



Youth Sexual Violence and Abuse Steering Committee's Final Report

Queensland Government Response



Queensland
Government



Acknowledgements

The Queensland Government acknowledges and thanks the Youth Sexual Violence and Abuse Steering Committee for their expertise, insight and commitment to better understand the issue of youth sexual violence and abuse in Queensland. Special thanks are also extended to the broad range of experts, community members and support staff for their informed contributions and support.

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Overview

This document outlines the Queensland Government's response to the Youth Sexual Violence and Abuse Steering Committee's Final Report (the Final Report). It provides an update on our work to date and outlines our approach to addressing youth sexual violence in our communities.

The Queensland Government strongly believes that all children and young people, particularly the most vulnerable, have the right to a life that is safe, secure, and free from violence.

While the task of eliminating youth sexual violence in our communities is broad and complex, it is critically important to ensure that all children and young people are safe from violence. We are committed to addressing youth sexual violence in all its forms, and have been getting on with the task of delivering this important work in our communities across Queensland.

Our approach includes:

- broad support for the Final Report's findings
- investment in priority actions
- stakeholder and community engagement.

Youth Sexual Violence and Abuse Steering Committee's Final Report Findings

The Queensland Government broadly supports the findings of the Youth Sexual Violence and Abuse Steering Committee's Final Report, and is committed to responding in a comprehensive and coordinated manner, building on our efforts to date and taking into consideration findings from other relevant developments, including the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

In its Final Report, the Youth Sexual Violence and Abuse Steering Committee (the Committee) made 31 recommendations for a holistic approach to preventing and responding to youth sexual violence and abuse across Queensland.

The recommendations in the Final Report are evidence-based and have been informed by discussions with service providers, analysis of data by the Queensland Government Statistician's Office, a review of the literature, and discussions with the Queensland Law Reform Commission. The recommendations also draw on the insights of researchers involved with the Griffith Youth Forensic Service's Neighbourhoods Project, given the project's status as one of the few detailed, evidence-informed research initiatives examining youth sexual violence and abuse in Australia.

The 31 recommendations are clustered into four key themes that provide a comprehensive and holistic response to youth sexual violence and abuse. The four key themes aim to deliver the following:

- ▶ **local level solutions which provide co-designed, tailored interventions that are implemented based on appropriate locational risk assessments and the identification of service delivery gaps, and are responsive to local community needs and engagement**
- ▶ **data and evidence to strengthen the youth sexual violence and abuse knowledge base through data collection, research and evaluation, and to provide vision and information to inform future action**
- ▶ **raising awareness among individuals, communities and organisations to promote and increase understanding of youth sexual violence and abuse, ensure the referral of young people and parents to appropriate services, and equip professionals with tools to effectively target and respond to youth sexual violence and abuse**
- ▶ **tackling the underlying causes of youth sexual violence and abuse, in particular through addressing disadvantage and its associated impacts on child development.**

While some recommendations in the Final Report will have immediate impact, many propose broad, transformational change. As the Committee notes, youth sexual violence and abuse is a complex, difficult and confronting problem for which there is simply no straightforward solution. Implementing the change necessary to prevent youth sexual violence and abuse will take sustained effort over time.

The Queensland Government is already working to address youth sexual violence and reduce disadvantage more broadly in communities across Queensland through the range of initiatives and investments outlined in this document. While our efforts have led to positive change, we acknowledge that there is still more to do.

Investment in priority actions

The Queensland Government is committing \$12 million over four years from 2018-19 for priority actions to respond to youth sexual violence. This investment will deliver:

- enhancements for sexual assault and child sexual abuse services to address service gaps and areas of highest need and undertake community education activities (commencing in early 2019)
- three place-based trials to respond to young people who have experienced sexual violence or are engaging in early sexual offending behaviour, including a culturally-specific trial in a discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community (commencing in 2019-20 and 2020-21)
- a strong evidence base to inform future investment.

Our investment in new and enhanced sexual assault and child sexual abuse services will be informed by comprehensive service mapping (to be undertaken by the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women) and will include working with services to ensure that their responses are trauma informed and youth specific. Development of the place-based youth sexual violence trials will be co-designed with local stakeholders and services to ensure that they are tailored to local needs and circumstances. The trials will also be evaluated to help build our evidence base and inform future initiatives.

These priority actions reflect the four themes identified by the Committee, and will contribute to addressing key findings of the Final Report.

Stakeholder and community engagement

The Queensland Government is committed to providing a strong, cohesive and evidence-based approach to preventing and responding to sexual violence in Queensland. This work will span the continuum of sexual violence and incorporate a refresh of actions under the Violence against Women Prevention Plan 2016-22 (VAWPP), as well as further consideration of the Final Report's findings on youth sexual violence and abuse, and relevant recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

A comprehensive engagement and consultation process will be undertaken to seek input and feedback from key stakeholders on the suite of issues relating to sexual violence, including youth sexual violence, violence against women and child sexual abuse. This engagement will inform the development of future actions.

Many forms of sexual violence have strong gendered elements, with women and girls over-represented as victims. The refresh of actions under the VAWPP will include actions to address sexual violence from a gendered perspective, focusing on women and girls. This approach is consistent with the findings of the Final Report.

Responding to youth sexual violence is complex. As such, we are taking the time to test findings and solutions with the community, and to continue to build the evidence base to deliver sustainable long-term generational change.



Background

The Smallbone Report: West Cairns and Aurukun

Youth sexual violence and abuse was first identified as an endemic problem in West Cairns (Manoora, Mooroolool and Manunda) and Aurukun through clinical fieldwork undertaken by the Queensland Government funded Griffith Youth Forensic Service.

