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**CHILD SAFETY COMMISSION OF INQUIRY
STATE OF QUEENSLAND
PROACTIVE STATEMENT 16**

STATEMENT OF DENZIL OWEN CLARK

I, **Denzil Owen Clark**, care of Crown Law, Level 11, 50 Ann Street, Brisbane, a Detective Superintendent of Police, Queensland Police Service, in the State of Queensland state as follows:

1. I am a Detective Superintendent of Police and the Operations Commander of the Child Abuse and Sexual Crime Group (**CASCG**), Crime and Intelligence Command (**CIC**), Queensland Police Service (**QPS**).
2. I have been a sworn member of the QPS since 4 January 1988 and have been a serving detective since February 1990. The majority of my service has been dedicated to child protection, both as an investigator and more recently as the QPS capability owner. I have undertaken duties as a regional investigator in the Juvenile Aid Bureau, regional Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (**SCAN**), the Child Protection and Investigation Unit (**CPIU**), the Criminal Investigation Branch (**CIB**), and as a specialist investigator in the CASCG, the Crime and Corruption Commission and in other crime groups in CIC.
3. I commenced as the Operations Commander of the CASCG in December 2017 and on behalf of the QPS, have capability ownership responsibilities for child protection, sexual violence, and the operation of the Queensland Child Protection Register (**CPR**). In this role, I am also the QPS capability owner for its response to sexual violence and lead the development and implementation of the QPS Sexual Violence Response Strategy.

4. Pursuant to section 7.2 of the Operational Procedures Manual (**OPM**), my responsibilities as Operations Commander of the CASCg include:
- a. Strategic oversight of child protection, operations, and framework development to meet the needs of vulnerable children and young people;
 - b. Advice and support to the Minister and Commissioner regarding strategic child protection, projects and legal matters;
 - c. Representing the service in forums including the Child Safety Coordinating Committee, the Child Protection Reform Leaders Group, and SCAN governance and working group meetings;
 - d. Maintaining ongoing review of policies and procedures, and ensuring compliance with same; and
 - e. Developing mechanisms to raise awareness within the Service of responsibilities for child safety.
5. I hold the positions of the QPS Child Safety Director and QPS CPIU and SCAN State Coordinator. I am the QPS representative on the Queensland Child Death Review Board, and a member and previous chair of the Australia New Zealand Child Protection Working Group. I am the QPS representative on multiple other child protection and vulnerable person related committees and working groups across government.
6. I am the Chair of the Australian New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency (**ANZPAA**) Sexual Violence Specialist Advisory Group, which is responsible for advancing the national policing response to sexual violence.
7. I am aware the Commission of Inquiry into the Child Safety System (**the Commission**) has invited relevant witnesses to provide evidence ahead of the public hearing scheduled to take place in Cairns from 8 September 2025.
8. I have prepared this statement to provide the Commission with an overview of the QPS' roles and responsibilities in child protection and of its intersection with youth justice.

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9. I am aware that additional statements are being prepared by other QPS witnesses to inform the Commission of regional issues relevant to the QPS in the Far North Region, which will include more specific detail from those officers' perspectives.

QPS organisational structure

10. The QPS is the primary law enforcement agency for the State of Queensland. Section 2.3 of the *Police Service Administration Act 1990 (PSAA)* outlines the QPS functions, which include the preservation of peace and good order, the prevention and detection of crime, and the protection of all communities in the State and all members of those communities.
11. QPS officers predominantly exercise powers under the provisions of the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 (PPRA)* and are guided by policy contained in the OPM. Officers also administer functions and exercise powers under a broad range of State and Commonwealth legislation.
12. The QPS delivers a 24-hour, seven-days-a-week policing service, including a first response to reported crime. This service has continued during a time of rapid population growth and unprecedented health and natural disasters, which have increased demands for services and placed pressures on the allocation of available policing resources.
13. The policing environment in Queensland has entered a phase of significant transformation where traditional policing services are being challenged to meet the increasing complexity of policing demand. This transformation is driven by shifting community expectations and rapid technological innovation impacting policing and service delivery in a broader context. The growth of powers and obligations contained in the PPRA demonstrates the expanded legislative responsibilities placed on QPS members since the inception of the PPRA.
14. Additionally, there has been an increasing reliance on QPS to carry out non-core functions. These include activities that fall outside conventional law enforcement but have, over time, been taken up by the Service, often at the convenience of other departments or in response to community demands.



