

## BRISBANE

# Regional Child and Family Committee Communique

August 2016

## New Structure for RCFC meetings in Brisbane

**August's Child and Family Committee meeting in Brisbane saw the Region align the focus of each RCFC meeting to the priorities set down by the Reform Leaders Group.**

### Schedule of meetings and participants

The Brisbane Region determined the following focus areas for meetings for the remainder of 2016, from the Reform Leaders Group priorities.

**August 2016** - Addressing the disproportionate representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in child protection

**September 2016** - Domestic and family violence prevention (DFV)

**October 2016** - Improving life outcomes for children and young people in contact with the child protection system

**November 2016** - Supporting families experiencing vulnerability

The aim of each meeting is for the Committee to identify specific areas of opportunity for joined up approaches and immediate actions. A working group (formed from participants in the meeting) is tasked with progressing the ideas discussed in the meetings into actions, and presenting this back to the wider RCFC group for endorsement.

In addition to usual RCFC members, the Region also extends an invitation to key stakeholders relevant to the topic being considered, to participate in the discussion and planning alongside RCFC members on the day.

## August 2016 Brisbane RCFC meeting

**Focus on the Disproportionate representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in child protection systems.**

**Brisbane Region Child and Family Committee members were joined by representatives from QATSCIPP, AICHS, key representatives from community controlled and government organisations in the Region, in addition to respected Elders from across Brisbane.**

Natalie Lewis (CEO, QATSCIPP and National co-chair of the Family Matters campaign) and Gerald Featherstone (CEO of Kummara and state co-chair of the Family Matters campaign) delivered a presentation on Family Matters *Kids safe in culture, not in care.*





Helen Missen (Director, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Families, Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services) also attended on the day to discuss the Department's partnership with the Family Matters Queensland Working group in the development and implementation of the action plan.

Participants on the day discussed the specific needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and families in the Brisbane Region and brainstormed ideas for pieces of work agencies could progress together, into 2017.

The ideas generated in this discussion will be progressed by a sub committee, and presented back to the Brisbane RCFC in early 2017.