GYFS had been working with referred youth sexual offenders, their families, community leaders and local service providers in West Cairns from 2002, and in Aurukun from 2008 to 2011. Over time it became increasingly apparent that there was serious and pervasive youth sexual violence and abuse occurring in both communities. In response to these concerns, the Queensland Government in 2012 commissioned Griffith University to investigate the scope, dimensions and dynamics of youth sexual violence and abuse in West Cairns and Aurukun.

In 2013, Griffith University's findings were presented to Government in the *Preventing Youth Sexual Violence and Abuse in West Cairns and Aurukun: Establishing the Scope, Dimension and Dynamics of the Problem* report, otherwise known as 'the Smallbone report'. At the request of the researchers, the report was embargoed so as not to stigmatise the communities while a way forward was developed. In 2016, a redacted version of the report was released by the Queensland Government.

The report highlighted serious and pervasive youth sexual violence and abuse occurring in both communities. In particular, the report indicated that family, peer and schooling issues, as well as the prevalence of 'normalised' attitudes towards sexual violence and degrading attitudes to women, meant that many other young people were at risk of youth sexual violence and abuse in the future. Importantly, the report noted that the issue of youth sexual violence and abuse had a much broader scope, and was not confined solely to these two communities.

The Youth Sexual Violence and Abuse Steering Committee

In response to the findings of the initial Smallbone report, the Queensland Government developed an action plan to ensure that all investment and initiatives to address youth sexual violence and abuse in West Cairns and Aurukun were undertaken in a comprehensive and coordinated manner. The action plan comprised responses from all levels of government, and also included community safety recommendations proposed by local community, government and non-government representatives.

As part of the action plan, the Queensland Government announced the Youth Sexual Violence and Abuse Steering Committee in March 2016. The Committee was initially tasked with overseeing and evaluating the initiatives and investment that local, state and federal governments had provided to address youth sexual violence and abuse in West Cairns and Aurukun.

In addition, the Committee was tasked with investigating the prevalence of youth sexual violence and abuse in other locations across Queensland, and making recommendations to Government about the appropriateness of current responses. This included considering how all levels of government could better respond to youth sexual violence and abuse and reduce re-victimisation.

As such, the Committee produced two reports, with the first focusing on West Cairns and Aurukun, and the second examining youth sexual violence and abuse on a much broader scale and across all Queensland communities. Support for the committee's work and the development of the two reports was provided by the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships.

The Committee's first report: West Cairns and Aurukun

The Committee provided its first report to Government in September 2016. The first report provided an evaluation of the efforts already underway to address youth sexual violence and abuse in West Cairns and Aurukun across all tiers of government. As part of this evaluation, the Committee identified a number of barriers to effective implementation in the two communities, including:

- the need for dedicated, long-term funding for a sustained, comprehensive, whole-of-government response
- the need for improved coordination of services
- difficulties in recruiting and sustaining qualified staff
- the need for greater community involvement
- environmental factors within communities, including facility and location safety.

To address these issues the Committee made seven recommendations based around three key themes: improving service effectiveness, raising awareness, and resourcing.

The Queensland Government responded swiftly to the Committee's first report by publicly releasing the report and providing a whole-of-government response in October 2016, accepting all recommendations, and taking action to remedy the identified barriers in the two communities.

The Committee's Final Report: A state-wide analysis

The second part of the Committee's mandate was to investigate the prevalence of youth sexual violence and abuse more broadly across Queensland. In particular, the Committee was asked to:

- consider and make recommendations to Government about the appropriateness of the current legislative, policy and resourcing response to youth sexual violence and abuse
- consider how all levels of government, the non-government sector and the community can work better to prevent and respond to youth sexual violence and abuse and reduce re-victimisation.

The Committee's Final Report, presented to Government in March 2017, provided insight on the extent of youth sexual violence and abuse in Queensland, as well as advice on how to address this issue. The Committee made 31 recommendations aimed at bringing about change through immediate action and longer term generational change. The recommendations address four key themes: local level solutions; data and evidence; raising awareness among individuals, communities and organisations; and tackling the underlying causes of youth sexual violence and abuse.

While the Final Report highlighted that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people are disproportionately impacted by youth sexual violence and abuse, it also strongly emphasised that this issue is not specific to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people or communities. The Committee found that youth sexual violence and abuse can occur within any community, and steps must be taken to prevent it and respond appropriately wherever it occurs.

At the core of the Committee's Final Report was the recognition that early, intergenerational and locational disadvantage are linked to a greater prevalence of youth sexual violence and abuse. In particular, the Committee highlighted that:

- areas worst affected by youth sexual violence and abuse also experienced high rates of social dysfunction and economic disadvantage
- youth sexual violence and abuse is a gendered issue, with young women and girls more likely to be victims and young men and boys more likely to be perpetrators
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are twice as likely to be victims of youth sexual violence and abuse
- increased access to digital and communication technologies has led to an increase in behaviours such as sexualised online activity and 'sexting'
- silence around youth sexual violence and abuse is a major obstacle in responding to the issue.

As such, the Committee's Final Report called for a state-wide approach to reducing the broader disadvantage and dysfunction within our communities, and providing tailored responses to the needs of specific communities.



Our record

Whole of Queensland



Due to the broad scope of the findings and breadth of response required, the Queensland Government has been carefully considering the Committee’s Final Report in order to ensure that our response is holistic, integrated, and sustainable in the long term. We have taken significant steps towards both the immediate and long-term actions required to address youth sexual violence in all communities across our state.

