

Queensland Government response to Mason Jett Lee Coronial Inquiry recommendations

Recommendation	Government position	Government lead
Theme 1 – Service Model (RAI and IFS)		
1 I recommend that the Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect System (SCAN) manual and relevant legislation, policies and procedures be amended to mandate that when a family is engaged with a service provider, and that family's matter is referred to SCAN: a. the external support worker must be invited to attend all SCAN meetings relevant to that family; and, b. information held by the SCAN members must be shared with the external support worker.	<p>Accept</p> <p>The Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women (DCSYW) supports this recommendation.</p> <p>DCSYW will strengthen current practice by making amendments to the Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) Team System manual (SCAN manual), supported by staff training, to ensure the invitation of external support workers to SCAN and the sharing of information so that they are assisted to support the family.</p>	DCSYW
Theme 2 – Health		
2 I recommend Queensland Department of Health implement formal policies and procedures for the escalation of a case in which medical officers disagree with a decision made by the department (DCSYW) in relation to the discharge from hospital of a child.	<p>Accept</p> <p>DCSYW and Queensland Health support this recommendation.</p> <p>DCSYW and Queensland Health will work together to develop procedures that incorporate an escalation procedure in relation to the discharge of a child from hospital.</p>	Queensland Health DCSYW
Theme 3 – Policing		
3 I recommend that procedures and policies for the provision of information to QPS be reviewed to ensure that information held by the department is provided to the QPS, upon request, in a timely manner and without redactions and the QPS report annually for the next three years to the Coroners Court of Queensland the number, if any, of search warrants executed on the department for the provision of information in relation to children who are subject to a joint investigation	<p>Accept</p> <p>DCSYW and the Queensland Police Service (QPS) support this recommendation.</p> <p>DCSYW and the Queensland Police Service (QPS) support this recommendation. DCSYW and QPS will work together to improve information provision to the QPS to ensure timely and unredacted information upon request and will provide the</p>	DCSYW QPS

		Coroners Court of Queensland with information concerning search warrants executed on DCSYW for the provision of information in relation to children subject to a joint investigation, for the next three years.	
Theme 4 - Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect system			
4	I recommend that the SCAN manual and relevant legislation, policies and procedures be amended to require cases remain open to SCAN until appropriate feedback has been provided to core members and it is agreed that the recommendations have been fulfilled, or if not fulfilled, are no longer appropriate, and that no further recommendations are appropriate.	Accept The Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women (DCSYW) supports this recommendation. DCSYW will strengthen current practice by making amendments to the SCAN Manual, supported by staff training, to ensure that cases remain open until appropriate feedback has been provided to core members.	DCSYW
5	I recommend that the SCAN manual and relevant legislation, policies and procedures be amended to mandate that when a SCAN meeting is inquorate, the available members nevertheless hold a case planning discussion about the matters that would have been subject to the meeting	Accept The Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women (DCSYW) supports this recommendation. DCSYW will strengthen current practice by making amendments to the SCAN Manual, supported by staff training, to ensure that case discussion and information sharing relevant to safety assessment and planning occurs irrespective of SCAN capacity to meet.	DCSYW
Theme 5 – Child Safety – Removing children from the system			
6	I recommend that: (a) The department review its policies and procedures to ensure that, in accordance with the Government's acceptance of Recommendation 7.4 of the Carmody Inquiry:	Accept In 2018, the Queensland Government introduced significant reforms to improve permanency outcomes for children involved in the child protection system including legislative amendments to the Child Protection Act 1999. These included new permanency principles and a hierarchy of mechanisms for	DCSYW

	<p>i. adoption is routinely and genuinely considered as a suitable permanency option for children in out-of-home care where reunification or unification is unlikely, and should be pursued in those cases, particularly for children aged under 3 years.</p> <p>ii. Adoption is routinely and genuinely considered by Child Safety officers as one of the permanency options open to them when deciding where to place a child in out of home care.</p> <p>(b) The Government consider whether the <i>Adoption Act 2009</i> (Qld) should similarly reflect the 2018 amendments to the <i>Adoption Act 2000</i> (NSW), expecting children to be permanently placed through out of home adoptions within 24 months of entering the department's care.</p> <p>(c) The department report to the Coroners Court of Queensland the numbers of children adopted and the details of those matters, every six months for the next five years.</p>	<p>achieving permanency for children, case planning requirements, a limit on the making of successive short-term orders that extend beyond two years unless it is in the child's best interests, and the introduction of a new child protection order – a Permanent Care Order. The legislation in Queensland embeds the five elements of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle and recognised the right of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to self-determination through the administration of the Act.</p> <p>Given the complexity associated with adoption from care, particularly for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, it is intended that consideration of adoption for achieving permanency for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child be subject to the additional principles under the Child Protection Act 1999 for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.</p> <p>The Government will work with stakeholders to progress the recommendation, including legislation.</p>	
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