendees to discuss emerging issues, share best practice and develop additional skills. Practitioners could also undertake specialist training.

Following the conference, the operations commanders of child abuse investigation units from each Australian and New Zealand jurisdiction met to discuss issues relevant to their portfolios, including technology-facilitated sexual exploitation.

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) has established the Australian Centre for Countering Child Exploitation, based in Brisbane, a collaborative national response to combatting child exploitation and abuse. QPS, along with other police services, is working closely with the AFP to implement and operationalise the centre.

The Speak Up, Be Strong, Be Heard project has demonstrated exceptional commitment to child protection in Far North Queensland since its implementation in June 2016. Due to the success of a six-month trial of the project in the communities of West Cairns and Aurukun, the project was extended into all discrete Indigenous communities in Cape York and the Torres Strait. The project increases community awareness by incorporating delivery of tailored presentations with participation in community engagement

activities and use of promotional materials. Community ownership of child protection is encouraged throughout the delivery of the project, through a whole-of-community approach.

The project is led by two Indigenous police officers, which has greatly enhanced engagement and delivery with Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities. This approach also ensured the project was developed and implemented in a culturally appropriate manner. The presentations are delivered in partnership with the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women to community members and representatives from government and non-government agencies. The project team has engaged with more than 10,000 community members to raise awareness and promote the key messages of the project since the initial project period.

Improving reporting, complaints and allegations handling

Mandatory reporting

The Queensland Government will consider its mandatory reporting requirements in the context of broader reforms that are being undertaken in response to state-based inquiries and reports.

Consideration is currently being given to how to meet the intent of the Royal Commission's recommendations without undermining the integrity of Queensland's current mandatory reporting scheme.

Reportable Conduct Scheme

The Queensland Government has committed to introducing a nationally consistent Reportable Conduct Scheme, as recommended by the Royal Commission.

The Queensland Government has been considering the Royal Commission's recommendations and the results of an issues paper released by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet in 2017.

Queensland officials have been actively consulting with representatives from existing jurisdictional schemes to develop a Queensland model. The Queensland Government would like to acknowledge the time and expertise of the New South Wales Ombudsman, Victorian Commission for Children and Young People, and the Commonwealth Ombudsman.

The Queensland Government has also participated in interjurisdictional meetings held with existing state and territory reportable conduct scheme oversight bodies to understand key learnings and challenges. This work is important to ensure that the Royal Commission's policy intent of national consistency is forefront in the development of a model for Queensland.

Improving recordkeeping and information sharing

The Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry highlighted the importance of information sharing and confidentiality provisions and recommended that these sections of the *Child Protection Act 1999* be reviewed.

Legislative amendments passed in October 2017 as part of the *Child Protection Reform Amendment Act 2017* to improve Queensland's child protection information sharing arrangements commenced on 29 October 2018. Amendments that enable information to be shared with other state and territory authorities commenced in January 2018. These amendments are consistent with similar recommendations made by the Royal Commission.

Over the last 12 months, the Queensland Government has continued to work through the Children and Families Secretaries group (CAFS) to explore opportunities to improve nationally consistent information sharing.

In April 2018, the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women released the Child Safety Data Governance Framework

to improve the quality and governance of child safety data for operational and corporate reporting purposes.

Queensland's state-based reporting in relation to sexual abuse is as per the definition in Queensland's *Child Safety Practice Manual*. This definition is closely aligned to the definition of sexual abuse in the Child Protection National Minimum Data Set required for national reporting.

Queensland is an active member on a number of key national working groups that will progress implementation of the Royal Commission's data related recommendations. These groups include CAFS, the Children and Families Data Network (that reports to CAFS), and the Child Protection and Youth Justice Working Group. Definitions and data collection requirements will be reviewed by relevant working groups as part of work to implement Royal Commission recommendations. In September 2018, CAFS endorsed progressing a national child safety data improvement plan under the CAFS Strategic Information Group.