Key state-wide initiatives delivered or underway to address youth sexual violence and its underlying causes are listed below. Where appropriate, these initiatives are mapped to the key themes of the Final Report.

| Agency | Initiative | Action areas | | | |
|---|---|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| | | Local solutions | Data and evidence | Awareness raising | Tackling causes |
| Initiatives supporting responses to youth sexual violence and child sexual abuse | | | | | |
| DCSYW | Trialling multi-agency service responses to child and youth sexual abuse at the Gold Coast and in the Townsville area by providing a seamless and coordinated response to the safety, health, forensic and therapeutic needs of children and families, as well as culturally safe and responsive services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and families. | ▲ | ▲ | | |
| DoE | Delivering the Respectful Relationships education program, which is available to all Queensland state and non-state schools and focuses on equipping students with the skills to develop respectful and ethical relationships free of violence. | | | ▲ | ▲ |
| DCSYW DJAG QH QPS | Reviewing the Queensland Government Interagency Guidelines for Responding to People who have Experienced Sexual Assault. | | ▲ | | |
| QH | Releasing the Sexual Health and Safety Guidelines for Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Services in 2016, developed to guide public health sector clinicians in identifying sexual safety risks, responding to allegations of sexual assault and enabling a service culture that promotes sexual safety. | ▲ | | | ▲ |









Whole of Queensland

Initiatives supporting responses to youth sexual violence and child sexual abuse

| Agency | Initiative | Action areas | | | |
|--------|--|-----------------|-------------------|---|---|
| | | Local solutions | Data and evidence | Awareness raising | Tackling causes |
| DJAG | Amended the <i>Evidence Act 1977</i> to give victims of a sexual offence who are to give evidence in a criminal proceeding against the accused automatic status as a special witness. | | | | |
| QH | Commissioning a review of Queensland Health responses to adult victims of sexual assault. | | | | |
| QH | Actioning the Queensland Sexual Health Strategy 2016-2021, which provides an overarching framework for several action plans, including the North Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sexually Transmissible Infections Action Plan 2016-2021. | | | | |
| DPC | Established the Queensland Anti-Cyberbullying Taskforce to provide the Queensland Government with advice and coordination on tackling cyberbullying, with a focus on respectful relationships. | | |  |  |
| DCSYW | Supporting key initiatives under the Queensland Youth Strategy, such as the ReNew program, which aims to reduce abusive behaviours towards family members and in future intimate personal relationships. | | |  |  |
| DCSYW | Delivering the Youth Justice – Girls Moving On program which provides young women in the youth justice system with new skills and personal resources to better manage gendered causes of offending, including trauma from sexual victimisation. | | |  |  |
| WoG | Implementing the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy 2016-2026, as well as the Queensland Violence against Women Prevention Plan 2016-22. | | | |  |
| QPS | Implementing the Queensland Police Service operational policy regarding 'sexting' type activity between children, whereby police will adopt an alternative approach focused on prevention and education in circumstances involving young people of similar age sexting or engaging in consenting sexual experimentation. | | |  | |

Whole of Queensland

Initiatives supporting responses to youth sexual violence and child sexual abuse









| Agency | Initiative | Action areas | | | |
|--|--|-----------------|-------------------|---|---|
| | | Local solutions | Data and evidence | Awareness raising | Tackling causes |
| QPS, DoE, the Australian Federal Police and the Daniel Morcombe Foundation | Delivering a range of school-based safety programs, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the School Based Policing Program, which currently has allocation for 51 school based police officers attached to 57 state secondary schools (58 campuses) throughout Queensland the Adopt-A-Cop program, designed to enhance the safety and wellbeing of children through education, positive attitudes of children towards police and the community, and encouragement of law abiding behaviour the Think U Know educational program, which aims to raise cyber awareness in children the Keeping Kids Safe educational program, which encompasses the Respectful Relationships and Cyber Safety for Parents programs. | | |  |  |
| QFCC | Delivering the Out of the Dark program, which aims to build an understanding of the dark side of the internet. The program aims to educate, enable and empower children, families and the community to seek support and have an active role in helping young people be safer online. | | |  | |
| QFCC | Delivering the Talking Families program to promote and enable behaviours necessary for families to take responsibility for their children's wellbeing. | | |  |  |
| DoE | Developing cyber safety and reputation management programs to help primary and secondary students understand and remember what they should or shouldn't do online. | | |  | |
| DoE QH | Delivering School Based Youth Health Nurse services for Queensland state school students, which provide a range of prevention and early intervention activities to support the health and wellbeing of young people. The service supports young people to access information about sexual and reproductive health and positive and respectful relationships. | | |  |  |
| QCS | Commencing a project to expand and specialise sex offender interventions, which aims to develop an intervention service delivery model for sexual offenders which includes a best practice intervention pathway for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sexual offenders. | | | | |

