



Speech By **Christopher Whiting**

MEMBER FOR BANCROFT

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JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE; REPORT

Motion to Take Note; Report No. 16

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (3.08 pm): I rise to address the QFCC report. In doing so I want to say that in this 2023-24 annual report they talk about their strong focus on data transparency. I want to talk about their achievements and their milestones when it comes to what should be done with this very important data.

First, in 2024 the QFCC launched the Principle Focus dashboard to monitor and examine the over-representation of First Nations people in the child protection system. In 2024 the QFCC published Data Explorer, an interactive tool aggregating wellbeing data to give a voice to young people in system design. At the crux of this is the QFCC successfully using digital platforms to make quality data accessible, but the LNP's bungled Unify program puts that quality data at risk.

Second, we see in this report that the QFCC hosts the Child Death Review Board, which keeps the Child Death Register. Information here is crucial because it is shared across agencies and projects, sharing data with the Coroners Court. The crux is that it shows how quality data drives child safety reform, but the LNP's bungled Unify program puts that quality data at risk.

Third, in 2023-24 the QFCC undertook major systems reviews and studies. They looked at children's absences from care placements and care and at young people in both the care and the youth justice systems. They found: there are barriers to information sharing which has an impact on the work supporting children; poor quality data erodes accountability; and data accessibility presents a risk, with the annual report stating—

An inability to source high-quality data outcomes—reduces our capacity to effectively monitor the impact of the child and family support system, restricting our ability to drive improvements and build a culture of accountability.

The crux of that is that the Unify rollout bungle from the LNP has proved the QFCC right. Case records are missing, data feeds are gone and transparency is disappearing. The LNP's bungled Unify program not only puts that quality data at risk; it puts children at risk. I commend the report but I call out the careless approach shown so far by the LNP when it comes to this kind of data. That careless approach puts Queensland children in care at risk.