

Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Taskforce

2022 Annual Report

To the Minister for Children and Youth Justice
and Minister for Multicultural Affairs



The Honourable Leanne Linard MP
Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs
Locked Bag 3405
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Minister

On behalf of the Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Taskforce (the Taskforce), I am pleased to present the 2022 Annual Report, that is provided in line with the Terms of Reference that the Taskforce operates under.

This year marks 10-years since the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (the Royal Commission) was announced, and five-years since it was finalised. The Royal Commission heard from over 10 000 people, who each had a story to share. Thousands of people with lived experience had common responses to the question of why they were coming forward to the Royal Commission, and that was 'so no other person will experience the same harm' and 'to be believed.'

Since the establishment of the Taskforce in 2018, members have been committed to sitting with and listening to people with lived experience who ask to share their story with us. It is our privilege to have people share their experience, their suggestions for change, and to trust the Taskforce to represent their thoughts when providing advice on the implementation of the recommendations made by the Royal Commission. The key message that people with lived experience have expressed to the Taskforce members is that they should be heard, their experiences believed and that support be provided to them.

This year we continued with our *Statewide Listening Tour*, with the support of knowmore Legal Service and Lotus Place. The Taskforce have heard from people with lived experience, their supporters and service providers, on the impacts of institutional child sexual abuse. These community forums have provided the Taskforce with countless opportunities to hear from members of the community.

The Taskforce have continued, where possible to maintain the momentum of the Royal Commission. While in regional locations for community forums, members of the Taskforce have met with local services and members of local Councils to continue to raise community awareness of the Royal Commission. These conversations have resulted in many open and frank discussions of child sexual abuse across all ages, and the challenges that communities face in ensuring that child protection is at the forefront of everyone's mind.

On behalf of the Taskforce, I would also like to extend our appreciation of the support and commitment to our work and Royal Commission related reforms in Queensland, by both yourself and the Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games (the Premier).

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss this report, or the work of the Taskforce.

Yours sincerely



Mr Robert (Bob) Atkinson AO APM
Chair, Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Taskforce

Acknowledgements

The Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Taskforce (the Taskforce) acknowledges all that has come before and led us to where we are now.

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as our First Nations and Traditional Owners of the land.

We acknowledge all people with lived experience of institutional child abuse.

We also acknowledge:

- the Stolen Generations
- the Forgotten Australians and Child Migrants whose experiences were recognised through the *1999 Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions*, known as the Forde Inquiry
- people who as children in the care of the State of Queensland were inappropriately placed in adult mental health facilities
- people harmed in out-of-home care
- people affected by forced adoptions.

We recognise the lifelong impact of childhood abuse in institutional settings experienced by many in the past and are committed to keeping this at the forefront of our work.

Background

On 3 September 2018, the Taskforce was established by the Queensland Government. The role of the Taskforce is to provide for the views of those who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse, support services and organisations, in advice to the Queensland Government on implementing the reforms arising from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (the Royal Commission).

On 14 December 2019, in accordance with changes to the *Civil Liability and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2019* and the removal of the statutory limitation period for serious child physical and psychological abuse, the Premier expanded the Terms of Reference for the Taskforce to include all forms of institutional child abuse.

The Taskforce operates under its Terms of Reference, and prior to 2023, provided advice on a grants program for activities that contribute to truth, healing and reconciling histories.

Membership

The Terms of Reference that the Taskforce operate under requires that membership will include:

- four representatives of people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse, ensuring:
 - representation of experiences of physical, sexual and psychological abuse within institutional settings
 - at least one member representing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and;

- one member representing people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse in an institutional setting other than residential or home-based care.
- two representatives of services that support people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse
- one representative of care providers
- one representative of an organisation that supports children and young people
- one representative of religious institutions and religious schools.

Taskforce members

Membership of the Taskforce in 2022 was,

- Mr Robert (Bob) Atkinson AO APM – Chair
- Mr Michael Wragge
- Mrs Joan Isaacs
- Ms Diane Carpenter
- Ms Aimee Hele
- Ms Carly Jacobitz, Life Without Barriers
- Ms Yvette Salam, Link-Up QLD
- Ms Karyn Walsh, Micah Projects
- Ms Jacqui Reed, CREATE Foundation
- Reverend David Baker, Queensland Churches Together

To find out more about our members go to **Attachment 1**.

