

COMMUNIQUE –Queensland First Children and Families Board Meeting 9 - 10 October 2019

On 9-10 October 2019, the Queensland First Children and Families Board convened for the fourth time to discuss and guide a number of key priorities supporting the implementation of the *Our Way strategy: a generational strategy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families*. The priorities included:

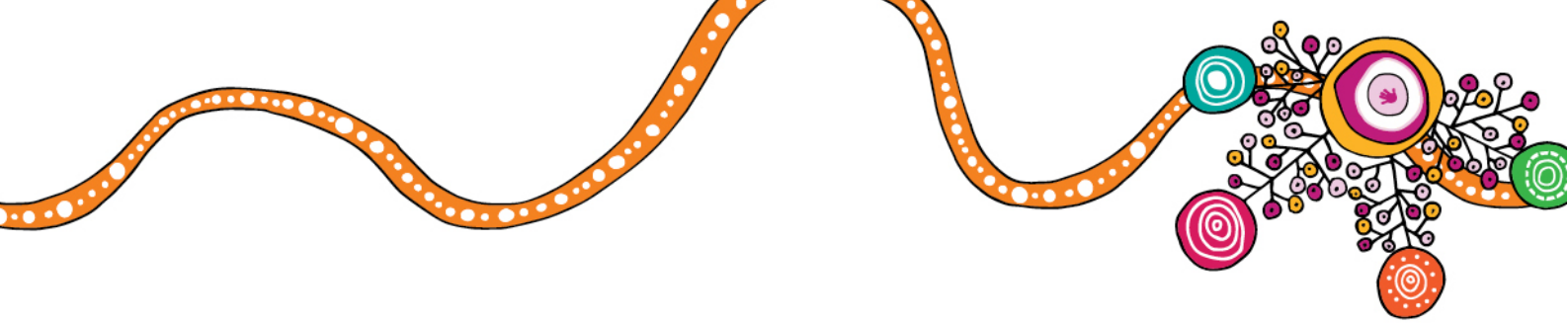
- development of the second Changing Tracks Action Plan (2020-22)
- co-design of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Wellbeing Outcomes Framework
- co-design of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Strategy to address the social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Queensland
- Tracks to Treaty reform agenda.

On Day 1, the meeting commenced with Ms Fiona Petersen, Deputy CEO of the Healing Foundation presenting on the development of a co-designed Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Strategy. The presentation included an overview of the project plan including the methodology and approach. Overall the Board was supportive of the planned approach. The Board provided guidance including the need to validate what a healed state looks like, the importance of local solutions developed and owned by the local community, public visibility of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and how that enhances Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's sense of belonging and celebration in a place, managing risk and making a commitment to do no (more) harm, the need for buy in from government agencies and link to other government initiatives such as Tracks to Treaty and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Wellbeing Outcomes Framework currently under development.

The Board was joined by the Hon Di Farmer MP, Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence who thanked the Board for their time and commitment. Minister Farmer also reiterated the importance of the Board and its oversight role in the implementation of the Our Way strategy and in particular integral pieces of work such as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Strategy and the Children and Young Peoples Wellbeing Outcomes Framework.

Mr Noel Niddrie and Ms Natalie Walker from Winangali Pty Ltd, a Queensland based Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation, delivered a presentation to the Board on the draft Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People's Wellbeing Outcomes Framework. The Board provided in-principle support for the draft framework, noting it reflects the views of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples about what wellbeing looks like for their children and young people: that children can live their best life. The Board expressed a strong interest in being involved in the development of an implementation plan and providing oversight of the implementation of the framework across government.

Day 1 finished with a discussion about the development of a new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Kinship Care program in partnership with the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak (QATSICPP). As a key foundational piece QATSICPP has developed an options paper that will inform a visioning workshop to be held in November 2019. This workshop will provide the Board with the opportunity to guide discussion and decision making in relation to informing scope and deliverables of the broader Connected to Kin, Culture and Community initiative that incorporates kinship care.



Day 2 of the Board meeting commenced with Dr Chris Sarra, Director-General Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, providing an update on the Tracks to Treaty initiative including its two key elements Path to Treaty and Local Thriving Communities reform. The Path to Treaty consultation paper was released on the 13 September 2019 and will close on 6 December 2019.

The Board's key focus for the remainder of the day was to review progress and provide input into the development of the second Changing Tracks Action Plan 2020-22. A facilitated session was jointly led by senior staff from the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women and QATSICPP. The session consolidated input from earlier consultations, including the Board's June 2019 Forum, and focussed on the proposed actions that will continue setting the foundations for change needed to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people to grow up safe and cared for in family, community and culture. The second action plan will consolidate and embed the actions achieved in the first Changing Tracks Action Plan 2017-19. The Board will provide further input to the second action plan out of session.

Queensland First Children and Families Board Members - In Camera Session

The Queensland First Children and Families Board ended the Board meeting with an in camera session for Board members only. The Co-chairs will meet with the Directors-General of the Department Child Safety, Youth and Women and Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships to discuss the outcomes of the in camera session.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for 28 November 2019 via teleconference.

For more information in relation to the Board including previous communiques, please visit the Board's webpage <https://www.csyw.qld.gov.au/campaign/supporting-families/background/queensland-first-children-families-board>.

Any other queries can be emailed to the Board Secretariat through the following email address qcfbsec@csyw.qld.gov.au.