National working groups under the Community Services Ministers



Children and Families
Secretaries

Children and Families
Data Network

State Archives

In response to the Royal Commission's recommendations, on 1 June 2018, the Queensland State Archivist issued a government-wide disposal freeze. The freeze was issued to ensure that records that were relevant to, or could become relevant to, a claim of child sexual abuse would be protected and able to be used to assist a claim under the National Redress Scheme or a civil action.

In October 2018, the National Archives of Australia released the General Records Authority – Child Sexual Abuse Incidents and Allegations, in response to recommendations 8.1 and 8.2. The Records Authority sets out the requirements for keeping or destroying records relating to child sexual abuse incidents and allegations. It has been developed for use by federal agencies until agency and general authorities can be updated. The Records Authority provides guidance for implementation, but does not replace each jurisdiction's approach.

In 2019, the Queensland State Archivist will begin work to update Queensland's current retention and disposal authorisations to take account of the minimum timeframes set by the Royal Commission.

The Queensland State Archivist continues to work with the National Archives of Australia and the Council of Australasian Archives and Records Authorities to develop a consistent approach to record retention.

Department of Education

In September 2018, the Education Council noted the recommendations made by the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) in its report on the National Review of Teacher Registration. The report included recommendations which relate to responses to Royal Commission recommendations around improving national consistency for teacher registration requirements to better protect students. The Education Council noted AITSL's review report on 14 September 2018. AITSL is currently consulting with key stakeholders, including the Queensland Government, on the development of an implementation plan for all the report's recommendations.

Enhancements to advocacy, support and therapeutic treatment services for people subject to abuse in institutional settings

Youth sexual violence and improved service responses

The Queensland Government has committed \$12 million over four years from 2018–19 for priority actions to respond to youth sexual violence as part of the government response to the Youth Sexual Violence and Abuse Steering Committee's final report (released 31 July 2018).

This investment includes:

- \$7.7 million for service enhancements to provide additional trauma-informed counselling and support for young people who have experienced sexual violence or child sexual abuse
- \$3.3 million for three place-based youth sexual violence trials
- \$1 million for evaluation and research activities.

The locations and model for the service enhancement component are currently being progressed based on comprehensive service mapping and needs analysis undertaken by the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women.

This investment will make a key contribution towards Royal Commission recommendations in volumes 9 and 10 of the final report aimed at service enhancements.

\$12 million over four years for priority actions to respond to youth sexual violence



Enhance oversight and governance of services for children

The Queensland Government recognises the need for ongoing improvement to enhance oversight and governance of services for children.

Queensland has numerous mechanisms in place to ensure oversight and governance of services for children, including through the Office of the Public Guardian, Community Visitor and Child Advocate programs.

Within the youth justice system, there are a number of existing external oversight mechanisms of youth detention service delivery including: the Office of the Public Guardian, the Ombudsman, the Inter-agency Program Advisory Committee and the Interdepartmental Steering Committee that both provide multi-agency scrutiny of policy program and practice in youth detention centres, and the Crime and Corruption Commission that reviews and assesses allegations of corrupt staff misconduct.

Similarly, along with regular youth justice monitoring and reviews, there are internal oversight mechanisms including:

- the Manager of client relations, which is a dedicated position in youth detention centres responsible for overseeing incidents and resolving complaints

- the Professional Standards Unit
- the Service Review team, which is an independent internal service review team responsible for reviewing service delivery in the youth detention centres
- Youth Detention Inspectorate, which conducts quarterly inspections of the youth detention centres and makes recommendations for improved practice
- the Practice Support Manager, which is a dedicated position in youth detention centres responsible for ensuring compliance with operational policy, practice standards and operational record keeping requirements.

Implementation of Queensland's Youth Detention Review recommendations in 2018 has focused on both internal and external complaints management processes to ensure adequate supports and safeguards are provided to young people, and complaints are being managed effectively and with the best interests of the young person in mind.

In response to similar recommendations from the Independent Review of Youth Detention Centres in Queensland and the Queensland Parole System Review, the Queensland Government is currently considering best practice oversight options for youth detention and correctional facilities.

Working with Children Checks report (2015)

The Queensland Government response reflected the government's consideration of the QFCC report, *Keeping Queensland's children more than safe: Review of the blue card system*.