Whole of Queensland

Initiatives supporting responses to youth sexual violence and child sexual abuse

| Agency | Initiative | Action areas | | | |
|--------|--|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| | | Local solutions | Data and evidence | Awareness raising | Tackling causes |
| DCSYW | Supporting the Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research to strengthen the capacity and capability of organisations that deliver sexual assault services funded by the Queensland Government. | | | | |
| QPS | Providing training to recruits and frontline officers tailored to address cultural issues, such as cultural awareness, community engagement, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander race relations, legal service issues and trauma resilience. This training equips officers for policing challenges specific to working in Indigenous communities and enables officers to meet the needs of clients and respond to issues that may relate to youth sexual violence and abuse in these communities. A number of other online training packages have been developed for the broader QPS to supplement and reinforce earlier training outcomes. The QPS works collaboratively and cooperatively with local communities and other key service delivery agencies on the frontline to progress the common goal of protecting young people and enhancing responses to youth sexual violence and abuse. | | | | |
| DCSYW | Providing trauma informed practice training to all Youth Justice staff. | | | | |
| WoG | Agreed to adopt the following definition of youth sexual violence and abuse across all Queensland Government agencies, as outlined in the Youth Sexual Violence and Abuse Steering Committee's first report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Youth sexual violence and abuse refers to sexual contact between persons where either the perpetrator or the victim is under 18 years of age and where such contact is non-consensual, violent or illegal. Such contact is non-consensual if any of the following apply:</i> • <i>either person is under the age of consent or lacks the capacity to consent</i> • <i>a situation of imbalance of power exists</i> • <i>there is present a threat or coercion to either person.</i> The causes of this violence should not be considered in isolation but also within the context of both the perpetrator's and the victim's family, peer, organisational and community systems and situations. | | | | |







Whole of Queensland

| Agency | Initiative | Action areas | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|
| | | Local solutions | Data and evidence | Awareness raising | Tackling causes |
| Initiatives supporting our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and communities | | | | | |
| DCSYW and WoG | Actioning Our Way: A generational strategy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families 2017-2037, which represents a long-term commitment by Government, Family Matters Queensland and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to work together and ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in Queensland grow up safe and cared for in family, community and culture. |  | | |  |
| QPS DCSYW | Delivering the Speak Up, Be Strong, Be Heard campaign to encourage community members to speak up, be strong, be heard and report all incidents of child abuse and neglect in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Queensland. |  | |  |  |
| QH | Undertaking a range of activities under the North Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sexually Transmissible Infections Action Plan 2016-2021 with a particular focus on young people aged 15–29, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> engaging with young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to identify appropriate and effective methods for the delivery of sexual health communication initiatives suitable for remote communities, with a focus on increasing knowledge and awareness of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) prioritising annual STI testing by Hospital and Health Services reviewing evidence for frequency of STI testing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in areas of high prevalence to inform regional guidelines collaborating with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Health Services (ATSICCHS) to increase the availability of culturally secure STI screening for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, pilot 'Express STI Services', and develop strategic STI responses in their local communities |  |  |  | |

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Whole of Queensland

Initiatives supporting our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and communities

| Agency | Initiative | Action areas | | | |
|--------|--|---|-------------------|---|---|
| | | Local solutions | Data and evidence | Awareness raising | Tackling causes |
| | <p><i>Continued from previous page</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> conducting market research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, relevant community agencies and ATSI CCHS to inform the development of culturally appropriate and locally relevant awareness campaigns suitable for use in major regional centres disseminating and promoting use of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adolescent sexual health guidelines developing guidelines to support sexually transmissible infections testing, including syphilis, in young people under 15 years implementing effective, evidence-based educational programs to increase STI knowledge and influence positive choices among young at risk Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people not engaged in formal education in settings most accessible to them, e.g. employment services, men's and women's groups, PCYC, sports, corrections. | | | | |
| QH DoE | Implementing the Strong, Proud, Healthy and Safe sexual health and relationships education program in Far North Queensland state schools. | | |  |  |
| DoE | Delivering the Families as First Teachers program, which is aimed at improving early childhood learning outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. | | | |  |
| DoE | Delivering a kindergarten program in 28 state school campuses and four non-state settings across 35 discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. | | | |  |
| DCSYW | Working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to develop local solutions to local problems through social reinvestment initiatives, including overcoming disadvantage. |  | | | |
| DCSYW | Piloting a Justice Reinvestment program in Cherbourg to improve public safety and reduce related criminal justice spending to reinvest savings in strategies that can reduce crime and strengthen communities. |  | | | |













Whole of Queensland

Initiatives supporting our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and communities

| Agency | Initiative | Action areas | | | |
|--------|--|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| | | Local solutions | Data and evidence | Awareness raising | Tackling causes |
| DCSYW | Working collaboratively with the Family Responsibilities Commission to rehabilitate young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who commit offences through restorative justice processes and statutory case management responses delivered by Youth Justice Service Centres, reintegrate them into their community, and encourage parents to fulfil their parental responsibilities. | | | | |
| DCSYW | Funding Family Wellbeing Services in 20 locations, to make it easier for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families to access culturally responsive support to improve their social, emotional, physical and spiritual wellbeing and build their capacity to safely care for and protect their children. | ▲ | | | ▲ |
| DCSYW | Trialling an integrated service response to domestic and family violence in a discrete Indigenous community (Cherbourg), co-designed with the local community. | ▲ | | | ▲ |
| DATSIP | Delivering welfare reform programs in Aurukun, Hope Vale, Coen, Mossman Gorge and Doomadgee, including youth development activities, a community justice program, infrastructure upgrades, small business development, employment opportunities, parenting programs, opportunity hubs, media campaigns, home improvement and land tenure resolution. | ▲ | | | ▲ |
| WoG | Implemented Cultural Capability Action Plans in each Queensland Government department to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives are part of core business. | | | | |
| DCSYW | Developed and are implementing the Respectfully Journey Together Cultural Capability Action Plan and a number of resources, including the Valuing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' Knowledge Lens, which helps to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have influence in, and ownership of, policies, programs, projects, procurement and practice. These principles are reflected in the design of initiatives currently being implemented, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Wellbeing Services Empowering Families Innovation Fund First 1000 Days initiatives in Townsville and Moreton Bay review of the Recognised Entity and future design of the Family Participation programs. | ▲ | | ▲ | ▲ |

