



Speech By
Martin Hunt

MEMBER FOR NICKLIN

Record of Proceedings, 18 September 2025

JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (3.37 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee Report No. 16, 58th Parliament, *Oversight of the Queensland Child and Family Commission*, tabled on 5 September 2025.

I rise as the chair of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee to speak to report No. 16, *Oversight of the Queensland Child and Family Commission*, tabled in August this year. The Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee has statutory oversight responsibilities for the Queensland Family and Child Commission, QFCC. This includes monitoring the commission's performance, examining its annual reports and holding public hearings with the commissioners.

In preparing this report, the committee examined the QFCC's 2023-24 annual report and the Child Death Review Board's 2023-24 annual report and conducted a public oversight hearing on 13 March 2025. I thank my fellow committee members for their commitment to this work and the secretariat for their excellent support. I thank Principal Commissioner Luke Twyford, Commissioner Natalie Lewis, their dedicated team and the Child Death Review Board for their honesty in evidence and for the determination they continue to show in driving better outcomes for children.

The commission's role is to promote the safety, wellbeing and rights of children and young people, to oversee the child protection and youth justice systems and to provide independent advice and research to government. It also hosts the Child Death Review Board, which conducts systemic reviews following the deaths of children connected with the child protection system. In 2023-24, the QFCC completed 14 oversight reviews, made 20 formal recommendations to government, contributed 32 submissions to inquiries and reviews, published a range of reports and insight papers, and engaged directly with more than 4,600 Queenslanders through surveys and forums. The commission's work has influenced important reforms, including improvements to the blue card scheme, stronger transparency on the use of watch houses and the development of the Child Safe Organisations Bill.

The Child Death Review Board plays a critical role in learning from tragedies to drive systemic change. In 2023-24 the board reviewed 70 cases. Sadly, suicide remained the leading cause of death for children aged 10 to 17. Domestic and family violence was present in more than half of the cases examined. These findings underline the importance of prevention, early support for families and cross-agency collaboration.

The commission also continues to highlight the disproportionate representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in child protection and youth justice systems. Commissioner Lewis and her team play a vital role in advocating for culturally informed approaches and supporting kinship care reform so that more children can remain safely connected to family and culture.

Overall, the committee found that the QFCC continues to provide rigorous, evidence-based oversight and valuable advice to government. Its reports and recommendations help drive policy reform, increase transparency and build accountability across systems that affect vulnerable children.

The Crisafulli government has acted strongly in response to these concerns. The announcement of an independent commission of inquiry into Queensland's child safety system is a major step forward. This inquiry will allow us to take a deeper look at the structures, practices and policies that underpin child safety in Queensland and ensure they deliver on their purpose. It reflects a clear commitment to reform where it is needed most.

Again I thank the commissioners and staff of the QFCC, the Child Death Review Board, my fellow committee members, and in particular our secretariat for their excellent support. The work of the commission is not easy, but it is vital. By maintaining oversight, listening to the voices of children and families and ensuring transparency, we can continue to strengthen Queensland's child protection system. I commend the report to the House.