15. The QPS organisational chart (attached and marked **DOC-01**) reflects the depth and breadth of QPS responsibilities.
16. Chapter 1 of the OPM, particularly section 1.4, details the structure of the QPS and the responsibilities of key organisational leaders. The QPS structure includes commands, regions, districts, patrol groups, divisions and establishments, each of which have officers appointed at various levels of leadership with assigned responsibilities.
17. There are seven (7) police regions and 15 police districts, supported by specialist commands including the CIC and the Domestic and Family Violence and Vulnerable Persons Command.
18. Each command and region is led and managed by an Assistant Commissioner, to provide a decentralised law enforcement response across the State, to meet the demands of their local communities. In addition, each region is supported by a Regional Crime Coordinator who is the regional representative on all major criminal investigations, and has responsibility for emerging crime issues, the development and training of plain clothes officers, the development of investigative organisational structures and other matters as determined necessary by the Assistant Commissioner.
19. The responsibilities of the Assistant Commissioner, Crime and Intelligence Command, set out within section 1.4.3 of the OPM, includes providing strategic leadership and maintaining overarching responsibility for the prevention, disruption, response and investigation of statewide criminal activity and organised crime networks. This role oversees five specialist crime groups including the Child Abuse and Sexual Crime Group, and two intelligence groups, with a team of over 750 staff in Brisbane as well as regional locations across the state.
20. As at 30 June 2025, the total number of full-time equivalent staff (FTE) in the QPS was 18,703. This consists of 12,323 sworn officers, 5,667 staff members (including Marine Rescue Queensland (35 FTE) and State Emergency Service (188 FTE)), 677 recruits and 34 special constables.
21. General duties police officers provide the first response to the community supported by specialist investigative resources including district CPIU and CIB, and CIC crime groups.



22. There are a range of other specialist resources available to support policing responses to the community, including Vulnerable Persons units, Domestic and Family Violence units, the First Nations and Multicultural Affairs unit, First Nations police liaison officers and cross-cultural liaison officers.

The role of the CPIU

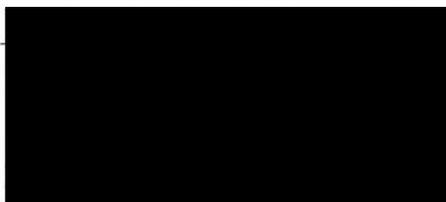
23. The CPIU format is unique in Australia and is staffed by highly trained, skilled and professional investigators. All police regions have CPIU officers who provide a specialist policing response, primarily focused on the investigation of criminal matters pertaining to child protection, such as the neglect, physical, psychological or sexual abuse of a child. These dedicated officers provide an ongoing response to the safety of children within the community, where a situation has escalated to a point when police are required to respond.

24. The QPS operates a network of **CPIUs** across the state. However, investigations into offences against children may also be conducted by CIBs or local stations, with support from CPIU investigators. The structure and responsibilities of CPIUs vary by region and district, with some units addressing both child protection and youth related crime, while others focus solely on child protection and sexual offences.

25. There are currently 33 CPIUs and 9 CIBs with specific child protection responsibilities. Where there is no CPIU office available, the local CIB will assume responsibility for the investigation. If there is no CIB office, first response police will undertake the investigation (at least initially) with specialist assistance provided remotely.

26. Currently staffing levels across all CPIUs is 586 sworn full-time equivalents (92% capacity, with an approved total FTE of 638 for 2024/2025).

27. Consistent with section 2.3 PSAA, the functions of the QPS includes protecting the community and bringing offenders to justice. From a child protection perspective, the role of the QPS is primarily outlined in Chapter 2, Part 1 of the *Child Protection Act 1999 (CP Act)* which provides the QPS with powers to assess and investigate allegations of harm or risk of harm to a child, as well as powers to take action to protect children from harm and exercise other related powers when required.



28. The QPS' primary function within the child protection system is the provision of investigative expertise. Generally, investigations fall into the broad categories of sexual abuse, physical abuse, and serious neglect, and online child exploitation where there is a suspected criminal offence committed against children (generally up to 16 years old).
29. The role and functions of the CPIU have grown over time to accommodate government and community expectations. The responsibilities have increased in response to legislative and policy change, responding directly to emerging social issues, and undertaking work on behalf of other agencies, particularly after hours and in rural and remote areas where those agencies have no physical presence.