Whole of Queensland

Initiatives supporting our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and communities

| Agency | Initiative | Action areas | | | |
|--------|---|---|-------------------|---|---|
| | | Local solutions | Data and evidence | Awareness raising | Tackling causes |
| QCS | Launched the Murridhagun Cultural Centre in July 2017, which aims to increase the development and delivery of cultural capability training by Queensland Corrective Services, build and strengthen partnerships to address Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues, and provide advice to senior management and others in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and tradition. |  | |  |  |
| QCS | Increased the number of Cultural Liaison Officers in Probation and Parole to meet Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders' individual, cultural and social needs. |  | | | |
| QH | Developed the Queensland Health Statement of Action towards Closing the Gap in health outcomes, which sets out an agenda to enhance culturally appropriate and responsive hospital and health services in Queensland, and to drive change through renewed effort and activities to help close the health gap. |  | | |  |
| DATSIP | Developed Moving Ahead – A strategic approach to increasing the participation of Aboriginal People and Torres Strait Islander people in Queensland's economy 2016-2022, which is a whole-of-government strategy to improve economic participation outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders. |  | | |  |
| DATSIP | Developed the Queensland Indigenous Procurement Policy (QIPP), a key action under the Moving Ahead strategy, which targets an increased share of existing Queensland Government procurement spend with Indigenous businesses. The QIPP sets a target that procurement with Indigenous businesses will be three per cent of addressable spend by 2022. |  | | |  |
| DCSYW | Commenced development of a suite of new domestic and family violence practice standards, which will be incorporated into service agreements as a condition of funding and will give strong regard to promoting cultural capability in practice. |  | | |  |





Whole of Queensland

Initiatives supporting our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and communities

| Agency | Initiative | Action areas | | | |
|---|--|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| | | Local solutions | Data and evidence | Awareness raising | Tackling causes |
| DCSYW | Commenced the Building a Stronger Domestic and Family Violence Service System project, which examines the strengths of the domestic and family violence service system and its capacity to meet client and system needs. The project is providing insight into barriers to service accessibility, with accessibility for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people a particular consideration. | | | | |
| DJAG | Worked with local stakeholders in the rollout of specialist Domestic and Family Violence Courts. Since November 2017, a dedicated domestic and family violence magistrate has been leading the work of the domestic and family violence court in Townsville, Mount Isa and Palm Island. A consultant will be appointed in 2018, to work in conjunction with local stakeholders, including Community Justice Groups, to ensure that the justice response to domestic and family violence is culturally appropriate. | | | | |
| Initiatives and strategies addressing disadvantage in Queensland communities | | | | | |
| DCSYW and WoG | Actioning the Queensland Women’s Strategy 2016–21, which sets out a vision for a Queensland community that respects women, embraces gender equality and promotes and protects rights, interests and wellbeing of women and girls. | | | | |
| DHPW | Delivering the Queensland Housing Strategy 2017–2027 and Action Plan, which set out a vision for Queensland where vulnerable people in all communities will have access to and will sustain housing. | | | | |
| DCSYW | Progressing the 10-year Supporting Families, Changing Futures reform program for the child protection and family support system, in response to the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry’s final report: Taking Responsibility: A Roadmap for Queensland Child Protection. | | | | |

Whole of Queensland

Initiatives and strategies addressing disadvantage in Queensland communities

| Agency | Initiative | Action areas | | | |
|--------------|---|-----------------|---|-------------------|---|
| | | Local solutions | Data and evidence | Awareness raising | Tackling causes |
| DoE | <p>Delivering a range of programs and initiatives to support children's access to, and participation in, early learning, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> supporting the delivery of kindergarten programs in all settings under the National Partnership Agreement on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education from 2013 to 2018 through the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remote Kindergarten Pilot, which provides kindergarten aged children with access to a quality program in prescribed state schools in remote locations eKindy through the Brisbane School of Distance education to ensure that all kindergarten-age children have access to a quality kindergarten program, regardless of where they live or their circumstances Queensland Kindergarten Funding Scheme, a subsidy paid to approved kindergarten program providers to reduce the cost of kindergarten for eligible families, which is designed to ensure kindergarten is low or no cost for eligible families. supporting the delivery of Early Years Places in over 50 communities across Queensland. Early Years Places are 'one stop shops' where families can access multiple services or referrals for children aged from birth to eight years. Services include early childhood education and care, health services, and family and parenting support. | | | |  |
| DCSYW | Implementing the First 1000 days program in two locations (Moreton Bay and Townsville) to reduce the effects of vulnerability in early childhood. | | | |  |
| DoE DCSYW | Delivering the Pathways for Early Learning and Development program, which embeds evidence-based early learning and development programs into existing family support services to support vulnerable families with children aged birth to five years. | |  | |  |

West Cairns and Aurukun

Under the action plan developed in response to the initial findings in the Smallbone report, the Queensland Government has led a number of initiatives in West Cairns and Aurukun to improve government coordination, community safety, service responses, engagement of children and young people, local employment, and empowerment of young women and girls.

The first recommendation of the action plan was to establish the Youth Sexual Violence and Abuse Steering Committee.

West Cairns and Aurukun

The Committee’s first report provided an overview of the action plan’s implementation progress, identified barriers to effective implementation, and made seven recommendations across three areas of improvement: service effectiveness, raising awareness, and resourcing. The Queensland Government accepted all recommendations and has acted to remedy the barriers and to improve our response to youth sexual violence in West Cairns and Aurukun.

