



Office of the
Premier of Queensland
Minister for the Arts

For reply please quote: *SocPol/CB – TF/17/1763 – DOC/17/49675*

2 JUN 2017

Website www.thepremier.qld.gov.au

Ms Megan Mitchell
National Children's Commissioner

Dear Ms Mitchell

Thank you for your letter of 8 February 2017 inviting the Premier to provide details on the education, health, and welfare policies, programs and services relating to young parents and children currently in place within Queensland. I have been requested to reply to you on behalf of the Premier and I apologise for the lengthy delay in responding.

The Queensland Government is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of Queensland's children and young people. The Queensland Government acknowledges that young parents and their children are sometimes vulnerable members of the community and require extra assistance. To that end, the Queensland Government has an array of policies, programs and services specifically aimed at improving the health, education and economic prospects of young parents and their children.

The topic you are investigating for your annual report this year, about the types of early interventions likely to decrease the risk profile and trajectory of vulnerable young people, improve their capacity for safe and effective parenting, and increase their likelihood of becoming economically secure and self-reliant is an issue the Queensland Government has a firm interest in.

The Department of the Premier and Cabinet has coordinated the information you are seeking in consultation with the Departments of Justice and Attorney-General; Housing and Public Works; Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services; Education and Training; and Queensland Health, at Attachment 1. This attachment outlines the details of the Queensland Government's education, health, and welfare policies, programs, services relating to young parents and their children, as well as evaluations and case studies as provided by departments delivering services to young people.

Should you wish to discuss this information or seek further advice, a contact list for the relevant department officers has also been provided at Attachment 2.

Again, thank you for taking the time to write to the Premier and I hope this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Spinks', with a stylized, cursive script.

**DENISE SPINKS
DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF**

***Encls**

Queensland Government Young Parents' Policies, Programs, Services and Evaluations

Queensland Health

Child and Youth Community Health Service

There are a range of services delivered by Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service (CHQHHS) that support young parents and children to improve their capacity for safe and effective parenting. Key initiatives include:

Child Health Services

- Evidence-based universal, targeted and extended care services/programs for children from birth to 8 years and their families in the CHQHHS area (please note that some specified services are only available in some locations e.g. hearing clinics, refugee clinic & immunisation services).
- Service focus is on prevention, early identification and early intervention services to improve positive early childhood development outcomes and strengthen parenting capacity to support children's health and development.
- Services are provided to individuals and groups through a range of clinic-based, home visiting and outreach modalities.
- Provides services to a population of approximately 28,000 births per year from 32 community-based centres and clinics across the HHS.
- Online resources are also available at <https://www.childrens.health.qld.gov.au/chq/our-services/community-health-services/child-health-service/>

Specific services for young parents

- Encircle Program (formerly known as the Young Parents Program): offered at two sites, Nundah and Kedron. Child Health Services has an agreement in place with Encircle for a child health nurse to conduct new parent groups.
- Young Women's Program: brings young women to the clinic for prioritised appointments.
- Redlands Young Women's Program (RYWP): Child Health have an agreement with RYWP where a child health nurse attends the group regularly and provides support and runs groups as per identified needs.
- Aspire Program at Deception Bay State High School: Young women from age 14 years are engaged in the Aspire Program. The Program comprises a range of initiatives including:
 - Child Health are providing the Positive Parenting Program;
 - A nurse attends regularly to work with the GP; and

- The Early Intervention Clinician (psychologist or social worker) is providing support to the program for identified complex parenting issues.
- Young Women's Program, Caboolture Hospital: Child Health have historically attended the group to provide services. Engagement with the young parents is occurring to assess their requirements from the program.

Ellen Barron Family Centre

- The Ellen Barron Family Centre (EBFC) is a statewide service and is the only public health operated tertiary residential early parenting centre in Queensland.
- EBFC offers three programs: a short stay-Sleep Education Program of two nights and three days; a Parenting Education Program; and an Extended Parenting Education Program (11 days).
- EBFC also provides online resources to provide education on sleep and responsive settling: <https://www.childrens.health.qld.gov.au/chq/our-services/community-health-services/ellen-barron-family-centre/>
- Two evaluations of the EBFC programs have been undertaken:
 - Parenting Confidence and Stress Levels: An evaluation of the Impact of a Parenting Program, Bronwyn Griffin, Student No 11463546, Charles Sturt University, School of Psychology
 - Berry, Karen and Fraser, Jennifer. 'Do residential parenting education programs work'? Australian Nursing and Midwifery Journal, Vol. 21, No. 9, Apr 2014: 41.

