

2009

2010

Task Force



Together

Keeping Our Children Safe and Well

Our comprehensive plan for promoting the safety and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people and reducing their over-representation within Queensland's child protection system



Dept of Communities'

Blueprint for implementation strategy

2011

2012

2013

2014

2015

Vision

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander children and young
people grow with family,
connected to community and in a
safe and nurturing home
environment**

Purpose

A framework for the Qld Govt and non-Govt community service sector organisations to work in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to promote the safety and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people and reduce their over-representation within Queensland's child protection system

Aims

To comprehensively address the current disparities, and achieve equitable outcomes, in relation to the safety of Queensland's Indigenous and non-Indigenous children and young people, fully acknowledging that in order to achieve this equity:

- *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people must be afforded the same rights and entitlements held by their non-Indigenous peers to practise their cultural beliefs, traditions and customs, and*

Aims

To comprehensively address the current disparities, and achieve equitable outcomes, in relation to the safety of Queensland's Indigenous and non-Indigenous children and young people, fully acknowledging that in order to achieve this equity:

- *preservation of the identification and connections Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people have with their cultures and communities must be viewed as fundamental and integral to the achievement and maintenance of their safety and wellbeing, and dealt with accordingly*

Key “priority areas” addressed within the Plan

Priority One:

Sharing a common vision and commitment

Priority Two:

Providing the right services at the right time

Priority Three:

Ensuring the existence and application of sound legislation, policy, practice and procedures

Priority Four:

Building a robust service system and network of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service providers

Priority One:

Sharing a common vision and commitment

- 1.1 “Vision statement”**
- 1.2 Joint “statement of commitment” to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people of Queensland**
- 1.3 Training programs, information-sharing and other awareness-raising exercises about the “vision statement” and its application to their services**

Priority Two:

Providing the right services at the right time

2.1 Programs and services that:

- better reflect the preferences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples for holistic service delivery
- place an emphasis on prevention and early intervention responses, and
- build on the traditional cultural strengths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

2.2 Mechanisms and processes for linking and monitoring the effectiveness of broader strategies for “closing the gap” and addressing the economic and social disadvantage being experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities within Queensland

Priority Three:

Ensuring the existence of sound legislation, policy, practice and procedures

- 3.1 Strengthening of processes for the active participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service providers in statutory decision-making**

- 3.2 Review of all current policies, procedures and practices used by the Department of Communities in assessing needs and formulating decisions about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and families**

Priority Three:

Ensuring the existence of sound legislation, policy, practice and procedures

- 3.3 Researching of “self-government models” used in Canada with a view to conducting one or more trials of a similar model in Queensland

- 3.4 Examine adequacy of the *Child Protection Act 1999* in providing a legislative framework for the administration of child protection services that meet the best interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and families

Priority Four:

Building a robust system and network of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service providers

- 4.1 Developing existing workforce capacity and establishing a potentially capable workforce for future recruitment and use by Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander owned and managed organisations**

- 4.2 Supporting and resourcing the effective governance and management of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned and managed organisations**