To continue this important work in West Cairns and Aurukun, we have committed \$1.2 million over three years from 2017-18. As part of this commitment, funding has been allocated to Griffith Youth Forensic Service in 2017-18 and 2018-19 to continue the delivery of youth sexual violence and abuse prevention services in West Cairns and Aurukun.

An overview of our work to date to address youth sexual violence and disadvantage in West Cairns and Aurukun is provided below.

| Agency | Initiative | Action areas | | | |
|---|---|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| | | Local solutions | Data and evidence | Awareness raising | Tackling causes |
| Initiatives improving service effectiveness in West Cairns and Aurukun | | | | | |
| DATSIP | Established the Youth Sexual Violence and Abuse Steering Committee, which has provided advice on the effectiveness of responses to youth sexual violence and abuse in West Cairns and Aurukun. | | | | |
| WoG | Established the Cairns Safer Streets Taskforce to work with the community and lead a cross-agency response to youth crime, including sexual offending. | | | | |
| DPC DATSIP | Established the Four-point plan to achieve sustained calm in Aurukun (the Aurukun Four Point Plan) to strengthen community safety, provide access to education, strengthen the Aurukun community and its governance, and harness jobs and economic opportunities. | | | | |
| DATSIP | Appointed a senior Government coordinator to coordinate activities under the Aurukun Four Point Plan in partnership with local organisations and government. | | | | |
| DATSIP | Appointed a Women’s Project Support Officer in June 2017 in Aurukun. | | | | |
| DCSYW | Established two Regional Child and Family Committees in Far North Queensland, one covering the Cairns, Cassowary Coast and Tablelands areas, and the second covering the Torres Strait. | | | | |
| DPC | Established the Aurukun Directors-General Group to improve integrated service delivery to children and young people and their families by overseeing and coordinating the implementation of the Aurukun four-point plan. | | | | |

West Cairns and Aurukun

Initiatives improving service effectiveness in West Cairns and Aurukun

| Agency | Initiative | Action areas | | | |
|-----------------|--|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| | | Local solutions | Data and evidence | Awareness raising | Tackling causes |
| DJAG (VAQ) | Utilised the Victim Assist Queensland Cairns office as a referral point to local services. | ▲ | | ▲ | |
| QPS | Created and appointed an Aurukun Child Protection Investigation Unit (CPIU) position to ensure service integration. The CPIU liaises with the senior Government coordinator and meets with representatives from other agencies such as Department of Education, Queensland Health, Apunipima Cape York Health Council and Child Safety to discuss matters on both a proactive and reactive basis. | ▲ | | ▲ | ▲ |
| DCSYW DATSIP | Supported linkages between specific initiatives to address youth sexual violence and abuse and other government programs of work, such as the Supporting Families, Changing Futures Reforms. | | | | ▲ |
| QH | Established a service agreement for the Apunipima Cape York Health Council to receive referrals from the Queensland Police Service. | ▲ | | ▲ | |
| QH | Undertaking a range of activities under the North Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sexually Transmissible Infections Action Plan 2016-2021, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> building the capacity of the Cairns and Townsville public health unit to provide regional public health guidance on STIs to the five hospital and health services in North Queensland developing and implementing a consistent service model for sexual health screening programs in schools, in partnership with Education Queensland partnering with Queensland Rugby League and AFL Queensland to develop standardised programs for pre-season and pre-carnival health checks exploring opportunities to collaborate with corrective services to review STI processes in correctional and youth justice facilities to ensure appropriate testing, treatment and follow-up implementing a number of activities to increase access to contraceptive and condom services in North Queensland suited to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people developing web based information on sexually transmissible infection services in the region and evaluating the Express STI Service. | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | |
| DHPW | Provided funding for the construction of 24 residences in Aurukun to provide secure government employee housing to support Department of Education employees. | ▲ | | | ▲ |

West Cairns and Aurukun

Initiatives improving service effectiveness in West Cairns and Aurukun

| Agency | Initiative | Action areas | | | |
|--------|---|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| | | Local solutions | Data and evidence | Awareness raising | Tackling causes |
| DJAG | Funded a Community Justice Group in Aurukun to contribute towards reducing the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders and victims within the criminal justice system. Community Justice Groups aim to achieve this through the delivery or referral to culturally appropriate support services to improve quality of life and to increase cultural understanding in the courts and the wider criminal justice system. | ▲ | | | ▲ |
| QCS | Led the Adult Prisoner Reintegration program under the Aurukun Four Point Plan, which uses a specialised and localised service model to ensure prisoners returning to Aurukun are reintegrated effectively. | ▲ | | | |
| DoE | Offered the RATEP Community-based Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Teacher Education Program in 14 RATEP centres across Queensland, including one at Cairns West State School, Mareeba State School, Mossman State School, Western Cape College Weipa Campus and Yarrabah State School. RATEP aims to help increase the number of registered Indigenous teachers and paraprofessionals in Queensland by offering tertiary programs in the home communities of the student teachers. | ▲ | | | ▲ |
| DJAG | Lead the Community Justice Group Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) Enhancement Program, which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> working with 18 discrete communities, including Aurukun and Cairns, to develop local authority groups and build capacity of communities to respond to domestic and family violence, crime and violence working with communities to co-design and develop service models that prioritise the safety of domestic and family violence victims and their families and ensure community ownership and cultural appropriateness working closely with local community justice groups, Elders, Respected Persons, Traditional Owners, non-government organisations and other stakeholders to ensure community needs are met co-designing activities in Aurukun scheduled to commence in the 2018-19 financial year, including meeting with all stakeholders in community to promote and establish communication channels to support the model being proposed. | ▲ | | | |

