




Speech By
Melissa McMahon

MEMBER FOR MACALISTER

Record of Proceedings, 15 November 2018

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (3.12 pm): I rise to speak to report No. 16 of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. The committee has oversight of the Queensland Family and Child Commission. It tabled the report in July this year, following a public hearing on 11 June 2018. I thank the other members of the committee and the committee secretariat. The report had one recommendation, that the House notes the content of the report.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the work of the staff of the Queensland Family and Child Commission and, in particular, the Principal Commissioner, who briefed us. The QFCC has the task of promoting the safety, wellbeing and best interests of children and young people and to improve the child protection system, which is a responsibility of some significance. The report acknowledged the work that the commission had undertaken over the period 2016-17. I note the significant work done in the developing area of cyber safety. The committee was provided with an update on a number of inquiries, including the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry and the Changing Tracks action plan for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.

Given the remit to improve child protection systems, the report *When a child is missing* was a key document released during the oversight period. The report contained 29 recommendations. The Principal Commissioner was able to report to the committee that all 29 recommendations have been delivered. The commission is currently in the process of evaluating the implementation of the recommendations, including *Recommendation 28 supplementary review* and we await that.

The QFCC has also provided reports to the government on systems reviews on blue cards, foster caring and strengthening capacity across Queensland's child protection system. Following those reviews, the QFCC now sits with other stakeholders on a Department of Justice and Attorney-General reference group with respect to the blue card recommendation implementation. The commission also led a system and practice review of the Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect or SCAN team system. I note that the review affirmed the existing model and departmental responsibility.

The Queensland Family and Child Commission has a great responsibility and plays a key role in contributing to improving systems that keep our kids safe. I congratulate them on the work done over the period. It was a substantial and very significant body of work. I wish them all the best for their continuing work, particularly in overseeing and evaluating some of the recommendations following the *When a child is missing* report.