Vision and purpose

Our vision is for a Queensland where children are protected, safe and supported to reach their full potential.

Our purpose is to raise awareness of institutional child abuse and its impacts, to drive changes that will protect children, and provide a holistic response to support, justice and healing for people with lived experience across Queensland.

Priorities of the Taskforce

Key areas of work have been identified by members and inform the workplan of the Taskforce. Priorities include:

1. Increasing community awareness and getting out and talking to people – this includes educating the public about the work of the Royal Commission and its 409 recommendations and giving those with lived experience of institutional child abuse an opportunity to voice their concerns, provide input and feedback.
2. Implementation of the recommendations made by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse across Queensland Government.
3. National Redress Scheme – including providing advice to the Queensland Government about their participation in the National Redress Scheme.
4. Contemporary out-of-home care.
5. Engagement across all levels of the Queensland community – the Taskforce continued to grow its profile in the community through engagement with people with lived experience, services and organisations and government.

Moving Forward

The Taskforce was initially established by the Premier to operate from September 2018 to December 2022. However, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the workplan of the Taskforce, an extension of the work of the Taskforce was approved by the Acting Premier on 20 January 2023 until 31 December 2023.

In 2023, the Taskforce will continue its workplan, specifically continuing the delivery of the *Statewide Listening Tour*, including engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and youth services. The Taskforce remains committed to continuing to raise awareness of the Scheme, alongside knowmore Legal Service and Micah Projects (Lotus Place).

Taskforce meetings

Four formal meetings were held throughout 2022 in March, April, August, and October. The Taskforce has remained committed to discussions that focus on Royal Commission related reforms in Queensland and its impacts on people with lived experience of institutional child abuse.

Topics that were discussed at meetings throughout the year included, but were not limited to:

- The ongoing implementation of the National Redress Scheme.
- Implementation of the National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse and the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children (2021-2031).
- The National Centre for Action on Child Sexual Abuse Draft Five Year Strategy (2023-2027).
- The development and implementation of the Child Safe Standards Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement process.
- Continued implementation of the final report of the second-year review of the National Redress Scheme (the Review) and the development of a Survivor Service Charter by the National Redress Scheme
- Information and support for children, young people and adults with lived experience of institutional care.
- The ongoing response to the Royal Commissions Final Report and recommendations.

While there is no requirement for Taskforce members to work in between meetings, members have endeavoured to be responsive to opportunities to influence the implementation of Royal Commission related reforms.

Highlights for 2022

Statewide Listening Tour

2022 saw the Taskforce continue with the delivery of its community forums, known as the Taskforce *'Listening Tour'*. The purpose of these forums is to hear from people with lived experience of institutional child abuse, their supports and service providers on their experiences, issues and feedback across the state.

The Taskforce were pleased to join with community members at forums in Roma (March), Mackay (April), Kingaroy (May), Cherbourg (May and November), Longreach (June), Emerald (June), Mount Isa (June), St George (September) and Warwick (September).

The Taskforce acknowledges the contributions of knowmore Legal Service and Lotus Place (Redress Support Service) in providing information on the National Redress Scheme and the application process, along with the supports available to applicants.

Some of the themes that the Taskforce have heard through discussions with individuals and communities are:

- Access to information, including documented histories, is important to people with lived experience to ensure that they are aware of their history.
- Barriers in accessing the National Redress Scheme and Redress Support Services for some people with lived experience. Some people have raised concerns relating to the availability of information on redress, as well as accessibility of support services, particularly in rural or remote areas, or in accessing a service relevant to their needs i.e., access to services or support services that cater to young people.
- Individuals, service providers and communities appreciated hearing more about the Royal Commission, the apology to survivors of institutional child sexual abuse, and the National Redress Scheme.
- Communities requested further opportunities to hear from and obtain information about the National Redress Scheme, the application process, eligibility and Redress Support Services.
- An ongoing need for clarity and education around services available to people with lived experience, their support networks and service providers, including trauma-informed education and counselling.
- The need for opportunities for people to share their own or their families' stories of lived experiences of institutional child abuse. People were able to refer to their experience speaking to the Royal Commission or to the Taskforce, noting where they were and how it felt to share their experience and be believed.

