

Question on Notice

No. 796

Asked on Thursday, 13 June 2024

MR J LANGBROEK asked the Minister for Child Safety, Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (HON C MULLEN)—

QUESTION

With reference to the 'Breaking Cycles Action Plan 2023-2025' that was launched in September 2023—

Will the Minister outline what progress has been made in each of the eight priority areas to date?

ANSWER

Queensland is the first state to adopt a generational strategy codesigned with community, *Our Way: A generational strategy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families 2017-2037* (Our Way) to eliminate the disproportionate representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the child protection system.

The third action plan under Our Way, *Breaking Cycles 2023-25* (Breaking Cycles), was launched with a focus on transforming the way services are designed, developed and delivered in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and families, by government and non-government organisations.

Co-designed in partnership with the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak (QATSICPP) on behalf of Family Matters Queensland, Breaking Cycles actions are structured around eight priority areas and 32 actions. The Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services (DCSSDS) is responsible for implementing 17 actions, which span seven of the eight priority areas.

To date, progress includes:

- Establishment of a further 11 new delegated authority sites across Queensland in 2023-24 (17 in total), with 197 delegated authority arrangements for individual children in place across six Child Safety Service Centres (as at end March 2024) (Action 3.1).
- Development of a First Nations First Choice policy and a First Nations Investment and Commissioning Strategy are underway to prioritise and grow investment in new and existing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisations (ATSICCOs) (Actions 1.4, 2.1–2.3, 4.2).
- Increased investment in Family Wellbeing Services and the Family Participation Program to enable rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families to participate in decisions that affect them across the child protection system (Actions 4.1 and 5.1).
- One trial site finalised to implement Family Caring for Family, a new family and relative care model to maximise the placement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people with family, and or kin.(Action 5.2).
- An enhanced intake and assessment approach has been developed, including the commencement of the First Nations Intake Officer trial in May 2023, to address the influence of cultural bias in intake decisions (Action 1.5).

- All relevant policies and procedures updated to support the application of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle to the standard of active efforts. Staff across the state have received training to support the embedding of the five elements of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child placement principle into practice as part of the implementation of the 2023 legislative amendments (Action 1.3).
- Commencement of the development and implementation of an overarching change management strategy, consistent with the department's Reframing the Relationship Roadmap (Action 1.2).
- Unify, a new contemporary case and client management system, is on track for delivery by 31 December 2024 (Action 8.5).
- DCSSDS undertaking a complaints management review and adjustment of the complaints channels for accessibility and cultural appropriateness, consistent with the department's Reframing the Relationship Roadmap (Action 1.7).

Implementation of Breaking Cycles requires collective action and reporting on the progress of the remaining actions are the responsibility of agencies which fall outside the portfolio responsibilities.

Further information on the progress of these actions will be available when the Queensland First Children and Families Board, responsible for oversight of Our Way and action plans, publishes its Annual Report in late 2024.

The Queensland Government will continue to work in partnership with the Queensland First Children and Families Board, Family Matters Queensland and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities throughout Queensland to implement the Our Way strategy and supporting action plans to eliminate the disproportionate representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in the child protection system in Queensland.