The role of the SCAN Team System

30. The Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (**SCAN**) Team system enables a multi-agency response where statutory intervention is required to assess and meet the protection needs of children.
31. The CP Act, chapter 5A, sections 159I–159L, provides the legislative basis for the establishment of the SCAN team system, which is the responsibility of the Chief Executive of Child Safety.
32. The multi-disciplinary SCAN teams comprise core members from the Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety (**Child Safety**), Department of Health, Department of Education and the QPS. These QPS officers and departmental personnel bring their own experience and expertise to the discussion. Other invited agencies/individuals may also attend meetings when required.
33. Child Safety have responsibility for the SCAN Team System Manual, with input provided by all core members. The Manual provides guidance to SCAN Teams on procedures and activities undertaken by SCAN teams.
34. In accordance with the CP Act, SCAN team core members have a legislative responsibility to, *“contribute to the operation of the SCAN system through representatives who have appropriate knowledge and experience in child protection; use their best endeavours to agree on recommendations to give to the chief executive about assessing and responding to the protection needs of children; share relevant*

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information about the children, their families and other relevant persons; identify relevant resources of members or other entities; take action as required under the recommendations, monitor the implementation of recommendations and review their effectiveness; invite and facilitate contributions from other service providers with knowledge, experience or resources that would help achieve the purpose of the SCAN system.”

35. More specific detail on the roles and functions of QPS SCAN team representatives is contained in Chapter 7.10 of the OPM.
36. The QPS is also represented on the SCAN Improvement Working Group, which looks to continually improve how the SCAN system responds to children’s protection needs. In October 2024, the SCAN team strategic governance oversight group was established, with the primary purpose being to provide multi-agency leadership and strategic management of the SCAN team system to improve the quality, effectiveness and performance of the system in achieving multiagency coordinated responses for the children and young people of Queensland.

The role of the Child Abuse and Sexual Crime Group

37. The CASCAG, is one of five specialist crime groups within the Crime and Intelligence Command and as outlined in paragraph 3 of this statement, has capability ownership responsibilities for child protection including online child exploitation, sexual violence, and the operation of the Queensland Child Protection Register (CPR). The group provides specialist investigative and organisational capabilities, supporting police across the State and is the primary engagement point for national and international agencies. CASCAG consists of seven specialist capability units: Argos, the Child Protection Offender Registry, Child Trauma Unit, Sexual Crimes Unit, the Child Death Review Unit, the Policy and Programs Unit and the Sexual Violence Response Team.
38. At full strength, the CASCAG operates with a combination of 81 sworn officers and 31 staff members, providing specialist investigative, policy and administrative services supporting its Statewide capability responsibilities.
39. Argos is principally responsible for the investigation of organised paedophilia, child exploitation and computer facilitated child exploitation. The unit investigates serial



or organised paedophilia crossing state or jurisdictional boundaries and conducts proactive and reactive investigations targeting child sex offenders utilising the internet to offend against children and to possess, produce and distribute child exploitation material. The unit is world recognised as leaders in online victim identification and are responsible for building the statewide capability of CPIU's to also investigate online child exploitation offences by providing specialist training and tools.

40. The Child Trauma Unit (**CTU**) provides assistance across the state to police regions in responsible for investigating sudden unexplained deaths of children, suspicious deaths and serious injury resulting from suspected child abuse and/or neglect. The unit members are specialists in investigations into infant abuse head trauma, multiple injury deaths and grievous bodily harm to children.
41. The Sexual Crime Unit (**SCU**) investigates serious or complex cases of serial rape and sexual assault and provides specialist investigative assistance to regional counterparts. SCU is the central point of contact for intrastate, interstate, international, government and industry partners for matters pertaining to sexual violence and has responsibility for the Alternate Reporting Options (**ARO**) service. ARO provides the option to victims of sexual assault to provide police with the full circumstances of their assault with the option of remaining anonymous.
42. The Child Protection Offender Registry (**CPOR**) assists in the management and investigation of reportable offenders (registered offenders who have committed sexual, or other particular serious offences against children) residing within the community, utilising prevention, disruption and enforcement strategies. CPOR provides statewide capability coordination which includes supporting regional CPOR officers and maintaining Queensland's child protection register.
43. The Child Death review Unit (CDRU) is responsible for meeting the QPS obligations regarding child death reviews as established in the CP Act. The Child Death Review Board (**CDRB**) was established on 1 July 2020 to implement a revised independent model for reviewing the deaths of children known to the child protection system. The QPS representative on the CDRB is the Detective Superintendent, CASCG.

