




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Linard

MEMBER FOR NUDGE

Record of Proceedings, 16 October 2025

JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Report

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (3.56 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on report No. 16 of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee titled *Oversight of the Queensland Child and Family Commission*. This report reflects a body of work that goes to the very heart of child safety, system accountability and the rights of Queensland children. The QFCC's role is to promote the safety, wellbeing and best interests of all children, to hold systems accountable and to shine a light on where they fail.

Established under the Family and Child Commission Act, the QFCC, constituted as a statutory body, holds a significant position of authority and oversight of the child protection system, analysing and evaluating at a systemic level policies and practices relevant to the child protection system and the performance of relevant agencies in delivering services as well as assisting relevant agencies to evaluate the efficacy of programs and identify the most effective service models. The commission is also responsible for maintaining the Child Death Register, hosting the board which conducts systemic reviews following the death of a child.

Having leadership over the child protection system is an incredibly weighty role. Having had the privilege of serving as child safety minister in this state, I appreciate that keenly. It is much easier to throw stones, criticise and deflect blame to others than to step up and provide the genuine empathy, leadership and responsibility that such a role requires. The commission does that. The former child safety ministers on this side of the House did that and the Child Death Review Board does that. I thank them for their genuine service to vulnerable children and families in Queensland.

In this report the commission completed 14 oversight reviews and made 20 recommendations to the government. Their work spanned youth justice, child protection and the intersections between them, including their important review into 'crossover' kids and young people absent from care. They also produced 32 submissions to state, federal and international inquiries—a testament to their deep engagement with evidence and lived experience across the sector.

One of the standout achievements from the reporting period was the launch of the Principal Focus dashboard. As a national first, this digital tool provides transparent quarterly data on the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in Queensland's child protection system. This commitment to data transparency is not just a technical exercise; it is imperative because quality data is what allows service providers in communities to understand what is working and what is not. Yet, as the QFCC's own risk management framework warns and as we have heard, poor quality or inaccessible data is one of the biggest strategic risks facing Queensland's child protection system. Alarmingly, the commission's warning has now become a reality with the government's mishandled rollout of the Unify system, which has undermined the very data that frontline child safety—

Mr HUNT: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There have been various rulings about speaking about current computer systems. As chair of the committee, we had oversight of that period of time of the annual report and we reported on our investigations of that period of time. I am sure next year's report might canvass Labor's failures in relation to the release of systems et cetera, but this year's report does not deal with that. Speakers are continually bringing this current system up.

Ms LINARD: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr SPEAKER: Member, you are speaking directly to the report.

Ms LINARD: I am.

Mr SPEAKER: I am going to ask you to adjourn the debate because we have reached the time for the conclusion of this debate.

Debate, on motion of Ms Linard, adjourned.