West Cairns and Aurukun

Initiatives improving service effectiveness in West Cairns and Aurukun

| Agency | Initiative | Action areas | | | |
|----------------|--|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| | | Local solutions | Data and evidence | Awareness raising | Tackling causes |
| DCSYW | Funded the Wuchopperen Health Service and Mulungu Aboriginal and Torres Strait Family Wellbeing Service in Cairns to make it easier for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families access culturally responsive support to improve their social, emotional, physical and spiritual wellbeing, and build their capacity to safely care for and protect their children. Family Wellbeing Services have been designed and delivered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, based on local community needs. | ▲ | | ▲ | ▲ |
| DCSYW | Funded Remote Area Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Care to deliver Family Wellbeing Services in Aurukun. | ▲ | | | ▲ |
| DJAG DATSIP | Partnered with the Aurukun Community Justice Group to continue to support the delivery of the Aurukun Restorative Justice Program, which aims to reduce levels of violence in the community by establishing a locally-based and operated, culturally inclusive mediation and peace-keeping service to build local capacity to resolve disputes peacefully. An independent evaluation has found that the program is considered to be delivering significant benefits to the Aurukun community. | ▲ | | | ▲ |
| QPS DCSYW | Engaged with community members, key stakeholders and Griffith Youth Forensic Service in the development and implementation of the Speak Up, Be Strong, Be Heard program, to ensure cultural capability and coordination and integration with planned and existing responses. | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ |
| DCSYW | Conducted Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family-led decision making trials in Cairns and other locations under the Supporting Families, Changing Futures reform program. The trials aimed to ensure that Queensland families and communities are empowered to become stronger, more capable, more resilient and are supported by a child and family support system that understands and respects the importance of family, community and culture. | ▲ | ▲ | | ▲ |

West Cairns and Aurukun

| Agency | Initiative | Action areas | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| | | Local solutions | Data and evidence | Awareness raising | Tackling causes |
| Initiatives to raise awareness | | | | | |
| DoE | Adopted a range of re-engagement strategies for school age children in Aurukun, including home visits and case management for disengaged children to identify alternative education options or paths for re-engagement. | | | | |
| DoE | Provided initiatives to encourage school attendance in Aurukun such as a breakfast program, certificates at assemblies and verbal acknowledgement of good attendance in classes by teachers. | | | | |
| DoE | Provided transition support services to assist young people who become disconnected or de-enrolled from boarding school pathways to re-engage with a schooling, training or employment pathway. The services work in collaboration with many remote service providers to assist young people and their families to develop and enact a re-engagement action plan. | | | | |
| DHPW | Provided engaging activities through the Get out, Get active positive lifestyle and self defence program in West Cairns. | | | | |
| DCSYW | Employed a Principal Community Services Officer, based in Aurukun, to develop a positively-framed, community-driven Youth Strategy for engaging and improving outcomes for youth in the community. | | | | |
| DoE | Commenced Netball Queensland's Indigenous Girls Advancement Program at Cairns State High School, which provides targeted, extra-curricular engagement activities to support the learning, physical, social, and wellbeing needs of Indigenous female students. | | | | |
| DATSIP | Funded the Griffith Youth Forensic Service to provide the Teachers Protect and Professionals Protect Training Programs in Aurukun, which improve teachers' and professionals' knowledge of child sexual behaviour and their capacity to respond to concerning sexual behaviours. | | | | |

West Cairns and Aurukun

Initiatives to raise awareness

















| Agency | Initiative | Action areas | | | |
|--------------|---|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| | | Local solutions | Data and evidence | Awareness raising | Tackling causes |
| QPS DCSYW | Delivered the Speak Up, Be Strong, Be Heard program in Aurukun and Cairns to encourage community members to recognise and report youth sexual violence and abuse when they see it. The initiative delivers tailored presentations, participation in community events and activities, and uses promotional material to increase awareness of youth sexual violence. The program has been run in a number of other communities, including Aurukun. | ▲ | | ▲ | ▲ |
| QH DoE | Implemented the Strong, Proud, Healthy and Safe sexual health and relationship education program in Far North Queensland state schools, including Aurukun and Cairns, with full community support. | ▲ | | ▲ | ▲ |
| DoE | Delivered the Be Well, Learn Well (BWLW) program in Aurukun, which supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student developmental needs through the delivery of targeted Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy, Psychology and Clinical Psychology services to identify and address behavioural and learning issues. The BWLW program uses the agreed upon definition for youth sexual violence and abuse to identify and address behavioural and learning issues. | | | ▲ | ▲ |

Resourcing

| | | | | | |
|--------|---|---|---|---|--|
| QH | Developed and commenced implementation of the North Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sexually Transmissible Infections Action Plan 2016-2021 across five Hospital and Health Services in North Queensland, with a focus on addressing sexually transmitted infections. This is providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increased screening of young people • additional sexual health staff • specialist Sexual Health Service visits to Aurukun which provide evidence based prevention, early intervention, treatment and management of sexually transmitted infections. | ▲ | ▲ | ▲ | |
| DATSIP | Worked with the Family Responsibilities Commission (FRC) and other Queensland Government agencies, to promote better connections between the FRC Local Commissioners and existing and newly funded domestic and family violence services at the local level to support referrals. | | ▲ | ▲ | |