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44. Amendments to the CP Act require relevant government agencies, including the QPS, to conduct the agency's internal systems and practices following the death or serious injury of a child known to the Queensland child protection system within the preceding 12 months. This responsibility is undertaken by the CDRU on behalf of the Service.
45. The Policy and Programs Unit (**PPU**) undertakes a broad range of strategic policy, training and corporate functions on behalf of the QPS statewide, focusing on all aspects of child protection response as they relate to the QPS.
46. Similar to the PPU, the Sexual Violence Response Team undertakes a broad range of strategic policy, training and corporate functions on behalf of the QPS across Queensland, focusing on all aspects of sexual violence response as they relate to the QPS.

Operational Procedures Manual

47. The OPM provides members of the QPS with guidance and instruction for operational policing. It includes reference to other QPS policies, manuals, instructions and resources, and is designed to complement local procedures as well as legislative powers and responsibilities.
48. While members of the QPS are expected to comply with the OPM, it is also acknowledged that in operational policing, there may be a requirement for policies and procedures to be adapted to circumstances as they arise.
49. The following chapters of the OPM relate to the QPS' roles and functions regarding child protection and youth justice:
- a. Chapter 1.7 – Community based policing strategies (e.g. 1.7.4, 1.7.5, 1.7.6, 1.7.7, 1.7.8)
 - b. Chapter 1.9 – Confidentiality of information
 - c. Chapter 2.7 – CIC (especially 2.7.3)
 - d. Chapter 2.12 – Victims of Crime
 - e. Chapter 2.19 – Specialist support

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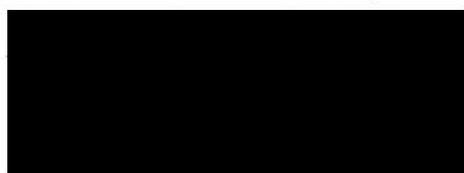
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- f. Chapter 5 – Children
- g. Chapter 7 – Child Harm
- h. Chapter 9.8 – Children involved in or exposed to domestic and family violence
- i. Chapter 10.4.22 – Escort of children
- j. Chapter 12 – Missing Persons (esp Ch 12.6 Amber alerts)
- k. Chapter 13.11.13 – permitting young person to be at place used for commercial sexual services
- l. Chapter 13.14.2 – Recovery of suspected stolen property from DoE
- m. Chapter 13.28 – Education (General Provisions) Act
- n. Chapter 13.32 – Social Media

Child Protection legislative framework

50. While the PSAA and PPRA are the legislative instruments that predominantly govern the QPS' administration and exercise of powers, the QPS operates in a very broad legislative framework that includes the *Child Protection Act 1999 (CP Act)*, which underpins Queensland's child protection system.
51. The Service is committed to working collaboratively with government and non-government organisations that have the responsibility and expertise in the provision of child protection and support services outside the ambit of the Service's primary criminal investigation responsibility.
52. Child Safety is the lead agency in Queensland's child protection system and has ownership of the CP Act. The CP Act introduces concepts of relevance to police, which include:
- a. responding to children at risk of harm (including mandatory and non-mandatory reporting to Child Safety and referrals to Family and Child Connect services);



- b. responding to children in immediate need of protection, including through temporary assessment orders (**TAOs**) and assisting Child Safety with the administration of court assessment orders (**CAOs**);
- c. the SCAN system; and
- d. interstate child protection warrants.

Information sharing between QPS and Child Safety

53. Information sharing between the QPS and Child Safety is primarily governed by the CP Act. The Police Commissioner is a prescribed entity for the purposes of the information sharing provisions in Chapter 5A of the CP Act (see s 159M of the CP Act).
54. In 2022, section 186B was inserted into the CP Act to allow QPS to obtain notifier details for the prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution or punishment of a criminal offence against a child.
55. The QPS has previously advocated for significant review of the information sharing provisions in the CP Act. The current provisions are complex and difficult to interpret in respect of what information can be shared, with whom, and under what circumstances.
56. QPS launched the Self Service of Document Retrieval (**SSODR**) Portal on 20 January 2020, following an initial pilot in the Child Safety After-Hours Service Centre in December 2019. The SSODR Portal allows for Child Safety staff at Team Leader level or above to retrieve QPRIME information limited to a person's Queensland Person History Report, Queensland Domestic Violence Summary and Conditions Report and the Modus Operandi Report from finalised domestic violence occurrences. The purpose of the SSODR Portal is to expedite information sharing between QPS and Child Safety, and reduce the number of information requests being made to the QPS by Child Safety.
57. QPS has access to the Our Child Portal, a secure website that enables police officers to access certain information when investigating a child reported as missing from care and must input a reason and/or QP number to justify access. Our Child Portal contains



live data from databases held by Child Safety, the Department of Education, Office of the Public Guardian (**OPG**) and Queensland Health. The information available on Our Child Portal includes:

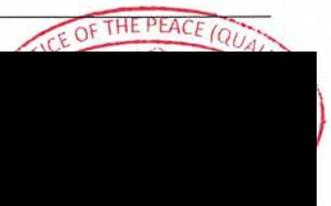
- i. the child's identifying particulars (including a recent photo);
- ii. details of the child's current residential placement;
- iii. key relationships and contacts, including the relevant Child Safety Officers, carers, family members and associates;
- iv. If the child is attending a state school, information from the OneSchool system including attendance records and absences;
- v. Youth Justice information including court orders, restorative justice events, contacts and arrests;
- vi. Information regarding the last community visit from OPG; and
- vii. Information regarding any presentation to a Queensland Health facility in the previous 10 days.

58. Additionally, Child Safety is to immediately notify QPS where there is a reasonable belief that alleged harm to a child involves the commission of a criminal offence relating to the child.

Child Harm Referral policy

59. In response to recommendations from the Carmody Report, and in partnership with Child Safety, the QPS undertook policy reform including the introduction of a Child Harm Referral policy on 1 January 2015. This revoked the existing QPS policy to report all instances of exposure of a child to domestic and family violence to Child Safety.

60. In cooperation with Child Safety, this approach was reviewed in 2024 in response to recommendation 3 of the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability to determine whether mandatory reporting should be expanded to all QPS officers. Both agencies determined that the current reporting process should remain in place.



61. Consistent with the mandatory reporting obligations provided for within section 13E of the CP Act, only certain QPS officers hold the responsibility to provide Child Safety with a written report known as a child harm referral. Section 7.3.1 of the OPM outlines the following police are responsible for making mandatory reports to Child Safety on behalf of the Service:
- a. the OIC of a SCAN team which reviews a reported Child Harm Report occurrence;
 - b. the OIC of the CPIU responsible for investigating a child harm criminal complaint;
 - c. where a CPIU does not exist, the OIC of the local CIB responsible for investigating the child harm criminal complaint; or
 - d. where a CPIU and a CIB does not exist, the OIC of the station responsible for investigating the child harm criminal complaint.
62. QPS members at all levels and in every interaction are encouraged to use their own experience and understanding to identify concerns for children and to report those concerns as outlined in policy.
63. An officer is required to complete a child harm report via QPRIME (also referred to by the QPRIME code 0520) under the following circumstances:
- a. An officer reasonably suspects a child has suffered, is suffering, or is at an unacceptable risk of suffering significant harm, and the child may not have a parent who is both willing and able to protect them from that harm;
 - b. An officer holds serious concerns for a child's wellbeing. Serious concerns for a child's wellbeing are defined in section 7.1 of the OPM as "those concerns that do not amount to significant child harm requiring Child Safety intervention but a member earnestly and sincerely requires a community-based support agency having contact with a family to offer support to address the serious concerns identified"; and
 - c. Supporting s. 21A: 'Unborn children' of the CP Act, an officer reasonably suspects an unborn child may be in need of protection after birth.



64. Upon an officer completing a Child Harm Report, it is assessed by the relevant SCAN, CPIU, CIB or station OIC (mandatory reporter as per paragraph 61) to determine the most appropriate response. The reviewing officer will add value to the report by reviewing the QPS involvement with the child/ren and family and identify any child protection concerns, and whether these concerns meet the threshold for a report to Child Safety.

65. Depending on that review, any concerns can be:

- a. reported to Child Safety if it is deemed to be significant harm (or risk of significant harm);
- b. referred to the Family and Child Connect (**FaCC**) service if there are serious concerns for the child's wellbeing (but does not meet the threshold of significant harm). FaCC is a community-based intake and referral service able to connect families with local support services; or
- c. no further action is taken. The reasons for no further action can include that the family has accepted a referral to support services, or there are no serious concerns for the wellbeing of the child/ren.

DL 66. A flowchart depicting the process of child harm reporting is attached. *AND MARKED DOC-02.*

67. The QPS Child Harm Referral policy is continually reviewed to ensure officers have sufficient guidance to make considered decisions about when to report concerns about the wellbeing of a child.

Training and development

68. The QPS provides a range of child protection-related training to QPS officers, including specialist investigators. Training is also provided on related areas, such as sexual violence and domestic and family violence.

