

Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Taskforce

Terms of Reference

Amended 15 February 2023

Background

In 2017, the Premier and then Minister for Trade, now Premier and Minister for Olympics and Paralympic Games (the Premier) committed to establish a Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Taskforce.

The Taskforce was established from September 2018 to:

- provide for the views of those who have experienced institutional child abuse, support services and organisations in advice to Government on implementing the reforms arising from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (the Royal Commission).
- report to the Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (the Minister) with annual reporting to coincide with the period of annual reporting as recommended by the Royal Commission.

Since establishment, the Taskforce has been extended twice, with Terms of Reference amended as per **Schedule 1**.

A secretariat within the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs was established to support the Taskforce in performing its functions.

Functions

The Taskforce has the following three core functions:

1. Receiving briefings and providing comment on agency annual update reports prior to their tabling.
2. Liaising through lead Ministers with relevant stakeholder groups, and/or with other individuals and groups, where appropriate.
3. Providing advice as requested on the following reform issues:
 - a. Queensland's participation in the National Redress Scheme, for example on models of restorative justice
 - b. Other relevant processes and/or schemes that aim to provide acknowledgement and justice in relation to institutional child abuse
 - c. Proposals to implement cultural change and raise community awareness of the prevalence and impact of institutional child abuse
 - d. Reviews of existing structures related to supporting people who have experienced institutional child abuse.

Supporting Guidelines

The following information supports the Terms of Reference of the Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Taskforce (the Taskforce) by providing further details about its operation.

Role of the Taskforce

The Taskforce will provide advice to the Minister on key issues relating to implementation of reforms arising from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

The Taskforce is vital to ensuring the Queensland Government's implementation of reforms is informed by the voices of those who have experienced institutional child abuse, the services who support them, and representatives of sectors that provide services to children.

Responsibilities

In performing the three core functions outlined in the Terms of Reference, the Taskforce will:

- provide honest, rigorous and transparent advice to the Minister
- work cooperatively and in a spirit of collaboration with government to help guide implementation of activities and reform initiatives
- engage in best efforts to raise public awareness of the impact of institutional child abuse on people with lived experience
- report to the Minister each year, supported by the Taskforce secretariat within the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs, openly and fairly advising on the function of the Taskforce and any areas for potential improvement.

Individual members of the Taskforce will:

- network and consult with people with lived experience, their support groups, service providers and other relevant organisations
- contribute the feedback and views from networking and consultation into the deliberations of the Taskforce.

The Queensland Government and its agencies will:

- meaningfully and collaboratively engage with the Taskforce
- brief the Taskforce on progress implementing the recommendations of the Royal Commission

The Queensland Government through the Taskforce Secretariat in the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs will support the Taskforce in its activities by:

- providing timely and accurate information to the Taskforce as requested, including briefings
- providing trauma-informed support to Taskforce members to help ensure the Taskforce is a meaningful and safe space for engagement, particularly for people with lived experience of institutional child abuse
- managing the responsibilities of the Taskforce as a Government body, including membership
- managing and facilitating stakeholder engagement, including linking with other relevant advisory groups at a local, state and federal level as appropriate
- complying with relevant record-keeping obligations
- organising quarterly meetings, including all logistics
- developing the Taskforce's annual report to the Minister, on advice from the Taskforce.

Membership

Members will be appointed through the Appointment process outlined in *The Queensland Cabinet Handbook*.

The Taskforce will be led by an eminent Chair who will guide and support Taskforce members in their responsibilities and help raise the public profile of the Taskforce. The Chair will have standing in the context of institutional child abuse, with a reputation that will promote the Taskforce's credibility with people who experienced institutional child abuse, stakeholders and the public.

Membership of the Taskforce will include:

- four representatives of people with lived experience of institutional child sexual abuse ensuring:
 - representation of experiences of physical, sexual and psychological abuse within institutional settings

Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Taskforce

- at least one member representing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- one member representing people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse in an institutional setting other than residential or care
- gender diversity.
- two representatives of services that support people with lived experience of institutional child abuse
- one representative of care providers
- one representative of an organisation that supports children and young people and
- one representative of religious institutions and religious schools.

Term of Appointment

The current and third term is 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023.

Previous terms are summarized below:

Term	Dates	Focus
1	September 2018 to 31 December 2020	Initial Term
2	31 December 2020 to 31 December 2022	Second Term Two year operational review completed with approved amendments to include institutional child physical and psychological abuse and expand membership to include young people with lived experience in out-of-home care and people with experience of youth detention.
2	1 January 2021 to 31 December 2022	Third Term 12 month extension requested due to impacts of Covid-19 on the Taskforces workplan and Listening Tour.

Meetings

The Taskforce will meet at least four times a year, and additionally as required. Five members of the Taskforce will constitute a quorum for a meeting.

As the members of the Taskforce will be selected on the basis of their personal experience and expertise relevant to the work of the Taskforce, proxy arrangements will not be established.

Budget and remuneration

The Queensland Government will meet the costs of providing secretariat support to the Taskforce and the reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred by members attending meetings, such as travel and accommodation.

The Chair and members will receive sitting fees for attendance at meetings as specified in the *Remuneration Procedures for Part-time Chairs and Members of Queensland Government Bodies*.

Confidentiality

All discussions at Taskforce meetings will be treated as confidential by members.

Dispute resolution

Where any dispute arises on the majority views of the Taskforce relating to key issues or advice, the alternative views will be noted by the Chair in reporting to the Minister.

Variation to the Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference may be amended by the Minister with approval from the Premier.

Schedule 1: Amendment to the Terms of Reference

On 14 December 2019, the Premier approved an amendment to the Terms of Reference to specifically include institutional child physical and psychological abuse within the work of the Taskforce.

On 4 March 2021, the Premier approved amendments to expand membership to include representation from a youth organisation and reflect Machinery-of-Government changes that have occurred.

On 20 January 2023, the Premier approved the extension of the Taskforce for a further twelve-month period. Additionally, amendments were approved to remove the oversight of a grants fund for reconciliation and healing events and memorials due to the end of the funding round.