

Delegated authority

Queensland Foster and Kinship Care webinar



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We respectfully acknowledge the First Nations people in Queensland, we acknowledge the cultural and spiritual connection that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have with the land and sea.

We recognise Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people as two unique and diverse peoples with their own rich and distinct cultures.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present, as well as the existing and emerging leaders who walk together in partnership on this journey.










Why delegated authority?

It is the right thing to do

By co-creating the structures to support systemic change, delegated authority will:

-  improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families
-  reduce the disproportionate number of children in the child protection system and the time they spend in the system
-  increase access to culturally safe services through a shift in resourcing
-  promote self-determination
-  enable the safety and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to be served by entities who know their families and communities best.

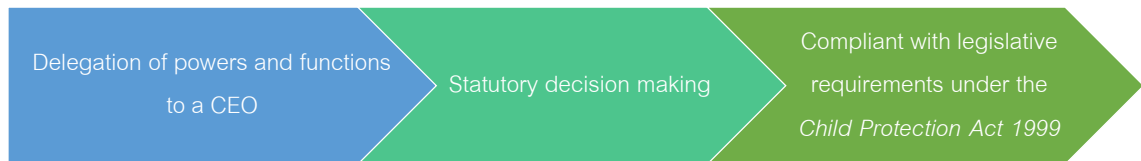


Quick facts

- One or more of the powers and functions of the **chief executive (Child Safety)** under the *Child Protection Act 1999* can be delegated.
- The delegation is always case by case and in relation to a child in need of protection, or likely to become a child in need of protection, giving regard to the child's situation (for example, the type of Child Protection Order in place).
- Decisions and functions of authorised officers cannot be delegated.
- The child must be Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.
- The decisions must be made by the CEO of a community controlled organisation – they cannot be subdelegated to another person.
- The views of the child and their parents are taken into consideration when making the decision to approve delegations.

Principles for decision making

- Chief Executive Officers who are making delegated decisions must apply the same decision-making principles and obligations as departmental delegates, including:
 - paramount principle that the safety, wellbeing and best interests of the child are paramount through childhood and for the rest of the child's life; other general principles; permanency; self-determination; identity, connection and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child placement principle, obtaining a child's views, principles about exercising powers and making decisions.



What has happened so far?

- In November 2020, implementation for the delegation of specific powers and functions commenced in partnership with Central Queensland Indigenous Development (CQID) and Refocus. These organisations now partner with six Child Safety Service Centres: Gympie, Caloundra and Maroochydore and Mount Archer, Fitzroy and Emerald.
- Results from these locations are positive, with delegations in place across functions and powers for reunification, contact and cultural contact and case planning.
- Total of 197 children with instruments of delegation approved since commencement.
- 32 children reunified to their parent/s.
- More children with strengthened connections.





Action learning approach



Implementation of delegated authority is accompanied by an action learning approach.



The approach involves purposeful reflection and diagnosing emerging issues as they arise.



Action learning may be built into regular governance meetings and case discussions.



QATSICPP can assist organisations to reflect on their implementation of delegated authority processes over time



The importance of partnerships





New delegated authority locations

Child Safety Region	Community controlled organisation and	CEO	Partnering CSSC
Sunshine Coast and Central	REFOCUS	Darcy Cavanagh	Maroochydhore, Caloundra, Gympie
	Central Queensland Indigenous Development (CQID)	Jason Field	Mt Archer, Fitzroy, Emerald
North Queensland (Townsville sub-region)	Palm Island Community Company – (PICC)	Aunty Rachel Atkinson	Townsville South and Burdekin
	Marabilda	Adrienne Barnett	Mackay
Brisbane Moreton Bay	Kummara	Gerald Featherstone	Inala
	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service (ATSICHS)	Renee Blackman	Mount Gravatt
South East	Kalwun	Kieran Chilcott	Mermaid Beach
	ATSICHS	Renee Blackman	Browns Plains
South West	Kummara	Gerald Featherstone	Springfield
	Goolburri	Lizzie Adams	Toowoomba South
	Kambu	Simone Jackson	Ipswich North



Start with connection

- New delegated authority responses will start with one or more connection functions, including cultural contact, family contact (s87 and 88), then expand to reunification (s82(2)) and case planning (s51).
- Delegations will expand to broader case management functions over time
- These delegations align with the strengths and knowledge of organisations.
- Early experience demonstrates connection creates pathways to more delegations (family-led), such as reunification.



Practice resources and supports

Community controlled organisations delivering delegated arrangements can choose to deliver practice using their own service models and practice approaches.

Organisations can also leverage existing supports such as the Child Safety Practice Manual and specialist practice teams for complex matters

QATSICPP practice resources



Practice resources and supports

- Make a clear connection with principles embedded in the *Child Protection Act 1999* and supports practitioners to understand how delegated authority upholds the right of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to self-determination.
- Emphasise that connection to family, kin, community and culture is significant in keeping Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children safe.
- Provide practitioners with guidance to apply each element of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Child Placement Principle to the standard of active efforts when working across delegated authority arrangements.
- Are developed in response to identified and emerging practice issues and will underpin the preparation of delegated authority-specific training over time.



Next steps: statewide expansion

- Pre-market engagement: sector engagement and feedback about interest and priorities, sector-led collaborative input and planning.
- Allocation of resourcing (following Qld Government procurement policy).
- Pre-market engagement, negotiation and approvals process to occur 3-6 months prior to 1 July each year to have new responses commence from 1 July each year. This process will continue each year, from 2023-34 to 2025-26.
- Increased responses (additional organisations) per region per year.

What carers need to know: Communication

- Carers are an important part of the child's safety and support network and need to have a strong understanding of how delegated authority arrangements will work.
- Carers can expect to receive communication from the department and the delegated authority organisation about what to expect if there is a delegated authority arrangement planned or in place for a child, and who they should go to for support and to raise issues.
- The department and the organisations involved in delegated authority will communicate directly with a child's carer/s as needed to deliver their respective roles and responsibilities.



What carers need to know: The journey together

- The department and delegated authority organisations are committed to including carers as an active partner in the process.
- This means:
 - promoting awareness of delegated authority arrangements as they apply to their individual situation
 - being responsive to carer's needs through two-way communication channels
 - educating carers and support networks on why delegated authority is happening, how it will happen and how it will impact them
 - highlighting the carer's role as partners in the child's journey and allies in the process.