69. Specialist investigations training provided to CPIU and CIB officers includes:

- a. Child Protection and Youth Justice Specialist Investigator's Course;
- b. Interviewing Children and Recording Evidence (**ICARE**) training (child protection investigations specific);

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- c. Investigative Interviewing;
- d. Investigating Sexual Assault – Corroborating and Understanding Relationship Evidence (**ISACURE**);
- e. Fundamentals of Child Interviewing Skills (**FoCIS**);
- f. Child Sexual Abuse Fundamentals Education (**CSAFE**) Online Learning Product (**OLP**). CSAFE is the first in a series of products directed at all police officers from the rank of Constable to Inspector and staff members performing roles as Client Service Officers (Policelink) and Station Client Service Officers (front counters) to respond effectively to initial disclosures of abuse.

Sexual violence/trauma/victim-focused training

70. In addition to the aforementioned training, the QPS provides a suite of victim-centric and trauma-informed training products to improve the QPS response to victims of sexual violence at all levels.

- a. The Challenging Beliefs, Inferences, Attitudes, and Stereotypes (**CBIAS**) training package was developed in partnership with the University of Queensland in support of recommendations from the Royal Commission Into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and aligns with the ‘start by believing’ philosophy. CBIAS training is designed to assist investigators to respond more effectively when interacting with complainants of domestic and family violence, adult sexual assault, and child sexual abuse.
- b. Empathy in Action training is directed at all police officers from the rank of Constable to superintendent and staff members performing roles as Client Service Officers (Policelink) and Station Client Service Officers (front counters) to improve QPS member responses (including frontline police and counter staff) for all persons (i.e., women, First Nations persons, LGBTIQ+ persons, persons with cultural and linguistically diverse backgrounds, persons with a disability, children) who seek help. This course focuses on reports of sexual violence.

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71. Additionally, generalist investigators receive blended training (online and face to face) as part of Detective Training Program (phase 2) addressing:
- a. Biases and decision-making;
 - b. Myths and misperceptions of child sexual abuse, sexual violence, and domestic and family violence;
 - c. Trauma and complex trauma;
 - d. Vicarious trauma and self-care.
72. There is also contribution in the domestic and family violence trial for video recorded evidence (**VRE**) related to Trauma Informed Practice and Victim Centric approaches.
73. Training in the Child Protection & Youth Justice Investigation Course (**CPYJIC**) has a strong focus on adverse childhood experiences and the connection to mental health, violence traits and youth offending.
74. The Investigations and Intelligence Training Unit (**IITU**) also provides specialist training to intelligence officers with multiple courses about sexual violence and DFV-related sexual violence by teaching collection, analysis, tactics and long-term strategies designed to prevent and disrupt. Training is also provided in clusters, trending and mapping. Darknet training is also used to target child sex offence trends, collection of evidence/information and offence detection.

QPS intersections with youth justice

75. When engaging with young people and families, the QPS may also be required to exercise powers under the *Youth Justice Act 1992 (YJ Act)* and *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012 (DFVP Act)*. This includes administering specific information sharing provisions and contributing to multi-agency panels or teams to respond to the complex needs of children and their families, including youth justice multi-agency collaborative panels (**MACP**) and DFV multi-agency high-risk teams (**HRT**).
76. The QPS has a dedicated Youth Crime Group (**YCG**), responsible for the organisational capability for youth justice. YCG is a separate group within CIC.



77. A considered and comprehensive approach to tackling youth crime, requires the QPS to work with its partners to ensure effective and appropriate interventions for young people involved in, or at risk of involvement in, the criminal justice system. The QPS is committed to advancing a 'whole of system' approach to address the underlying causes of youth crime whilst ensuring it dedicates its finite resources where they are needed and most suited to break the cycle of offending.
78. Because the drivers of youth crime are complex and often multi-faceted, there is no universal solution to reducing offending. Police responses – whether through prevention, early intervention, diversion, enforcement, or detention – must be developed and implemented at the right time and for the right reasons.
79. The QPS recognises strong enforcement action may be necessary and the correct course of action to ensure community safety, including the requirement to detain young people in custody. Alternatively, a punitive approach is not always the most effective way to address youth crime and anti-social behaviours and is particularly relevant for 'at risk' or early offenders which could result in negative long-term consequences.
80. In its response to youth crime, the QPS takes a scaled approach, prioritising its efforts and resources appropriate to the young person's assessed risk of harm and risk of reoffending. The response to high-harm offenders cannot solely be the role of the police; it requires the involvement of community and partner agencies to holistically address a young person's risks and criminogenic needs and to facilitate access to appropriate support services. The QPS leverages partnerships to respond, intervene and divert high-harm offenders, to reduce their impact on the community.