Centre for Children's Health and Wellbeing (CCHW)

- The CCHW works in partnership across the healthcare continuum with government and non-government organisations to influence and impact on the health and wellbeing of children, their families and community. CCHW's focus is on protecting and promoting the health and wellbeing of Queensland's children via life course approaches, an ecological model and addressing the risk and protective factors on long term health outcomes for children. Strategies include:
- Promoting Optimal Maternal and Infant Nutrition Project: focused on promoting recommended nutrition, healthy weight and weight gain in pregnancy, promoting and supporting women to breastfeed and supporting adoption of recommended infant nutrition guidelines.
- The material, which includes guidelines, directories and e-learning platforms, were developed by the Promoting Optimal Maternal and Infant Nutrition project team, hosted by CHQHHS through the CCHW. Further information can be found at: <https://www.childrens.health.qld.gov.au/chq/health-professionals/accessing-patient-health-information/>
- Connecting 2 U (C2U) Project: over the last four years CCHW has led the C2U Project, an infant and family centred health promotion intervention that provides messages sent

via SMS and supporting website and online documentation to enhance the health and wellbeing of families in the antenatal and immediate post-natal periods, to promote wellness in all family members, empower parents, and address important issues affecting families.

- Preliminary results for trial indicate positive health outcomes for mothers and a very positive response from fathers seeking more messages and for longer periods of time, up to the child's second birthday.
- Healthy Kids Project: works in partnership with key early childhood stakeholders to develop, implement and evaluate a free early childhood health and wellbeing professional development strategy for the early childhood education and care sector in particular communities throughout Queensland. Through this project, it is intended to build the capacity of the current ECEC sector staff to integrate key early childhood health promotion messages and/or strategies to enhance the health of the communities they service throughout Queensland.
- School based Youth Health: nurses provide services to two young parents' groups in high schools in Brisbane. The expected outcomes from this investment include increased sense of emotional and social wellbeing, and improved parenting.

Child and Youth Mental Health Service

The Queensland Centre for Perinatal and Infant Mental Health (QCPIMH) aims to support parents, caregivers and communities to have the confidence, knowledge, skills and resources to support their own wellbeing and raise emotionally healthy and resilient children. For more information go to: <https://www.childrens.health.qld.gov.au/chq/our-services/mental-health-services/babies-and-parents/qcpimh/>

QCPIMH Teams and Services

- Zero to Four Child and Youth Mental Health Service (CYMHS), a specialised infant mental health service provided by a team of health professionals.
- Zero to Four Family Support Service, a family support service for infants and their families, provided by volunteer family support workers.
- Strategy and Service Development Unit, providing support, resources and capacity building for health professionals.

Perinatal and Infant Mental Health Day Program

- Perinatal and Infant Mental Health Day Program group model of service: QCPIMH is researching this service model for women with moderate to severe perinatal mental illness. An initial pilot program was run in 2009 and published with positive results. This research expands on the previous pilot by investigating the impact and efficacy of the program with a larger cohort of participants across three sites in Queensland.
- The group program runs one day per week for six weeks and delivers psycho-education and other therapeutic material to women and their infants (less than 8 months of age).

- The program content consists of adult and infant mental health and child health topics and the research groups will be run collaboratively by three staff from adult mental health, child and youth mental health and child health. A one off evening session for partners of the women participating is also run, to deliver information about their own wellbeing, supporting their partner experiencing mental illness, and their infant's development.
- A Perinatal and Infant Mental Health Day Program manual is being produced and will be available state-wide for services following evaluation and completion of the research. It is hoped that the research findings will support the use of the program as a stepped care model of service for women with perinatal mental illness and their infants, and reduce the need for inpatient care, in addition to providing more intensive support on discharge from inpatient care.
- Two sites, Townsville and Cairns Hospital and Health Services, conducted research groups. Six groups of approximately eight women and their infants participated in the research. Following analysis of qualitative and quantitative information, a Program Manual will be printed and made available for distribution. It is expected that the research data will be published later in 2017.