The Taskforce will produce a final report, covering its progress and achievements during 2023.

5th National Child Protection Forum

The 5th National Child Protection Forum was held in Perth in December 2022, with Mr Atkinson providing a [pre-recorded presentation](#) to over 200 attendees from around Australia. Mr Atkinson reflected on the progress that has been made in the ten-years since the Royal Commission was announced by the former Prime Minister, the Honourable Julia Gillard, and in the five-years since the Royal Commission presented their final report to the Governor-General.

Mr Atkinson spoke to the key messages and outcomes he believed came from the Royal Commission, including how to prevent and respond to child sexual abuse, how to support people with lived experience, and the importance of maintaining the momentum of the Royal Commission.

Mr Atkinson highlighted some of the organisations and progress that has been made in response to the Royal Commission, including the establishment of the National Centre for

Action on Child Sexual Abuse (the National Centre), the development of the National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse (2021-2030) and the planning and development of the National Memorial for Victims and Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse.

Changing Futures Forum – Daniel Morcombe Foundation

Mr Atkinson was invited to attend the 2022 Changing Futures Forum, hosted by the Daniel Morcombe Foundation, where he shared a message on the importance of organisations, government and individuals in keeping the momentum of the Royal Commission going and implementing the Child Safe Standards. Mr Atkinson encouraged other attendees to continue listening to people with lived experience of institutional child sexual abuse when developing policy and practice procedures.

Voices in Action Conference - CREATE Foundation

Mr Atkinson was invited to present at the CREATE Foundation's *Voices in Action Conference* alongside knowmore Legal Service in April 2022. Mr Atkinson spoke on the work of the Royal Commission and the Taskforce, while knowmore Legal Service provided information to attendees about the Scheme, with specific information provided on how young people can be supported to make an application and the considerations that young people should have prior to applying for redress.

Child Safe Organisations - Queensland Health

Mr Atkinson spoke to Queensland Health's executive leadership group on the implementation of Child Safe Standards and how this may impact on their organisation. Additionally, Mr Atkinson shared some key thoughts on the key learnings of the Royal Commission.

Questionnaire

In April 2022, the Taskforce released a questionnaire to better understand the impact of the Royal Commission in Queensland on people with lived experience, their supports and service providers. The Taskforce hoped to gain an understanding on:

- Has the Royal Commission made a difference in the lives of people with lived experience?
- Is the community more informed about the impact of child abuse in institutions?
- Do service providers have the knowledge, skills and resources to prevent and respond to child abuse in institutional settings?
- Are people with lived experience getting the help and support they need?

The questionnaire was reissued; however, limited responses were received. Taskforce members have highlighted the importance of engaging face-to-face with people with lived experience. In hindsight, a questionnaire may not have been the most effective way of engaging with people with lived experience, their supporters and service providers, and has been a learning for the Taskforce.

Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Grants Program

DCYJMA provided funding for the Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Grants Program, to support activities that promote truth-telling, healing and reconciliation in Queensland and that partner with people with lived experience. These activities sought to raise awareness of

institutional child abuse and its impacts and ensure that there is continued learning from those experiences.

As part of the grant evaluation process, members of the Taskforce were invited to attend the panel as Special Advisors. Special Advisors have no scoring functions, however act to advise the panel on their thoughts and opinions of the applications in meeting the selection criteria.

In 2022, one grant round was held with two members acting as Special Advisors. The Special Advisors provided their advice on each application and its alignment to the selection criteria.

Throughout 2022, the grants program provided [funding totalling almost \\$60,000](#) across six projects including:

- the publication of a manuscript of people's experiences of Nazareth House by the Queensland Writers Centre and Ms Tess Rowley, child protection resource author;
- a roundtable on aged and community care services for Forgotten Australians hosted by Micah Projects in partnership with the Forde Foundation and Global Community Resourcing;
- the [establishment of a memorial](#) acknowledging the institutional child sexual abuse that occurred within church-based institutions by the Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod;
- art therapy workshops with people with lived experience by the Centre Against Sexual Violence; and
- a reunion of the former men and women of the Cherbourg Dormitory by the Cherbourg Boys and Girls Dormitory Ltd.