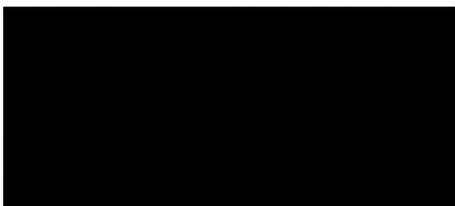
MACP System

81. Similar to SCAN, the QPS is a core member of the MACP system, which brings together key government agencies and non-government services to provide a coordinated response to young people identified as serious repeat and highest risk offenders.
82. MACP is established under Part 8A of the YJ Act and includes information sharing provisions, similar to those provided for under the CP Act.

83. The purpose of the MACP system is to coordinate the provision of services, including assessments and referrals, to meet the needs of particular children charged with offences or at risk of being charged with offences.

Youth Co-Responder Teams

84. The Youth Co-Responder Teams (YCRT) are a joint initiative between the QPS and Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support. Dedicated teams of police officers and Youth Justice workers provide a targeted and coordinated response to young people (aged 10-17) who have contact, or are at risk of contact, with the criminal justice system. Youth Co-Responder Teams operate in all 15 police districts.

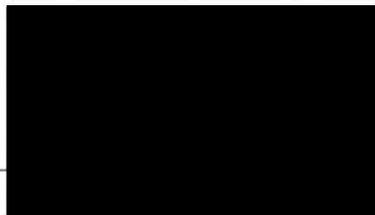


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Justices Act 1886

I acknowledge by virtue of section 110A(6C)(c) of the *Justices Act 1886* that:

- (1) This written statement by me dated 2nd September 2025 **Error! Reference source not found. and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 18** is true to the best of my knowledge and belief; and
- (2) I make this statement knowing that I may be liable to prosecution for stating in it anything that I know is false.