Rural and Remote Strategy and ePIMH Project

- A state-wide Rural and Remote Perinatal and Infant Mental Health Service Strategy has been developed, in collaboration with all Hospital and Health Services that provide health services to rural and remote communities.
- In the context of the development of this Strategy, a pilot project, ePIMH, was conducted from February to August 2016. Through ePIMH, QCPIMH collaborates with local stakeholders in South West, Central West, North West, and Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Services, to raise awareness of perinatal and infant mental health, and to develop the capacity of health professionals and other workers to respond more effectively to the mental health needs of parents, infants and families.
- ePIMH uses a combination of telehealth and outreach to provide:
 - non-clinical advice and support to health professionals in the area of perinatal and infant mental health.
 - tailored training and education for health professionals and others working with mothers, fathers, infants and families.
 - support for organisations seeking to strengthen local referral pathways.

Perinatal Mental Health and Wellness Project

- This project is co-funded by the Queensland Mental Health Commission and the State-wide Maternity and Neonatal Clinical Network. It is being delivered in collaboration with Women's Health Queensland Wide, a non-government organisation, and Hope's Room, a peer-led organisation.
- It aims to enhance perinatal mental health and wellness through a number of components, with a pilot at Redcliffe Hospital Maternity Services and a focus on future

potential state-wide implementation. The project emphasises the importance of emotional health and wellbeing in the perinatal period, seeks to raise awareness of perinatal mental health issues and to de-stigmatise these issues among expecting and new parents, and encourages parents to seek and accept support for their emotional health when needed.

- Project components include antenatal education, postnatal education, peer support groups, and improved cross-sectoral collaboration. The project focuses on the interface between the public and non-government sectors, particularly in the area of ‘active’ or ‘supported’ referral, where a person in need of a service faces barriers to accessing that service.
- It is expected that the research data will be published later in 2017.

Disaster Resources

- QCPIMH developed Perinatal and Infant Mental Health Natural Disaster Recovery resources. Published mental health promotion and prevention resources are currently under review. A manual for use in the early childhood sector and an online interactive game for parents and young children is in the final stage of development. These resources will also be available on the QCPIMH website and it is expected that the resources will be available later in 2017.

SMS4Perinatal Parents Queensland

- QCPIMH is collaborating with the University of Newcastle Family Action Centre to investigate the use of mental health promotion and prevention SMS text messages to engage women (who are experiencing perinatal mental health issues) and their partners.
- The SMS messages include information about parental wellbeing, enhancing the co-parenting relationship, and how parents can create a positive relationship with their infant.
- This feasibility study will be conducted in two regional and rural areas in Queensland, Townsville and Darling Downs Hospital and Health Services and participants will be sourced from the Perinatal Mental Health Services in those Hospital and Health Services.
- The project is being guided and informed by the larger scale SMS4Dads project, funded by beyondblue and Movember, and run by the Family Action Centre in Newcastle.

Young Parent specific work

- QCPIMH has a long standing working relationship with Brisbane Youth Service, Centre for Young Families. QCPIMH has provided training and ongoing mentorship to assist develop of this service, specialising in the provision of care and services to at risk homeless young parents and their children within a trauma informed infant mental health framework.

- The Zero to Four CYMHS and Family Support Teams (also mentioned above) provide input to adolescent parents about emotional wellbeing for them and their infants attending the Encircle, Young Parents Program pregnancy group each quarter.
- The clinical teams work collaboratively with both services in the provision of infant and early childhood mental health services to young parents and their infants.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Branch

Making Tracks toward closing the gap in health outcomes for Indigenous Queenslanders by 2033 policy framework (Making Tracks)

- The Queensland Government is committed to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) health related targets to close the gap in Indigenous life expectancy and to halve the gap in Indigenous child mortality. Making Tracks provides the overarching policy framework intended to guide government efforts to meet these targets.
- Making Tracks acknowledges the importance of giving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children 0-8 years old a healthy and safe start to life through effective women's health services, ante-natal and infant care, improved education outcomes and child protection services.
- Making Tracks outlines a policy commitment to 8-18 year olds to ensure young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are in contact with the health and education systems and to establish healthy behaviours that will impact heavily on adult physical and mental health outcomes.
- Further information on Making Tracks is available at: https://www.health.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0030/159852/making_tracks_pol.pdf

Making Tracks investment includes:

- A healthy start to life: improving the health literacy and reproductive health of young women through culturally effective women's health services, antenatal and infant care, parenting support and child health services. Key initiatives include:
 - maternal and child health services, parenting support to assist vulnerable and at risk families and the children and the Deadly Ears, Deadly Kids, and Deadly Communities child hearing program.
- The expected outcomes from investment in these initiatives include a reduction in the key risk factors impacting on Indigenous child health outcomes such as low birth weights, pre term births, and otitis media to provide a healthy start to life.
- There are specific young parent support programs funded in Cherbourg and Palm Island which aim to provide support for young pregnant and parenting women, their partners and families.
- A healthy transition to adulthood: to establish positive patterns of health behaviour that will impact heavily on adult physical and mental health outcomes. Areas of focus include youth mental health and sexual and reproductive health. Key initiatives include:

- targeted sexual and reproductive health education and intervention, youth mental health services, intensive post-detention transition support and mentoring services, and support for the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health Broncos Partnership Deadly Choices health promotion and screening program.
- The expected outcomes from this investment include improved mental health, increased sense of emotional and social wellbeing, reduced uptake of alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs, reduced rates of sexually transmissible infections. Further information on this strategy is available at: https://www.health.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/161831/making-tracks-inv-strat.pdf.

Case Study - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Branch

Birthing in Our Community Program

- In 2013, through a partnership with the Mater Mothers Hospital, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service and the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (IUIH), Queensland Health supported the development of the Birthing in Our Community (BiOC) program.
- The Queensland Government provided \$3 million over 2016 – 2018, to the IUIH for the expansion of the BiOC workforce increasing the number of midwives and Indigenous Maternal Health Worker positions and to establish a BiOC Hub based in Salisbury, Brisbane which opened in October 2016.
- The hub delivers intensive ante-natal and family support services for vulnerable women birthing an Aboriginal and / or Torres Strait Islander baby at the Mater Mothers' Hospital.
- The program includes 24/7 continuity of care through pregnancy, birth and up to six weeks postnatal providing antenatal care, intrapartum care, birthing support, Stop Smoking in its Tracks incentive program, perinatal mental health, breastfeeding support and family support services.
- Every woman has their own midwife on-call 24 hours a day and a support team that includes Aboriginal health workers, Aboriginal student midwives, doctors and other health professionals.
- Since opening, of the women the BiOC Hub has supported to birth at the Mater Mothers Hospital, 97.8 percent have had five or more antenatal visits and only 4.4 percent have birthed a low weight baby (weighing less than 2500gms).

Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Branch

- In 2010, Queensland Health issued Working with parents with mental illness-guidelines for mental health clinicians which aim to assist mental health clinicians recognise the importance of parenting as one of the consumer's life roles and integrate consideration of the parenting role in routine assessment, treatment planning, monitoring, review, relapse prevention and discharge planning processes. This

document can be found at:
https://www.health.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0025/365515/qh-gdl-310.pdf

Connecting Care to Recovery 2016-2021

- Queensland Health funds the Queensland Centre for Perinatal and Infant Mental Health to provide leadership, advocacy, professional development and support for health professionals, in order to promote the mental health and emotional wellbeing of parents and their infants across Queensland (see also previous references above). Further information is available at: <https://www.childrens.health.qld.gov.au/chq/our-services/mental-health-services/babies-and-parents/qcpimh/>
- Perinatal and infant mental health is a high priority for Queensland Health, as evidenced by significant enhancements planned under Connecting Care to Recovery 2016-2021 – a plan for Queensland’s State-funded mental health, alcohol and other drug services (the Plan). Further information can be found at: https://www.health.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/465131/connecting-care.pdf.
- Under the Plan, \$30.2 million has been allocated to Queensland perinatal and infant mental health services. This includes:
 - An increase in the number of perinatal mental health clinicians;
 - Establishment of day programs in several locations across Queensland;
 - A new tele-psychiatry service to support locations where perinatal and infant mental health expertise is not locally available;
 - Support for the non-government sector providing support to infants and their families; and
 - Establishment of a new mother and baby inpatient unit (4 beds) at the Gold Coast University Hospital.
- Young people, including young parents in Queensland who are concerned about alcohol and other drug related problems, can access specialist alcohol and other drug treatment services provided through Queensland HHSs and non-government organisations, including those funded by Queensland Health.
- While the scope of treatment is often broad when working with people with complex and high needs, the focus is on the alcohol and other drug use. Referral for parenting support would be considered appropriate for people who are using substances who are also in a parenting capacity.
- As part of the Queensland Government’s response to crystal methamphetamine (ice), Metro South HHS received additional funding from 2015-16 for a project officer to work in conjunction with the established Logan Together Project (<http://logantgether.org.au/>) undertaking prevention and community engagement, consultation and community liaison, in particular, parents with children under the age of eight years. Funding was also provided to expand clinical capacity to provide services, including case management, to parents of young children engaged in substance use.

