



Speech By


Natalie Marr

MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA

Record of Proceedings, 18 September 2025

JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Ms MARR** (Thuringowa—LNP) (3.56 pm): I rise to address the House on the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee's report No. 16 of the 58th Parliament on the Queensland Family and Child Commission for the 2023-24 financial year. As a member of the committee, I am proud to commend this report to the House. It highlights the QFCC's important work in safeguarding Queensland's children and strengthening our child protection and youth justice systems.

This LNP government has made it very clear that our children, being the most vulnerable, are and will continue to be a priority. Child and family safety is a critical foundation for a thriving society. We must protect the most vulnerable from harm, abuse and neglect while fostering environments where families can flourish, break cycles of trauma and promote long-term wellbeing. This will ensure Queensland's child protection and youth justice systems prioritise safety and accountability.

The purpose of the QFCC is to promote the safety, wellbeing and best interests of children and young people and improve the child protection system. As outlined in the Family and Child Commission Act 2014, their responsibilities include: oversight of the child protection system; promotion and advocacy regarding the responsibilities of families and communities to protect and care for children and young people, including their safety and wellbeing, especially those in the child protection or youth justice system; providing research, assistance, capacity building and leadership for agencies involved in the child protection system; increasing collaboration across different sectors to improve the delivery of services to children, young people and families; reviewing, analysing and evaluating systemic policies and practices relevant to the child protection system; informing and educating the community; and reporting to the minister about matters relating to its functions.

The QFCC hosts the Child Death Review Board for administrative purposes. The CDRB conducts systemic reviews following the death of a child connected to the child protection system and can make recommendations about systemic improvements to practices which respond to the findings of such reviews.

The QFCC has demonstrated its commitment to promoting the safety, wellbeing and best interests of children and young people. In 2023-24, the QFCC completed 14 oversight reviews, made 20 formal recommendations and contributed to 32 state, national and international inquiries. These efforts have driven significant reforms, including changes to the blue card scheme, enhanced reporting on watch houses and the establishment of a peak body for youth justice. The committee acknowledges the QFCC's expanded role under the Child Safe Organisations Act with its budget nearly doubling to \$23 million and staffing growing to 80 full-time positions, marking a shift toward community-based reform.

However, challenges remain. The committee acknowledges that significant changes are underway with respect to the scope of its function. The committee will examine the implementation and impact of these changes in more detail as it continues its oversight of the QFCC. At this time, I wish to thank all committee members, staff and all those who presented their reports and thank them for their time and effort. I commend the committee report to the House.