



# COMMUNIQUE

## Queensland First Children and Families Board meeting

6 and 7 September 2022

On 6 and 7 September 2022, the Queensland First Children and Families Board (Members), convened to discuss and guide the implementation of the Our Way strategy: a generational strategy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families 2017-2037.

Kate Connors, the Deputy Director-General (DDG), Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs (DCYJMA) attended as proxy for Director-General, Deidre Mulkerin, Director-General and provided an update on the department's key priorities.

- The proportionate funding for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisations (ATSICCOs) has increased slightly, with the majority being new funding.
- Recent procurement activities included increased care places and supported independent living spaces with the ATSICCOs sector, and five kin finder roles.

The Deputy Director-General spoke to the implementation of Delegated Authority (DA) and provided an update on the development of the statewide blueprint for the implementation of DA. Members noted Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisations felt included in the process and momentum for implementation is building, and indicated the need for clearer messaging in relation to the transitioning process.

Michael Currie, Co-chair Family Matters Queensland (FMQ) acknowledged the support from QATSICPP in undertaking the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle (ATSICPP) Reflection Tool project. The project enables mapping of the First Nations Voice and Engagement, and traction against the Family Matters Building Blocks, the ATSICPP and six Family Matters Principles. The reflective tool enables and provides evidence to demonstrate active efforts, and commitment to the reflective tool. The Board agreed to consider a discussion with DCYJMA on the work being undertaken to measure active efforts and the application of ATSICPP.

Kathy Parton, Acting Director General, Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, (DSDSATSIP) provided an overview of the Path to Treaty journey from July 2019 – October 2021. Findings from early targeted consultation identified truth telling and healing as the first step to progressing a Treaty in Queensland including the setting up of the Independent Interim Body, and a funding commitment to support the Treaty (Path to Treaty Fund – guaranteed to return minimum of \$10m per year for at least 10 years).

Mary-Anne Curtis, Associate Director-General, Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy, and Sharon Kenyon, Executive Director, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Team, Housing and Homeless, (DCHDE) briefed the Board on the Housing Strategy 2017-2020 action plan, Queensland Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2021-2025, and Working Together for a better Housing Future Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Action Plan 2019-2023.

Housing identified that COVID, floods and migration have impacted the supply and availability of affordable housing which has resulted in increases in the cost of rentals. Housing advised



approaches to increasing supply include taking on head lease for houses to enable supply for housing tenants, urgent funding for those experiencing DFV and older women. Housing acknowledged that ending homelessness involves multiple Queensland Government agencies and supporting services and detailed some initiatives focusing on family as a whole and culturally safe service offer informed by local Elders and leaders (Ipswich, Logan and Townsville). Housing advised it has implemented a strong customer management system to enable staff to find information and not have to have families re-tell their story.

Members requested Housing to report back to the Board on their service delivery strategy across agencies, generational tenancy approaches, and how they are going to prioritise responses for children and families at risk or in the child protection system to enable self-determination and empowerment and contribute to the elimination the disproportionate representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families in the child protection system.

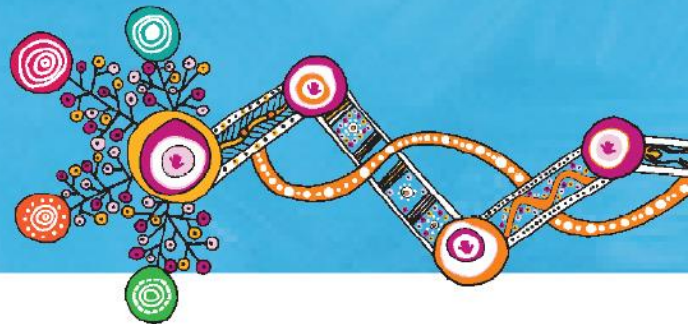
Mike Kissane, Global Lead Partner and Joanne Tay, Associate Director of Deloitte Access Economics, along with Dr Rieko Fukushima Byrom, Lead Consultant, and Carol Vale, CEO of Murawin Pty Ltd presented an overview of the Our Way Changing Tracks evaluation journey with a particular focus on the consultation process and ensuring the voice of children/young people are at the heart of it. Deloitte and Murawin presented their key findings and future focus areas as outlined in the final report. Considerations moving forward included:

- Transformative change – strong governance and accountability but must embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices and leadership
- Support sustainable development of the ATSICCO
- Re-orient government system – government enable the changes needed
- Engender whole of system commitment to achieve our way objectives – collective role
- Three tools to support going forward include Theory of Change, Program Logic and Evaluation and Monitoring (E&M) Framework and Implementation Plan

Ron Weatherall, Executive Director, DCYJMA, Garth Morgan, CEO, QATSICPP, and Kristal Kinsela, Kristal Kinsela Consulting, provided an overview on the Breaking Cycles consultation process to date including engagement activities with government, non-Indigenous peaks and the Our Way Interagency Group. Kristal Kinsela spoke to some of the emerging themes from consultations with a particular focus around accountability (who and to whom), systemic racism, self-determination (power and control) and growth of the sector. The next step for the joint FMQ/ QATSICPP/ DCYJMA project team and Kristal Kinsela is to bring together all engagement activity findings to inform the structure of the 12 October Flagship Forum and asked the board to consider the role they would like to play at the forum.

Commissioner Natalie Lewis, Queensland Family and Child Commission shared that her team has an increased focus on proportionality of different systems, child rights, reporting timeline of six months (future state quarterly) and noted that snapshots developed and provided to the Board aimed to provide a simplistic way to communicate the movement needed to reduce over-representation. Members noted that the regional snapshots are a baseline only with the purpose of informing discussions with the regions. However suggested inclusion of number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children be included on the regional snapshots, include FPP referrals by region and be expanded over time to include underlying issues including housing, health, poverty, education disengagement, etc and proposed that the reports could inform the FM Annual Report.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for 29 and 30 November 2022.



For more information in relation to QFCFB membership and previous communiques, visit [QFCFB webpage](#).

Queries can be emailed to the QFCFB Secretariat to [qfcbsec@cyjma.qld.gov.au](mailto:qfcbsec@cyjma.qld.gov.au)