Office of the Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer

Pepi-Pod Program

- The Department of Health supports the Pepi-Pod Program trial as it provides sleep safety education to targeted Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families. The program is the first evaluation of a safe sleep enabler in Australia and Professor Young's ongoing trial will add to the evidence on safe sleep programs to address infant mortality.
- Originally set up and established in New Zealand the Pepi-Pod provides a very low cost safe sleep environment for new born babies identified as at risk. With education and support it has been shown to reduce preventable infant mortality especially in rural and regional areas.
- The program was commenced as a joint collaboration with the Royal Children's Hospital in 2011-2012 and has been trialled in Queensland for the past two and a half years through 12 government and non-government organisations that provide maternity and child health services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in metropolitan, regional and rural remote areas.
- Seed funding of \$314,960 was allocated across 2012–14 under the Indigenous Early Childhood Development National Partnership Agreement between the Commonwealth Government and Queensland Health, to support the program trial. In 2014-2015 the program received \$124,950 through external research monies. There are indications that the program has recently gained further funding, including from a philanthropic source to enable the purchase of more pods and to extend the program for another two and a half years.

Domestic Violence Screening Program for Midwives

- A domestic violence screening program for women during the antenatal period and delivered by midwives has been rolled out to midwives at the Gold Coast University Hospital.
- Statistics show 30 per cent of domestic violence incidents occur when women are pregnant, while domestic violence is also a prime cause of miscarriage or stillbirth.
- The Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board has been established under the *Coroners Act 2003* with additional funding of \$2 million over four years provided in the State Budget.

Department of Education and Training

Integrated Early Years Services

- The Department of Education and Training (DET) provides approximately \$22 million per annum to non-government organisations to support the operation of 53 integrated early years services in Queensland.

- Integrated early years services are ‘one-stop shops’ where families can access or receive referrals for early childhood education and care, child and maternal health, family and parenting support and specialist services, for their children and themselves.
- Services are provided to families with children from birth to eight years of age, and some services specifically target Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families. Further information is available at www.qld.gov.au/families/babies/childcare/family/

Intensive Early Childhood Development (IECD) pilot program

- DET provided \$2.58 million one-off funding for the IECD pilot project from July 2015 to December 2016. This includes \$200,000 from the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability funding for an evaluation of the pilot.
- Six non-government organisations were funded to support early childhood educators working alongside family support workers to improve parents’ interactions with children whilst boosting the early learning and social and emotional development of children; supporting participation in early childhood education programs, and transition into Prep.
- The different disciplines worked together to: improve parents’ interactions with children; boost the early learning and social and emotional development of children; support participation in early childhood education programs, and transition into Prep.
- The programs targeted their support towards vulnerable families with children aged from birth to five years who were experiencing multiple and complex issues.
- An external, independent evaluation of the IECD pilot is underway by the Australian Development Agency for Statistics and Information Systems (ADASIS) with the final report to be delivered in mid-2017.

The Early Years Count campaign

- DET promotes the importance of positive care for children in the early years and how parents and families play a vital role in a child’s development through *The Early Years Count*, available at: www.earlyyearscount.earlychildhood.qld.gov.au/
- This website is designed to give parents relevant information to support their child’s early learning and development through activities and tips for learning at home, and information on services, initiatives and programs.
- Information and tips for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and culturally diverse families to support families and communities to promote positive cultural identity and language is also available on the website. *The Early Years Count* campaign is also promoted through social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter.

Supporting pregnant and/or parenting school students

- The Inclusive education policy statement, available at www.education.qld.gov.au/schools/inclusive/, aims to ensure that all students feel

welcome and valued by their school community and that obstacles to educational participation and achievement are identified and minimised.

- The DET recognises that young parents, especially young mothers, who leave school early, face greater hardship and poverty than young people who complete their education. For this reason, the Department is committed to supporting pregnant young women and/or young parents to remain connected to learning.
- Queensland state schools make appropriate arrangements to support pregnant and/or parenting students to complete their education through providing flexibility in:
 - classroom and school management;
 - curriculum design, teaching/learning strategies and assessment;
 - uniform/dress codes; and
 - attendance.
- Information for schools, young people and families about pregnant and parenting school students is available at www.education.qld.gov.au/schools/inclusive/pregnant-parenting-students.html. This website provides information on the ways that schools can provide flexibility to support pregnant and/or parenting students to complete their education, and links to government and external agencies to establish coordinated interagency links.

State secondary school support programs

- State secondary schools may also provide on-site specialist services, including guidance officers, school-based youth health nurses, youth support coordinators and chaplains to support pregnant and/or parenting young people to continue their education.
- Examples of Queensland state secondary schools working in partnership with their local community to provide specific programs to support their pregnant and/or parenting students include:
 - Burnside State High School - Supporting Teenagers with Education Mothering and Mentoring (STEMM) program. For more information for to www.stemm.com.au/
 - Deception Bay State High School - Actively Supporting Parents with Infants to Re-engage in Education (ASPIRE) Program. For more information go to www.decebayshs.eq.edu.au/Curriculum/Subjectsandprograms/Pages/ASPIRE.aspx) – see also above
 - Mabel Park State High School - Parents overcoming work and education restrictions (POWER) program, go to www.pregnancy.com.au/resources/teenage-pregnancy/teenage-pregnancy-articles/the-power-program-for-pregnant-teenagers.shtml

Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services

The Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (DCCSDS) has a number of initiatives aimed at young parents and their children. They are:

- Care2Achieve Scholarships - for young women leaving care awarded as part of the Queensland Women's Strategy. More information on these scholarships can be found at: <https://www.thesmithfamily.com.au/care2achieve>
 - Triple P – Positive Parenting Program - this program is part of a two-year trial providing free access, running until August 2017. Further information is available at: <https://www.qld.gov.au/community/caring-child/positive-parenting/>
 - Queensland Government's family and social support website - provides information on support available for young parents. Information available at: <https://www.qld.gov.au/youth/family-social-support/support-young-parents/index.html>
 - Response Reform initiative - as part of the DCCSDS Tertiary System Redesign to review and improve processes and services. Introduction of a new service response — Assessment and Service Connect — to provide early assessment of the needs of families who come to Child Safety's attention and connect them to support services to keep children safely at home where possible. Information is available at: <https://www.communities.qld.gov.au/gateway/reform-renewal/child-family/working-better-families-contact-child-protection-system>
 - Early Childhood Education in Care package - further information at: <http://statements.qld.gov.au/Statement/2017/1/22/3-million-education-boost-gives-vulnerable-children-brighter-future>
 - Next Step After Care services - information available at: <http://nextstepaftercare.com.au/>
 - Family and Child Connect services - information available at: <http://familychildconnect.org.au>
 - Intensive Family Support services - Information available at: <https://www.communities.qld.gov.au/childsafety/partners/our-community-partners/family-support>
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- First 1000 Days - a collective impact initiative aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the period between conception and their second birthday. Information available at: <https://www.communities.qld.gov.au/gateway/supporting-families/news/news-articles?id=11161714935&start=1>
 - Collaborative Family Decision Making practices -information is available at: <https://www.communities.qld.gov.au/gateway/reform-renewal/child-family/working-better-families-contact-child-protection-system#s-2-collaborative-family-decision-making>

- Sortli (short for ‘sort out your life’) app - a free mobile app for young people to help them think about their future life and plan their transition to independence. Video about Sortli available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rnw78HOu5C8>. Further information is available at: <https://www.qld.gov.au/youth/family-social-support/transition-to-independence/>
- Early Childhood Education and Care Reporting - from 1 July 2017, early childhood education and care professionals will be required by law to report child safety concerns to the department, where there is a reasonable suspicion that the child has suffered, is suffering, or is at unacceptable risk of suffering, significant harm caused by physical or sexual abuse, and there is not a parent willing and able to protect the child from harm. Further information is available at: <https://www.communities.qld.gov.au/childsafety/protecting-children/about-child-protection/mandatory-notifiers-and-reporting>

Profile videos published by DCCSDS

- Triple P — Positive Parenting Program - Karen, a mother of three boys, talks about her experience with Triple P (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zC7-KjPRwz0>).
- Family and Child Connect - Julie Nelson from Mercy Community Services and Glenda Jones-Tarare from Kurbingui Youth Development talk about Family and Child Connect and how it helps families get the support they need (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G18K96IQXZU>).
- Intensive Family Support Service - Miranda Bain from Act for Kids Gold Coast talks about how her organisation is helping families in the local community (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IHylMTIOEk0>).