Other Achievements

Members have been committed to engaging in a significant amount of out-of-session work that requires their input and advice.

Key areas of work and achievements by the Taskforce this year included:

- Ongoing consultation and advice to a number of Queensland Government departments, including:
 - Ongoing advice to the Minister for Children, Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs and department officers in response to the implementation of Royal Commission related reform work.
 - Feedback to the Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG) on the implementation of recommendations arising from the Criminal Justice report.
 - DJAG provided a series of updates during Taskforce meetings with members providing feedback on the Queensland project underway to develop options for regulation and oversight of Child Safe Standards and a Reportable Conduct Scheme in Queensland, in partnership with DCYJMA. This included feedback directly to DCYJMA on the Public Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement process.
 - Providing informed advice to the Queensland Government on the ongoing implementation of the National Redress Scheme, including the facilitation of direct personal responses and counselling and psychological care in Queensland.

- Provided informed advice on the implementation of the *National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse* and *Safe and Supported: The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children (2021-2031)*
- Feedback on the design, development and implementation of the National Centre for Action on Child Sexual Abuse (the National Centre), which seeks to support victims and survivors of child sexual abuse.
- Continued feedback on the implementation of the recommendations of the Second-year review of the National Redress Scheme, including the development of a *Survivor Service Charter*. A member of the Taskforce attended the Scheme's Survivor Roundtable in Sydney, December 2022, where feedback was provided relating to the strengths and barriers of the Scheme's application process and ongoing support systems.
- The Taskforce met with the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce, including the Honourable Margaret McMurdo, former Chair, to collectively share what each group had been hearing from people with lived experience, and their advice for improving survivor experiences in the criminal justice system.
- The Taskforce attended a number of events that sought to promote truth, healing and reconciliation, including but not limited to, Remembrance Day with Micah Projects, and number of activities funded through the Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Grants Program, including the showcase of creative arts with SANDBAG Community Centre and the opening of the Uniting Church Memorial Garden.
- Members also regularly engaged with stakeholders across Queensland, including support services, government agencies and meeting with people with lived experience of institutional child abuse.

Contact with people with lived experience

Although the role of the Taskforce does not extend to advocacy, members remain committed to ensuring that feedback from people with lived experience, shapes the work and advice that is passed on to the Queensland Government

For individuals with lived experience of institutional child abuse, the impact of sharing their stories and providing advice on improving service delivery in Queensland for children in contemporary out-of-home care can be significant.

In our words

Below, three members with lived experience Mike, Joan and Diane share their thoughts on the year the Taskforce has had.

Mike

"This year the Taskforce did some outstanding work and continued to focus on community engagement and contributing to improving policies and procedures associated with protecting our children and supporting people with lived experience. It was great to see the Taskforce holding forums across regional Queensland. Having the opportunity to talk and have some constructive discussions with the Cherbourg Council and the Cherbourg dormitory men and women was a highlight for me."

Diane

“Since the start of the Taskforce, there have been many changes that we have been involved in, including the criminal justice system. Going out into communities and taking the information of the Royal Commission to the people has been very rewarding for me. To be a part of change for the better is always rewarding, especially in rural and remote communities. I am pleased that I have been able to be a part of this process.”

Joan

“I continue to feel honoured and privileged to be a part of the Taskforce. The Taskforce has covered a huge part of the state with the ongoing *Listening Tour* this year. Among them were visits to Cherbourg, Longreach, Mount Isa, Emerald, St George, and Warwick. These communities have different needs than the bigger coastal towns, due to their isolation and some with a lack of services. Our presence in these communities was welcomed and appreciated.

It has been an honour to be able to work so closely with the people from knowmore legal service when we visited different communities. They always offer information, assistance, and advice regarding the Scheme in a caring and compassionate way.

Speaking with people of lived experience has been a challenging and rewarding outcome of the *Listening Tour*. Among the dreadful histories that I have heard, there have been stories of successful and life-changing impacts as a result of receiving a genuine and meaningful apology.

This year, there has seen further development of the Child Safe Standards and the Reportable Conduct Scheme and further implementation of the criminal justice recommendations. The regular updates the Taskforce has received on these and the Scheme have been most welcome.

I felt very privileged to be able to attend the community consultation process of The Women’s Safety and Justice Taskforce. It was an incredible experience to witness first-hand the passion and resolve of those involved. There were people from all walks of life who were committed to making women safer and ensuring a fairer justice system for those who experience sexual assault.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the dedication of the Taskforce Secretariat who have worked tirelessly to make the goals of the Taskforce a reality and the Queensland Government who have had the insight to create the Truth Healing and Reconciliation Taskforce.”

Attachment 1 - Meet our members



Chair - Mr Robert (Bob) Atkinson AO, APM

In 1968, Bob commenced public service with the Queensland Police Service, serving as Commissioner of the Queensland Police Service for 12 years from 2000 until his retirement in October 2012.

In a 44-year career with the Queensland Police Service, Bob served throughout Queensland from Goondiwindi to Cairns. Bob oversaw reforms after the Fitzgerald inquiry from 1990 as well as the recommendations of the Public Sector Management Commission review of the Queensland Police Service in 1993.

Following his retirement from the Queensland Police Service, Bob was appointed as one of six Commissioners of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. Bob served as one of the six Royal Commissioners during the five-year inquiry from 2013 to 2017.

In 2018, Bob was appointed as the Chair, Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Taskforce. In 2019, Bob was appointed as Co-Chair of the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Council.

Bob's lifelong dedication to public service was recognised through a Queensland Great Award in 2019.

In 2021, Bob was appointed as a member of the National Strategy Advisory Group for the National Office of Child Safety.



Joan Isaacs

Joan is a wife, mother and doting grandmother. At the age of 14 she was groomed and sexually abused by the chaplain at her school. Despite her abuse, Joan went on to be a teacher.

Silenced by her abuser and later by the Catholic Church through their Towards Healing program, Joan was finally able to speak in 2013 when she gave evidence at the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

In 2016, Joan released her book—*To Prey and To Silence*—to expose the truth and to encourage others who have experienced similar challenges. In 2017, her book was a finalist in the Queensland Literary Awards—People’s Choice.



Diane Carpenter

Diane is a proud Aboriginal woman, mother and grandmother from the Mitakoodi people, who lives in Brisbane with her husband and 2 blue cattle dogs. Diane grew up in St Joseph’s Orphanage, Neerkol. Diane courageously provided evidence to the *1999 Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Queensland Institutions* (the Forde Inquiry) and in 2004 to the Senate Inquiry into children in institutional care, later known as the Forgotten Australians Report. Many years later in 2015, Diane again provided evidence to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse about her experiences in Neerkol.

On leaving Neerkol, Diane spent many years working as a nurse. Diane has coordinated a shelter for women experiencing domestic and family violence in Mornington Island and was a community health facilitator at the Townsville Migrant Resource Centre. Here she supported people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to access mainstream health services. With the other community facilitators, one of her achievements at the Migrant Resource was the introduction of the interpreter’s card.



Mike Wragge

Mike is a proud Wakka Wakka South West Queensland man, born in Cherbourg Aboriginal community. Mike was institutionalised at the age of five and placed with his four brothers and one sister in the Cherbourg Boys home. In 1973, Mike left the Cherbourg Boys Dormitory and stayed with his mother and various other family members around South East and Western Queensland.

Mike began his working career in Cherbourg before moving to Brisbane in 1983 to take up a position as a community worker with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Services. It was around this time that Mike started his affiliation with many of the Indigenous organisations and the Murri community in the Brisbane region.

Mike has had the opportunity and privilege to work closely with many good community workers, such as the Brisbane Council of Elders, which has given him great insight into their experiences and knowledge. Mike has been an active member of the Indigenous community in Brisbane since 1983.

In 1988, Mike commenced work with the federal Department of Social Security which is now the Department of Human Services, where he was employed until his recent retirement in 2022.

Aimee Hele

Aimee is a proud Worimi woman. She works in the child and family industry and is studying Anthropology. As a result of her own lived experience in out-of-home care, Aimee is passionate about the out-of-home care system and the diverse range of issues that young people face in care and when transitioning to adulthood.

Aimee has been a strong advocate for issues such as youth justice, homelessness, housing and drug and alcohol concerns. She is also interested in the areas of domestic and family violence, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues and improving supports for young parents.

Aimee was appointed by the Minister for Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs to the Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Taskforce in October 2021.



Karyn Walsh

Karyn Walsh is the Chief Executive Officer of Micah Projects, a not-for-profit organisation in Brisbane committed to social justice. Since the mid-1990s, Karyn has been supporting people with lived experience of institutional abuse.

Karyn has supported people through the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions (the Forde Inquiry), Senate Community Affairs Committee inquiries including Lost Innocents: Righting the Record – Report on child migration and Forgotten Australians and the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

For over 20 years Karyn has advocated alongside the Historical Abuse Network to recognise the needs of people with lived experience of institutional child abuse. Achievements include: the establishment of Lotus Place—the first peer support and resource centre with Forgotten Australians and former Child Migrants; the 2007-2010 redress scheme; and the establishment of the Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Taskforce.

In 2016, Karyn was awarded a Doctor of Social Work and Nursing honoris causa by the University of Queensland. In 2017, Karyn was awarded a Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia. Karyn was recognised for her work through a Queensland Great Award in 2021.



Rev David Baker

David currently serves as General Secretary of Queensland Churches Together, the main ecumenical body for the Churches in Queensland. From 2014 to 2020, David held the position of Moderator of the Queensland Synod of the Uniting Church in Australia.

David has served in regional oversight roles in the Uniting Church, and as a congregational minister. Before being ordained in 1991, David was a property valuer for the Queensland Government.

David is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and holds a Bachelor of Theology from Brisbane College of Theology and a Diploma in Business Management from Queensland Agricultural College.

Under David’s leadership, the Queensland Synod of the Uniting Church in Australia set up an Interim Redress Scheme for survivors of institutional sexual misconduct, consistent with the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

David has also overseen improved training of Uniting Church in Australia congregations to ensure that ministry within the life of the church is safe for children.



Carly Jacobitz

Carly Jacobitz is the Director (Child Youth and Family), Queensland at Life Without Barriers. In this role Carly has responsibility for a wide range of programs including out of home care (foster care and residential care), post care support, family and domestic violence and youth justice. With 15 years’ experience in child protection across both government and not for profit organisations, she is committed to maximising outcomes for children and young people in care.

Having completed a Master of Applied Psychology, Carly is a registered psychologist and has a keen interest in supporting and advocating for individuals with a care experience and ensuring the availability and accessibility of adequate support systems”.



Jacqui Reed

Since December 2007, Jacqui has been Chief Executive Officer of CREATE Foundation. Jacqui has over 20 years' experience in child protection, out-of-home care, family services and community work and has undertaken social research and held several management roles.

Jacqui has written not only policy, training manuals and research papers, but also a children's book. Jacqui is an accomplished public speaker presenting at many national and international conferences. Jacqui firmly believes that children and young people, given the right opportunities, have the capacity to transcend their adversity and reach their full potential.

Jacqui is a member of the Board of Directors and Leadership Committee at CREATE.



Yvette Salam

Yvette represents Link-Up (Queensland) Aboriginal Corporation.

She was born in Gladstone Queensland, to parents of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage.

Yvette's working years began in Education, as an Early Childhood teacher. She then left teaching to work within other government departments servicing Indigenous communities in Far North Queensland, Cape York, Gulf of Carpentaria and the Torres Strait Islands.

Coming from families that had always been strongly connected to and involved with Indigenous communities, Yvette is passionate about serving Indigenous communities and had always worked in community development type roles. Her working life has been predominantly within Indigenous Education, Indigenous Employment and Training, Indigenous Coaching and Mentoring.

In the last four years, Yvette chose to relocate to Brisbane with her children; taking up employment within the fields of mental health, child protection, Redress Counselling and working with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Stolen Generations. Yvette's personal interests have always been in mentoring, coaching and healing type roles, which had led to her employment within Link-Up (Queensland).

Taskforce contact details

Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Taskforce
Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs
Locked Bag 3405
Brisbane QLD 4001

Email: taskforce.secretariat@cyjma.qld.gov.au

Website: www.cyjma.qld.gov.au/thr-taskforce