



Minister for Communities, Women and Youth  
Minister for Child Safety  
Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence

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1 William Street Brisbane 4000  
GPO Box 806 Brisbane  
Queensland 4001 Australia  
Telephone +61 7 3719 7500  
Email communities@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Mr Gerry Moore and Ms Natalie Lewis  
Co-Chairs  
Family Matters  
PO Box 1445  
FITZROY NORTH VIC 3068

Dear Mr Moore and Ms Lewis

Thank you for your letter regarding your request for information to support the *2017 Family Matters Report*.

The acknowledgement in your letter of the Queensland Government's genuine effort to deliver the best possible outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families in Queensland is welcome.

*Our Way: A Generational Strategy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Families 2017–37 (Our Way)*, and *Changing Tracks: an Action Plan for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Families 2017–19* commits to deliver a range of innovative responses to reduce the disproportionate number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in the child protection system, allowing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to grow up safe and cared for in family, community and culture. *Our Way* also commits the Queensland Government and community services to be more accountable to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Queensland Government is committed to continuing the partnership with Family Matters to implement the 20-year strategy and improve our public reporting to better reflect the strengths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and challenges faced in Queensland across a range of issues.

There are a number of data gaps in relation to the safety and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families. For example, although the Productivity Commission's annual Report on Government Services reports the number of children aged 0–17 years commencing Intensive Family Support service by Indigenous status and gender this is not a comprehensive measure of the uptake of preventative and early intervention family support services in Queensland. I am also advised the measures of community controlled investment overall in child and family support and out-of-home care and support services, including access to and use of early intervention services, are not immediately available. We hope to address this with your involvement.

The Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services publicly releases performance results for child protection in Queensland. The March 2017 results are now available at <https://www.communities.qld.gov.au/childsafety/about-us/our-performance>.

Eleven new measures have been added to the *Our Performance* website with the release of the March 2017 data. These new measures will improve public reporting in key priority areas and are aligned with the recently released *Our Way: A generational strategy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families* and *Changing Tracks: An action plan for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families*. These will be further refined and added to over time.

The Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services does not currently report on reunification. However, I am advised work is underway to develop a new performance measure regarding the safe reunification of children with their families, which will include a count of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. Once developed and tested, the department will consider the suitability of releasing the new measure publicly.

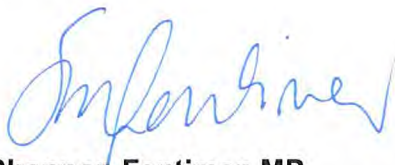
The Queensland Government welcomes the opportunity to work with you to improve reporting to better reflect the needs and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families. The vision and targets established through *Our Way* provide us with a solid framework for this work to occur.

To get things going, I have requested the department establish a small working group with Family Matters Queensland by the end of August 2017 to enable better reporting with the national campaign in 2018.

The department will continue to work to a future of transparent and clear measurement, outcomes and reporting regarding the improvements we make with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people over the next 20 years. We look forward to working with you to achieve this.

If you require any further information or assistance in relation to this matter, please contact Ms Ellenah Mackie, Director, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Families, Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, on 3828 2645.

Yours sincerely



**Shannon Fentiman MP**  
**Minister for Communities, Women and Youth**  
**Minister for Child Safety**  
**Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence**