



Child Safety Inquiry – The important role culturally responsive data and information systems will play in reforming Queensland’s broken child protection system

Submission from the IUIH Network

March 2026



Moreton
ATSICHS



Yulu-Burri-Ba
Aboriginal Community and Family Health



KALWUN



PAMELA MAM
HEALTH CENTRE

Acknowledgement of Country

We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands of the many Goori Nations, whose ancestral lands and waters we have the privilege to live and work across here in Southeast Queensland.

We pay our deepest respects to their Elders, past and present, and recognise their continuing connection to culture, community, and Country.

The Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (IUIH) Network acknowledges and pays our deepest respects to Elders past and present throughout the country. We recognise and acknowledge the sovereignty of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the original custodians of the country. We also extend our respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and acknowledge their unique and valuable contributions to our society.

Terminology

Throughout this submission, the terms Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, First Nations and Indigenous are used interchangeably with respect towards the diversity of cultures and identities across Queensland and Australia.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures are persistent and enduring, continuing unbroken from the past to the present, characterised by resilience and a strong sense of purpose and identity despite the undeniably negative impacts of colonisation and dispossession. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people throughout the country represent a diverse range of people, communities and groups, each with unique identities, cultural practices and spiritualities. We recognise that past and present practices and policies have significantly impacted the current health status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

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Abbreviations

AMS	Aboriginal Medical Service
ATSICHS Brisbane	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service, Brisbane
ATSICPP	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle
BiOC	Birth in Our Community
CHQ	Children’s Health Queensland
CSO	Child Safe Organisation
ED	Emergency department
FC4F	Family Caring for Family program (ATSICHS Brisbane)
FLDM	Family Led Decision Making
IUIH	Institute for Urban Indigenous Health
Kalwun	Kalwun Development Corporation
MATSICHS	Moreton Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Service
OOHC	Out-of-home care
QATSICPP	Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak
WAYS	Wrap Around Youth Service
Yulu-Burri-Ba	Yulu-Burri-Ba Aboriginal Corporation for Community Health

About UIIH & UIIH Network

Established in 2009, the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (UIIH) is a regional, non-for-profit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Health Organisation constituted by three Community Controlled Health Organisations in South East Queensland:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service Brisbane (ATSICHS Brisbane)
- Kalwun Development Corporation (Kalwun)
- Yulu-Burri-Ba Aboriginal Corporation for Community Health (Yulu-Burri-Ba)

Collectively, these organisations are known as the UIIH Network. Each UIIH Network organisation retains its own governance, with UIIH acting as the regional ‘backbone’ for the Network.

UIIH also operates the Moreton Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Service (five clinics), the Pamela Mam Health Centre (Goodna) and a Registered Training Organisation: EMPOWA Training.

This regional approach is a contemporary renewal of traditional ways of belonging, when for thousands of years, Aboriginal clans, tribes and communities across our region had come together to achieve shared and cross-territorial goals.

The UIIH Network service footprint is in Australia’s largest and second fastest growing Indigenous region. Nationally, nearly 1 in 8 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people live in South East Queensland and in 2025 the region has an estimated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population of 127,869 persons, projected to grow to 148,902 persons by 2031.¹

Through regional planning, service development, advocacy, purchasing and commissioning, alongside a coordinated approach to service delivery known as the *UIIH System of Care*, UIIH works with and for its Network partner organisations to achieve transformational change for our community, including:

- increasing the number of clinics operated by the UIIH Network from 5 to 17
- increasing regular clients from 8,000 to over 40,000
- closing the health-adjusted life expectancy gap 2.3 times faster than predicted trajectories²
- employing over 1000 staff, with half identifying as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

The UIIH Network has vast experience working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families in child protection matters across South East Queensland (Appendix 1). The UIIH Network focuses on strengthening and empowering our families – *on their terms* – to prevent and respond to child protection matters. Child Safety interface, and the risk of Child Safety involvement, has tremendous health and wellbeing consequence on our families and across generations.



¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2024) *Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians: Estimates and projections of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population for 2011-2031* (Table 21). Brisbane Indigenous Region (IREG), medium series estimates.

² Independent Study Dr Stephen Begg, LaTrobe University.

Background to the UIH Network submission

It has been more than a decade since the last State Government Inquiry into Queensland’s child protection system (the Carmody Inquiry, 2012) but there has been little felt impact or tangible change for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people, their families, their Communities **It is unconscionable that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in Queensland continue to be disproportionately overrepresented in the State’s child protection system.**³ Thus, the work of *this* Commission of Inquiry is time critical.

The forcible removal by government of any child from their home remains one of the most devastating life events, and the forcible separation of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child from their family, kin, and community into OOHC should be an intervention of absolute last resort.⁴

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children removed from their families experience poorer psychological, physical, and social outcomes than their non-Indigenous counterpart.⁵

Cultural connection is a fundamental protective factor in child development for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people; and especially for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in OOHC.⁶

It is painfully obvious to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities why OOHC for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people must be led by Community-Controlled service providers.⁷ **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled Organisations throughout Queensland are best equipped to protect and promote the cultural connection and safety of Indigenous children and young people in OOHC, and the Community-Controlled sector must play a leadership role.**⁸ Where a child has been removed, “*priority and resources must be given to working with families and Community-Controlled organisations to achieve family reunification or finding supportive kin who can care for the child*”.⁹ Governments (State and Federal) have committed, through Closing the Gap, to systematic and structural transformation of mainstream government agencies and institutions to ensure they are culturally safe and responsive to the needs and priorities of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

A critical step is transitioning leadership of child protection matters that are about us to us.

³ Our children and young people are more than 5 times as likely to have a child protection notification and over 10 times as likely to be in out-of-home care (OOHC) or subject to a third-party parental responsibility order compared to non-Indigenous children: See SNAICC – National Voice for our Children (2024) *Family Matters Report 2024*. Available: <https://www.snaicc.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/250207-Family-Matters-Report-2024.pdf>.

⁴ Sammut J (2010) The fog of child protection politics. *Journal of Public Policy* 26(2):41–44; UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989).

⁵ Barber JG et al (2000) Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children in out-of-home care. *Children Australia* 25(3):5–10.

⁶ Krakouer J et al (2022) Resistance to Assimilation: Expanding Understandings of First Nations Cultural Connection in Child Protection and Out-of-home Care. *Australian Social Work Journal* 76(3):343–357; Hunter SA et al (2021) A conceptual model of protective factors within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture that build strength. *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology* 52(8–9):726–751; Krakouer J et al (2018) “We live and breathe through culture”: Conceptualising cultural connection for Indigenous children in out-of-home care. *Australian Social Work Journal* 71(3):265–276.

⁷ See (e.g.) Bath H & Seita J (2018) *The three pillars of transforming care*. UW Faculty of Education Publishing, The University of Winnipeg: Canada; Anaya J (2010) Observations on the Northern Territory emergency response in Australia (February 2010). UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people. Available: https://www.ncca.org.au/files/Natsiec/NTER_Observations_FINAL_by_SR_Anaya_.pdf; Perche D (2017) Ten Years on, it’s time we learned the lessons from the failed northern territory intervention. *The Conversation* (Online) (June 26).

⁸ Creamer S et al (2022) Indigenous services leading the way for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care. *Social Work and Education Journal* Available: <https://doi.org/10.1080/02615479.2022.2155129>.

⁹ Lewis N (2025) Submission to the Commission of Inquiry into Queensland’s Child Safety System | *Adequacy of existing complaints systems, procedures, and incident reporting guidelines for children under the care of the state*. 1 August 2025.

The UIIH Network is committed to reducing the over-representation of Indigenous children in Queensland’s child protection system. We know that the current child protection system is not working for Community. We support collective efforts to achieve the ‘Our Way’ vision that all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in Queensland grow up safe and cared for in Family, Community, and Culture.¹⁰

As a collective body of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled health organizations, the UIIH Network supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families who are navigating child protection involvement, OOHC and, in many cases, contact with the youth justice system. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children continue to be significantly overrepresented in both the child protection *and* youth justice systems. This overrepresentation is not the result of cultural failure or poor parenting, but reflects the ongoing impacts of colonization, intergenerational trauma, systemic racism and policies that continue to separate children from family, culture and community.

The following submission is informed by extensive consultation with UIIH Network partner organisations ATSIHCS Brisbane, Moreton ATSIHCS, Yulu-Burri-Ba and Kalwun. A broad cross-section of staff who interface with Child Safety have been consulted, including General Managers, Kinship Care Managers, Youth Services Managers, UIIH Legal Services Manager, Clinic Practice Managers, and Healthcare Quality and Safety Coordinators. The perspectives shared in this submission are grounded in lived experience, cultural knowledge, and frontline practice.

This submission serves to reinforce to the Commission of Inquiry the significance of grounding Queensland child protection system reform in information, data and evidence that reflects and actions the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle (ATSICPP), embedded as a matter of law in the *Child Protection Act 1999* (Qld). This important reform can be transformative in terms of re-shaping and generating an accountable and transparent child protection system to remedy the current broken system.

¹⁰ Queensland Government. *Our Way | A generational strategy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families 2017 – 2037*. Available: <https://www.families.qld.gov.au/media/documents/aboriginal-torres-strait-islander-families/supporting-families/our-way.pdf>. The second implementation phase of Our Way, *Breaking Cycles 2023-2031*, builds on the foundations for transformational change in the child protection system set under the earlier *Changing Tracks* actions plans, with a focus on changing the way that 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. However, these words on paper need to be put into practice.

IUIH Network Recommendations

Recommendation 1: That the Department of Child Safety urgently retrieves missing data and information on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the child protection system to mitigate decision-making delays and decrease risk of further short and long-term harm to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.

Recommendation 2: That data and information requests from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled Organisations on behalf of clients (with consent), and for systems advocacy, be acted on immediately by the Department of Child Safety and fast-tracked.

Recommendation 3: That the Department of Child Safety partners with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled Organisations to identify the data and information priorities and needs for *and with* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in OOHC, notably the information priorities and data needs that can strengthen ATSI CPP implementation, monitoring and review.

Recommendation 4: That Department of Child Safety data points and datasets should focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child protection outcomes. Capturing outcome-based data would assist the Department of Child Safety and all child protection stakeholders (including the Department of Youth Justice) to better understand how early support, culturally safe practices and services, and Community-Controlled responses contribute to preventing statutory escalation and reducing the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children entering or remaining in OOHC.

Recommendation 5: Following on from Recommendation 4, that the data collected about the Queensland child protection system tell us how the system has affected Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people; and that the voices, perspectives, needs and priorities of the children and young people at the heart of the child protection system are deeply listened to and rapidly acted on.

Recommendation 6: That implementation of the ATSI CPP by all child protection stakeholders, as directed under the *Child Protection Act 1999* (Qld), should always take precedence. It would be improper for stakeholders to wait for consensus on every data point and data systems improvement before taking the necessary and urgent action *now* to improve responses to, and outcomes for, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in OOHC, or from preventing children from entering OOHC where appropriate. Growing over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in Queensland's broken child protection system reinforces - they cannot wait.

IUIH Network submission

Grounding Queensland child protection system reform in data and evidence that reflects and actions the five interconnected elements of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle (ATSICPP)

Missing data on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in OOHC

The IUIH Network considers the Commission of Inquiry into Child Safety in Queensland provides important opportunity to reform Queensland’s *longstanding* and *significant* child protection data gaps and challenges.¹¹

It is deeply alarming that the latest Productivity Commission report on government services shows that critical data on children in Queensland’s child protection system is missing.¹² This is despite Queensland having one of the largest populations of First Nations children in the child protection system,¹³ and the highest number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in residential care in 2025 compared to all other Australian States and Territories.¹⁴ Implementation of the Department of Child Safety’s new client information system in 2025 is allegedly to blame, with the transition to the new ‘Unify’ system meaning the Department was unable to include 2024-25 data in the Productivity Commission’s 2026 report.¹⁵ However, inadequate staff training was reportedly also in issue,¹⁶ as was missing data “that hasn’t migrated [from the old to the new IT system], or if it has migrated, we don’t know where it is”.¹⁷

Missing data on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families over-represented in the OOHC system is tremendously concerning. **Missing data places those children and families at further risk, can and will delay decision-making at every level, and ultimately contributes to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people experiencing exacerbated harm by remaining in OOHC longer than may be necessary.** Loss of data and information is also deeply distressing for families who interface with the

¹¹ The Queensland Ombudsman consistently raised concerns and recommendations around Department of Child Safety data and information systems in its 2016 investigation into the Department’s complaint management practice and processes. See: Queensland Ombudsman (2016) An investigation into the current child safety complaints management processes within the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (July). Available: <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Tabled-Papers/docs/5516t1054/5516t1054.pdf>. In 2022, the Queensland Audit Office raised further concerns around missing data and data quality: Queensland Audit Office (2020) Family support and child protection system Report 1: 2020–21. Performance Audit 4 August 2020. Available: <https://www.gao.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-08/Family%20support%20and%20child%20protection%20system%20%28Report%201%E2%80%942020%E2%80%9321%29.pdf>.

¹² Productivity Commission (Australian Government). Report on Government Services 2026 | 16 Child protection services (webpage). Available: <https://www.pc.gov.au/ongoing/report-on-government-services/community-services/child-protection/>.

¹³ At the end of June 2024 there were 4,961 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in OOHC in Queensland — a rate of 42.9 per 1,000 children. That figure is 9.3 times the rate for non-Indigenous children.

¹⁴ SNAICC (2025) *Family Matters Report 2025 | Strong, loved and full of potential*. See page 13. Available: <https://www.snaicc.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Family-Matters-Report-2025-v3.pdf>.

¹⁵ Brennan D (2026) Queensland Government criticised over Indigenous child protection data missing from national report. *National Indigenous Times* (February 4). Available: <https://nit.com.au/03-02-2026/22456/queensland-government-criticised-over-indigenous-child-protection-data-missing-from-national-report>.

¹⁶ Gillespie E (2026) Thousands of Queensland kids 'put at risk' after IT system failure. *ABC News Online* (February 7). Available: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2026-02-07/queensland-child-safety-system-report/106317554>.

¹⁷ Child Safety Minister Amanda Camm quoted in ABC News article, see: Richards S (2026) Queensland government investigating 'bungled IT system' which may have led to child safety information going missing. *ABC News Online* (September 27). Available: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-09-27/qld-government-it-error-child-safety-department/105823978>.

Department of Child Safety, and **compounds Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community distrust of the Department and government systems [text redacted for public dissemination].**

SNAICC makes clear that Queensland Government failure to nationally report critical child protection data on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children has created “significant gaps in national reporting”.¹⁸ The CEO of SNAICC reinforces -

- **“It is inconceivable that a child protection department can reach a point where it cannot say how many children were in its care or what their experience of that system was when they are responsible for those children and their safety”**
- **“Due to the high population of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in Queensland, we’re deeply concerned about maintaining consistency and transparency when it comes to the number and outcomes of children entering Queensland’s child protection system”**
- **“It will also impact the integrity of the Closing the Gap dashboard data, tracking the progress of Target 12 in reducing the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in [OOHC]”**
- **“Queensland’s data feeds directly into national accountability mechanisms. When that data is missing, transparency is lost”¹⁹ [emphasis added]**

Recommendation 1: That the Department of Child Safety urgently retrieves missing data and information on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the child protection system to mitigate decision-making delays and decrease risk of further short and long-term harm to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.

Improving timely access to data for enhanced oversight of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle (ATSICPP) implementation

The ability for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled Organisations to access timely and quality information from Queensland’s Department of Child Safety, including disaggregated statistics, is critical to meaningfully address individual, systemic, and place-based child protection issues - including identifying and addressing structural and systemic racism and intersectional discrimination. Timely access to data and information is further critical to ensure that the Department of Child Safety and other industry, not-for-profit, and private service providers are implementing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle (ATSICPP) with fidelity and are acting accountably and transparently.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled Organisations will be unable to effectively monitor whether the Child Safety Commission of Inquiry’s recommendations have been implemented or are making transformative impact if crucial information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in OOHC is unavailable to us, or there are unreasonable delays in our ability to access that data and information.

¹⁸ SNAICC (2026) Queensland ‘Drops the Ball’ on Child Protection Data for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children. Media Release (February 3). Available: <https://www.snaicc.org.au/queensland-drops-the-ball-on-child-protection-data-for-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-children/>.

¹⁹ Ibid. The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child has already emphasised that Australia must ensure better data collection covering all areas of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child 1989, in particular relating to children in situations of “alternative care”. United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding Observations on the Combined Fifth and Sixth Periodic Reports of Australia, 82nd sess, UN Doc CRC/C/AUS/CO/5-6 (30 September 2019) para 11(a). Available: <https://docs.un.org/en/CRC/C/AUS/CO/5-6>.

Recommendation 2: That data and information requests from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled Organisations on behalf of clients (with consent), and for systems advocacy, be acted on immediately by the Department of Child Safety and fast-tracked.

Partnering with the Community-Controlled sector to strengthen culturally responsive child protection data and information systems that can measure and monitor Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child outcomes

In its 2024 seminal report on how Australia can transform child justice to improve safety and wellbeing, and of relevance to this Inquiry, the Australian Human Rights Commission outlined that “A considered and coordinated approach between governments and non-government organisations is required to identify all data gaps and to adjust data collection mechanisms”.²⁰

The UIIH Network strongly recommends that Queensland’s Department of Child Safety partners with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled Organisations to identify the data and information priorities and needs for *and with* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in OOHC, notably the priorities and needs that can strengthen ATSI CPP implementation and what/where the key data points might be. Addressing these types of data gaps, in partnership with Community-Controlled organisations and the children and young people at the very heart of Queensland’s broken child protection system, will build trust and facilitate development of Queensland child protection datasets that are ATSI CPP compliant for improved culturally responsive, person-centred, and transformative decision-making, supports, interventions and investment.