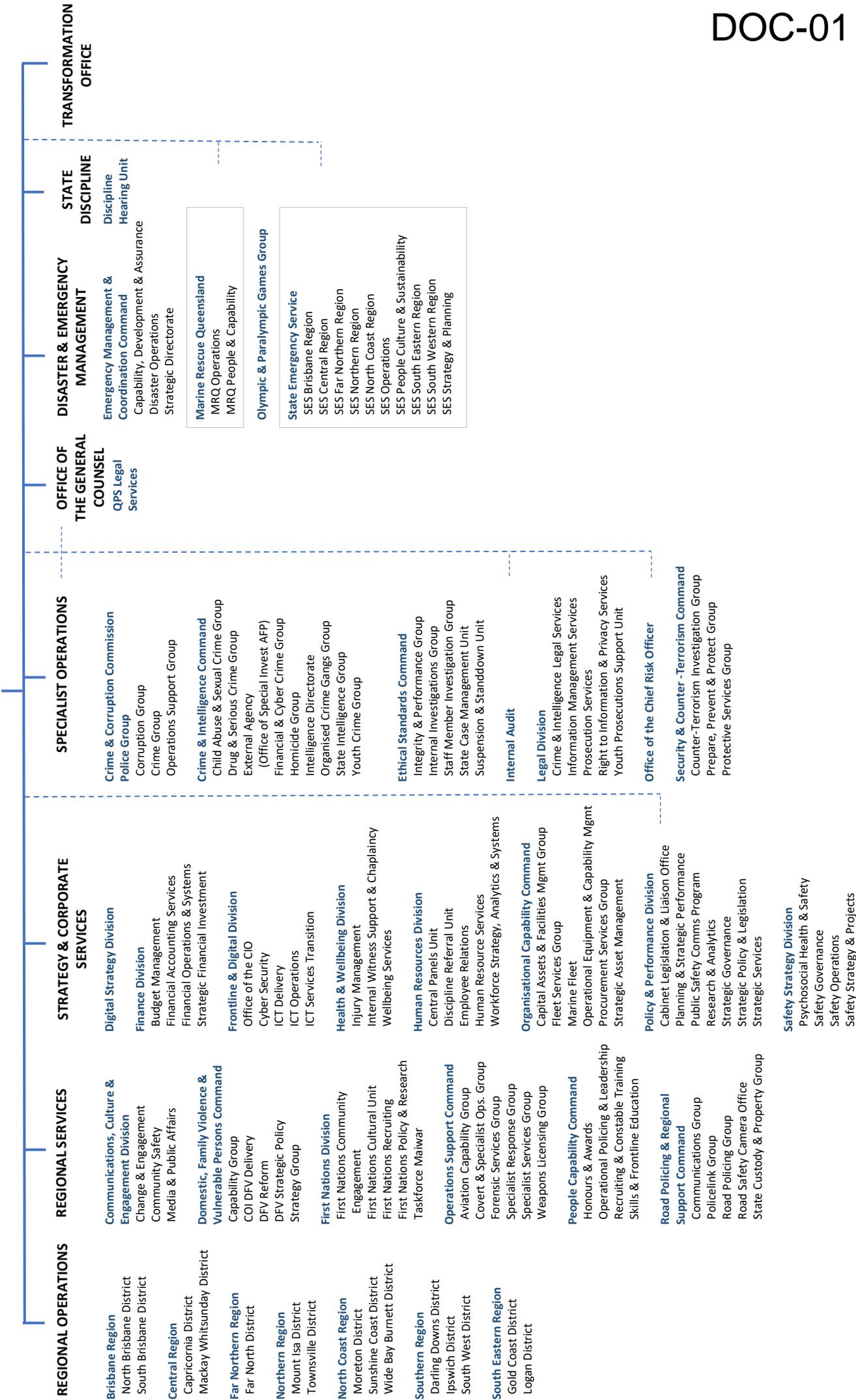
Signature

Signed at Brisbane this 10th day of September, 2025
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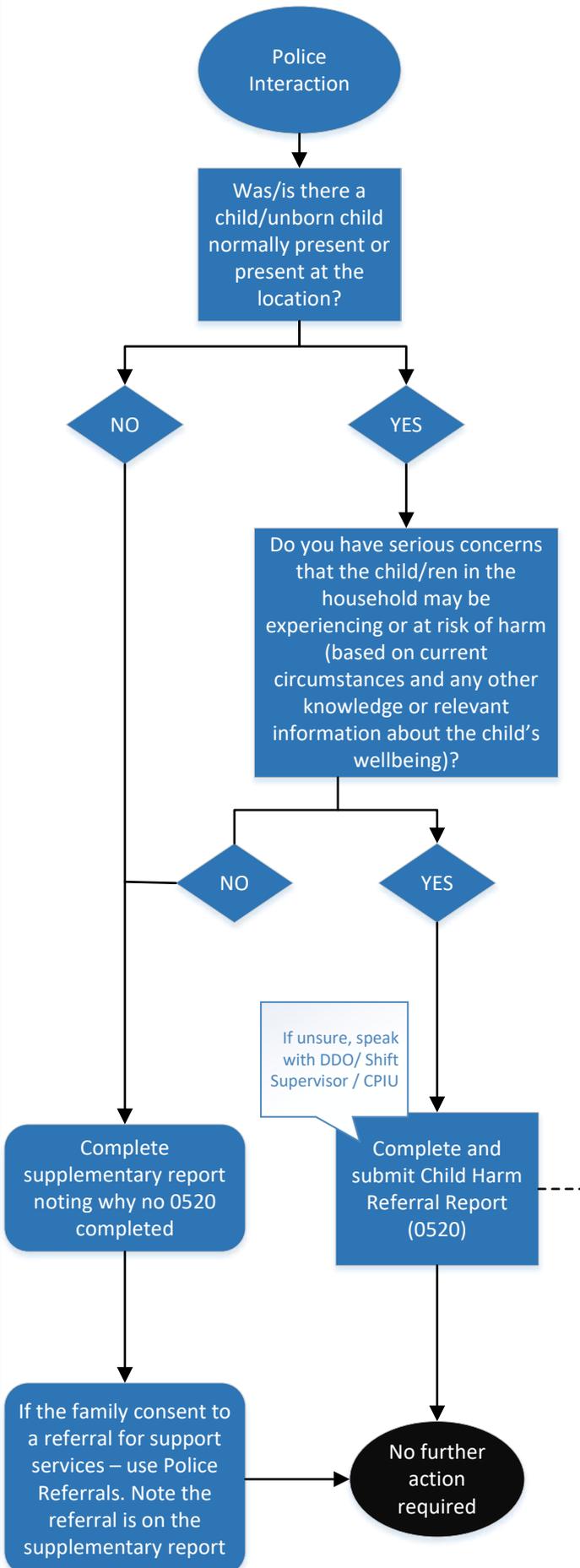




COMMISSIONER OF POLICE



FIRST RESPONSE



SCAN / CPIU