West Cairns and Aurukun

Resourcing

| Agency | Initiative | Action areas | | | |
|--------|--|---|-------------------|---|---|
| | | Local solutions | Data and evidence | Awareness raising | Tackling causes |
| DATSIP | Funded Griffith Youth Forensic Service to deliver the Puggles Therapeutic Program for children 6–12 displaying persistent sexual behaviour in Aurukun. |  | |  |  |
| DATSIP | Funded Griffith Youth Forensic Service to deliver the Cape York Parents and Guardians Protect parenting program in Aurukun to build capacity of parents and caregivers to establish clear rules for children's sexual behaviour and to identify and respond to indicators of abuse and concerning behaviour. |  | |  | |
| QCS | Commenced a project to expand and specialise sex offender interventions, which aims to develop an intervention service delivery model for sexual offenders under supervision of Probation and Parole, a best practice intervention pathway for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sexual offenders, a specialized model for offender reintegration at Aurukun, and ensure sexual offending program content and program delivery locations are effective in meeting Queensland Corrective Service's needs. To ensure project deliverables are culturally appropriate, a Queensland Corrective Service Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander reference group will provide advice and support to the project steering committee. |  | |  | |
| QH | Provided targeted sexual health services through the Cairns Sexual Health Clinic to meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Cairns under the North Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sexual Transmissible Infections Action Plan 2016-2021. This includes providing Aboriginal Health Worker-led sexual health education to young people at the Mooroolool West Cairns Community Hub. |  | |  |  |
| QH | Funded a School Based Youth Health Nurse Service who conducts an early intervention, harm minimisation and sexual health promotion and prevention program targeting high schools students in schools in Cairns and surrounding areas. |  | |  |  |
| QH | Provided sexual health education and promotion services through Cairns Sexual Health Service to majority enrolled Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander schools within the Cairns region. |  | |  |  |

West Cairns and Aurukun

Resourcing

| Agency | Initiative | Action areas | | | |
|-----------|--|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| | | Local solutions | Data and evidence | Awareness raising | Tackling causes |
| QH | Funded an early intervention and diversionary program targeting vulnerable young people 12-17 years in West Cairns and surrounding areas to decrease alcohol and drug misuse and other risky behaviours and support a healthy transition to adulthood. | ▲ | | | ▲ |
| QH DoE | Supported Queensland Health's Child and Youth Mental Health services to continue to work with Aurukun State School, regularly participating in classroom observations and delivering therapeutic interventions for individuals and groups. | ▲ | | | ▲ |
| DATSIP | Funded Griffith Youth Forensic Service to deliver the Protect Me program in West Cairns, aimed at preventing re-victimisation, targeting vulnerable young people (Indigenous, disadvantaged, homeless) who are unlikely to access mainstream counselling and supporting them to build individual resilience and safety and reduce the likelihood of repeat victimisation. | ▲ | | ▲ | ▲ |
| DCSYW | Funded Family and Child Connect (FaCC) services to provide families experiencing multiple or complex problems with support and referral to more intensive, specialised assistance. A FaCC service is located in Cairns and is jointly run by Act for Kids, Community Services Tablelands, Community Support Centre Innisfail and Warringu Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation. | ▲ | | | ▲ |
| DCSYW | Funded Intensive Family Support (IFS) services to work with vulnerable families who have more complex needs to ensure they receive the necessary support. An IFS is based in Cairns. | ▲ | | | ▲ |
| DATSIP | Refurbished the Aurukun PCYC in partnership with the Commonwealth Government. The PCYC is now a modern and safe space for young people in Aurukun to meet, have fun and learn strategies to live a healthier and happier life. | ▲ | | | ▲ |
| DCDSS | Funded the Red Cross to manage the Manoora and Moorooool Neighbourhood Centres. | ▲ | | | ▲ |
| DATSIP | Installed 65 CCTV cameras in priority areas across the community in Aurukun. Further work is being done to improve lighting and tree maintenance to realise fully the benefits of the cameras. | ▲ | | | |
| QPS | Installed 20 CCTV cameras in Cairns monitored by Cairns Regional Council security staff, with direct live feed to Queensland Police Service. | ▲ | | | |

West Cairns and Aurukun

Resourcing

| Agency | Initiative | Action areas | | | |
|--------|---|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| | | Local solutions | Data and evidence | Awareness raising | Tackling causes |
| DATSIP | Funded Griffith Youth Forensic Services to deliver the Adapted Police Patrol in Aurukun and West Cairns, which provide time-limited patrols to target 'hot spots' and 'hot times' to reduce opportunities for problem behaviour. | ▲ | | | ▲ |
| DATSIP | Funded Griffith Youth Forensic Service to deliver the Friends Protect program, to build the capacity of young people to actively and positively contribute to the safety and wellbeing of their friends in relation to youth sexual violence and abuse, particularly in public places. | ▲ | | ▲ | ▲ |
| DATSIP | Commenced developing a community values poster, an Aurukun statement of community values and education campaign in English and Wik Way. This statement is being co-designed with community stakeholders, including extensive community engagement across clan groups and Wik translators to agree community values and broadcast messages to reject sly grog, drugs, domestic and family violence and build respectful relationships. | ▲ | | ▲ | ▲ |
| DATSIP | Funded the redevelopment of the Three Rivers Community Centre in Aurukun and the splash park scheduled for completion in June 2018. | ▲ | | | ▲ |
| QPS | Supported the PCYCs in Aurukun and Cairns operate a number of programs supporting crime prevention through community engagement and also provide funding for youth services (information, referral and advice, and case management) in Aurukun. | ▲ | | ▲ | ▲ |
| QPS | Employed a number of Police Liaison Officers (PLOs), who play an important role in liaising between the Queensland Police Service and various organisations and individuals. There are two PLOs based at Aurukun Station and one PLO who works out of the Cairns PCYC. | ▲ | | ▲ | ▲ |