Since the June 2018 government response, an additional seven Working with Children Checks recommendations have been accepted in-principle. These relate to Queensland's participation in the development and negotiation of National Standards for Working with Children Checks.

The Queensland Government has also endorsed a set of National Standards for Working with Children Checks, which establish nationally consistent parameters for the screening of persons who propose to engage in child-related work, and continues to work with the federal government in relation to the further development of a national database to exchange information in relation to people who have been prohibited from working with children.

On 13 November 2018, the *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018* (WWC Bill) was introduced into the Legislative Assembly. The WWC Bill gives effect to the government's 'No Card, No Start' election commitment and expands the range of disqualifying offences under the *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000*. The WWC Bill is the first of a series of legislative tranches to implement the QFCC and Royal Commission recommendations.

As part of the 2018–19 Budget, the Queensland Government allocated \$17 million over the next three years to support the implementation of the 'No Card, No Start' laws and modernise the blue card application process.

Redress and Civil Litigation report (2015)

National Redress Scheme

The Queensland Government has delivered on its commitment to participate in the National Redress Scheme. Queensland's participation commenced on 19 November 2018.

The Queensland Government's participation means that the approximately 5000 people who suffered sexual abuse as children in Queensland Government institutions will be able to seek redress through the National Redress Scheme.

In April 2018, the Queensland Government announced that \$500 million would be contributed to support its participation in the National Redress Scheme. The scheme is an important recognition of the horrific and often systemic sexual abuse suffered by many thousands of people.

From the proclamation of Queensland's legislation to support Queensland's participation in the scheme on 28 September 2018, non-government institutions in Queensland have been able to formally opt in.

The Queensland Government welcomes the announcements by a number of non-government institutions to commit to opt in to the National Redress Scheme and continues to strongly encourage all non-government institutions to opt in to the National Redress Scheme.

Other civil litigation reforms

Since the June 2018 government response an additional five civil litigation recommendations have now been accepted. On 15 November 2018, the Queensland Government introduced legislation to ensure that people who have experienced child sexual abuse will have better access to justice. *The Civil Liability and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018* seeks to improve the capacity of the justice system to provide fair access and outcomes to people who have experienced child sexual abuse and who wish to pursue a claim for civil damages for personal injury arising from the sexual abuse. The Queensland Government is committed to ensuring that—as much as possible—people who experienced institutional child sexual abuse are not re-traumatised as they seek the damages they rightfully deserve.

The reforms will impose a duty on institutions to take all reasonable steps to prevent sexual abuse of a child by a person associated with the institution while the child is under the institution's care, and provide a statutory framework for the identification of a proper defendant that can meet any financial liabilities incurred by the institution. This is intended to address the power imbalance between the victim and the institution.

The *Guidelines for Queensland Government agencies responding to civil litigation in relation to child sexual abuse* were updated in June 2018.

Criminal Justice report (2017)

The Royal Commission's Criminal Justice report contains 85 recommendations that extend to all aspects of the criminal justice system's response to institutional child sexual abuse. The Queensland Government is continuing its careful and detailed examination of recommendations in a Queensland-specific context.

The Queensland Government will continue to engage with stakeholders to inform the analysis of the Royal Commission's recommendations to ensure the protection of children within the criminal justice system.

Since the June 2018 government response, a further 11 Criminal Justice report recommendations have been accepted or accepted in-principle by the government and no further implementation action is necessary. The recommendations relate to:

- a review of cost provisions against police (recommendation 11)
- pre-recording of witnesses' evidence (recommendations 52, 54 and 55)
- guidelines for determining a child's competency to give evidence (recommendation 62)
- the provision of adequate interpreter services for witnesses (recommendation 63)
- non-aggregated clear and distinct sentencing (recommendation 75)
- availability of information to victims and survivors of child sexual abuse about victim impact statements (recommendations 77)
- the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions consultation processes for post appeal conviction processes (recommendation 81)
- collection of data on appeals to identify areas of law in need of reform (recommendation 82)
- ensuring that complainants in child sexual abuse prosecutions do not have to give evidence more than once with respect to juvenile offenders (recommendation 84).