For the UIIH Network, types of meaningful data relate to (for example) unborn notifications and newborn removals, service access and engagement, healthcare-related Child Safety interactions, youth justice related Child Safety interactions, transition into adulthood, and opportunities for - and outcomes from - early intervention and prevention prior to statutory involvement. Also, these types of information Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled Organisations are uniquely positioned to contribute to.²¹

Importantly, child protection data should focus not only on outputs but also on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child outcomes. For example, instances where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children have not been removed from their families due to the involvement and support of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled services. This would provide a more meaningful understanding of the preventive impact of these services. In doing so, any approach to data sharing should also be grounded in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data sovereignty principles, ensuring appropriate cultural governance, community oversight and safeguards in how information relating to children, families and communities is collected, interpreted, and used.²² Capturing this type of outcome-based data would assist the Department of Child Safety, the Department of Youth Justice and all child protection stakeholders to better understand how early support, culturally safe services, and Community-Controlled responses contribute to preventing statutory

²⁰ Australian Human Rights Commission (2024). ‘Help way earlier!’: How Australia can transform child justice to improve safety and wellbeing. Sydney: Australian Human Rights Commission.

²¹ Noting that data collection and data sharing is grounded in Indigenous Data Sovereignty principles. See: Maiam nayri Wingara. (2018). Indigenous Data Sovereignty Communique Indigenous Data Sovereignty Summit 20th June 2018, Canberra, ACT. Available: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5b3043afb40b9d20411f3512/t/63ed934fe861fa061ebb9202/1676514134724/Communique-Indigenous-Data-Sovereignty-Summit.pdf>; Maiam nayri Wingara Indigenous Data Sovereignty Collective (2024) Taking Control of Our Data: A Discussion Paper on Indigenous Data Governance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People and Communities. Discussion Paper. Lowitja Institute. Available: <https://www.lowitja.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Taking-Control-of-Our-Data-Discussion-Paper.pdf>.

²² Ibid.

escalation and reducing the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children entering OOHC – outcomes that are not adequately reflected through traditional output based reporting.

Currently, the data collected about the Queensland child protection system does not tell us how the system has affected Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people. For instance, if they were kept *or felt* safe; whether the perspectives of children and young people about their OOHC experience were deeply listened to and their views heard and acted on; if their basic needs and human rights were met; if their health, wellbeing and education were affected; whether or how they were connected to their family and siblings, culture and Country; permanency outcomes for children and young people in OOHC; timeliness and consistency of permanency decision-making; or if they were reunited with their families. It also does not tell us what First Nations children, young people and their families think about their experience in Queensland’s child protection system and the effect they think it had on them.

As Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children remain grossly over-represented in Queensland’s OOHC system, system reform and transformation – a key aim of this Inquiry – surely depends on complete and robust child protection data systems *and* their rigorous analysis *and* the public dissemination of that analysis that is consistent and timely.

Recommendation 3: That the Department of Child Safety partners with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled Organisations to identify the data and information priorities and needs for *and with* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in OOHC, notably the information priorities and data needs that can strengthen ATSI CPP implementation, monitoring and review.

Recommendation 4: That Department of Child Safety data points and datasets should focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child protection outcomes. Capturing outcome-based data would assist the Department of Child Safety and all child protection stakeholders (including the Department of Youth Justice) to better understand how early support, culturally safe practices and services, and Community-Controlled responses contribute to preventing statutory escalation and reducing the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children entering or remaining in OOHC.

Recommendation 5: Following on from Recommendation 4, that the data collected about the Queensland child protection system tell us how the system has affected Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people; and that the voices, perspectives, needs and priorities of the children and young people at the heart of the child protection system are deeply listened to and rapidly acted on.

Recommendation 6: That implementation of the ATSI CPP by all child protection stakeholders, as directed under the *Child Protection Act 1999 (Qld)*, should always take precedence. It would be improper for stakeholders to wait for consensus on every data point and data systems improvement before taking the necessary and urgent action *now* to improve responses to, and outcomes for, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in OOHC, or from preventing children from entering OOHC where appropriate. Growing over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in Queensland’s broken child protection system reinforces - they cannot wait.

Appendix 1.

[Text redacted for public dissemination]