Department of Housing and Public Works

Specialist Homelessness Services

- Young parents who are experiencing homelessness, or who are housed but at risk of losing their housing and becoming homeless, can access Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS). SHS provide access, support and supported accommodation and supported housing services.
- Details on SHS and social housing eligibility criteria are available to young parents at www.qld.gov.au/housing

Homelessness Program

- In 2016-17, \$28.5 million of Homelessness Program funding was allocated by the Department of Housing and Public Works (DHPW) to 39 non-government organisations to deliver 59 specialist homelessness services which target young people across Queensland. These services are able to respond to young parents who are experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of homelessness.

- In 2016-17, DHPW allocated \$7.776 million of funding to 13 non-government organisations to deliver 16 SHS that target young people, and which have services tailored specifically to meet the needs of young parents across Queensland.

Homelessness Hotline

- The Homeless Hotline (1800 474 753) is also available for young parents who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness, to access information and services.

Brisbane Youth Service

- DHPW has allocated \$4.5 million of Homelessness Program funding to the Brisbane Youth Service (BYS). The BYS provides seven homelessness programs in the Brisbane region. Two of the seven homelessness programs run by the BYS are the centre for Young Women and Young Equal Support services which have a particular focus on young parents. The BYS website provides a case study of this service, which is available at <http://brisyouth.org/stories/alanaa/>.

Townsville Evaluation

- In 2016, DHPW engaged KPMG to conduct an evaluation into the Townsville youth homelessness sector to assess the needs of young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and the effectiveness of the youth homelessness service system in Townsville with a view to improving and reforming the delivery of youth homelessness services there.

Department of Justice and Attorney- General

Accommodating children with their parent in youth detention

- Youth Justice, within the Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG) has a policy in place that allows, in certain circumstances, a child to be accommodated with their parent within youth detention.
- DJAG will support a young person to have their child reside with them in youth detention if it is assessed as being in the child's best interests and aligns with operational requirements.
- DJAG also ensures that where a child is approved to reside with their parent in youth detention, they are provided with a safe environment and the resources that allow the young person to provide all necessary care for the child; and
- DJAG will provide a parent, who has a child residing with them in youth detention, with a safe, rehabilitative environment that integrates them as much as possible into the structured day (taking into account exceptions associated with maintaining their health and wellbeing, and that of their child).

Individualised Case Management

- Youth Justice does not have any other programs, policies and services that specifically address the parenting responsibilities of young people under our supervision; however our individualised case management approach that addresses each young person's specific needs will include consideration of their role as a parent.

Support Services

- Young parents in detention or under supervision in the community will be connected with community-based programs and services to support their parenting; and
- Youth Justice will facilitate contact and visits where the child does not reside with the young person to foster the parent-child relationship.

17 year olds within Adult Correctional Centres

- At this time, Queensland has a small population of 17 year olds who are currently placed within Adult Correctional Centres. The Queensland Government has committed to transition these 17 year olds into the juvenile justice system.
- Of these 17 year olds, one prisoner has a child, however the child does not reside within the correctional centre.
- Queensland Corrective Services may allow a female offender to have her child reside with her in a correctional facility if it is in the best interests of the child. This is also conditional on a number of eligibility criteria, including that the child is not yet eligible to commence primary school.
- Eligible children may be accommodated with their mothers in specific units at the Brisbane Women's or Townsville Women's Correctional Centres. Women with children in secure custody are accommodated together in the residential part of the prison in units with cooking facilities, safety gates, and cells large enough to accommodate cots and toddler beds. Children are also able to be accommodated with their mothers at the Helana Jones Centre.
- These centres offer a wide and varied range of services for women with children, including parenting education workshops, midwifery programs, Save the Children Fund Mobile Playscheme, and dedicated programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.
- The Agency's Custodial Operations Practice Directive entitled Management of Women and Children provides guidance and can be located at: http://www.correctiveservices.qld.gov.au/Resources/Procedures/Standard_Operating_Procedures/documents/womenchildren.pdf.

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