Glossary

Glossary

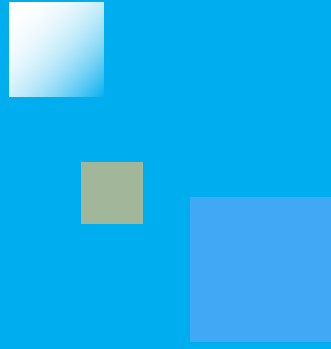|	
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child placement principle	Requires that an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander child who is to be placed in out-of-home care be placed – in order of preference – with: (a) a member of his or her family (b) a member of his or her community or language group (c) another Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person who is compatible with the child's community or language group (d) another Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.
Alternative care	Children are placed in 'alternative care' when they have been removed from their parents or usual carers after an assessment indicating that separation from their family is unavoidable to ensure their safety. Children placed in alternative care can be subject to assessment orders or child protection orders, or placements with parental consent. Alternative care can be either family-based care (that is, with a foster carer) or residential care (that is, in a licensed residential facility).
Alternative dispute resolution	Refers to the processes, other than judicial determination, in which an impartial person assists those in a dispute to resolve the issues between them. The main types of alternative dispute resolution are mediation, arbitration and conciliation.
Case management	Refers to the overall responsibilities of the department when intervening in the life of a child and family. Case management is a way of working with children, families and other agencies to ensure that services are coordinated, integrated and targeted to meet the needs and goals of children and their families.
Case plan	A written plan for meeting a child's protection and care needs. It is developed in a participative process between the department, the child, their family and other people significant to the child and family. It records the goal and outcomes of ongoing intervention and identifies the agreed tasks that will be performed to meet the goal and outcomes.
Case planning	Case planning is a participative process of planning strategies to address a child's protection and care needs and promote a child's wellbeing. It is made up of a cycle of assessment, planning, implementation and review.
Child concern report	A child concern report is a record of child protection concerns received by Child Safety that do not meet the threshold for a notification – for example, where a determination is made that a child and family are better served by family support services rather than a child protection response.
Child protection notification	Information received about a child who may be harmed or at risk of harm which requires an investigation and assessment response. A notification is also recorded for an unborn child when there is reasonable suspicion that they will be at risk of harm after they are born.
Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian	The Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian promotes and protect the rights, interests and wellbeing of children and young people in Queensland. Its operation is governed by the *Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian Act 2000*.
Community conferencing	A Family Responsibilities Commission initiative by which local agencies can refer a resident of the Indigenous community under their jurisdiction to a conference convened by the Family Responsibilities Commissioner and two local Commissioners. The local Commissioners are all respected community Elders. The conference focuses on the reasons for the referral and the actions that should be taken by the resident to rectify the problem.
Crime and Misconduct Commission Inquiry	The Crime and Misconduct Commission Inquiry examined the abuse of children in foster care, and produced the January 2004 Crime and Misconduct Commission report, *Protecting children: an inquiry into abuse of children in foster care*.
Cumulative harm	Harm to a child caused by a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances that may have a cumulative effect on the child's safety and wellbeing. The acts, omissions or circumstances may apply at a particular point in time or over an extended period, as well as the same acts, omissions or circumstances being repeated over time.

Directive order	An order made under s 61 of the *Child Protection Act 1999*, directing a parent: • to do or refrain from doing something directly related to the child's protection, and/or • not to have contact (direct or indirect) with the child, or to only have contact when a stated person or a person of a stated category is present.
Discrete Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community	A discrete Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community refers to a geographic location inhabited or intended to be inhabited by predominantly Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people, with infrastructure either owned or managed on a community basis.
Family Responsibilities Commission	The Family Responsibilities Commission began operation on 1 July 2008 as a key component of the Cape York Welfare Reform. The purpose of the Commission is to support the restoration of socially responsible standards of behaviour and to help community members to resume and maintain primary responsibility for the wellbeing of their community and the individuals and families within their community.
Foster care	A form of family-based care where the child is cared for in a family home and where guardianship rests with the chief executive or some other legal entity.
Guardianship	A person who has or is granted guardianship of a child (under a child protection order) has the powers, rights and responsibilities to attend to: • a child's daily care • making decisions that relate to day-to-day matters concerning the child's daily care • making decisions about the long-term care, wellbeing and development of the child in the same way a person has parental responsibility under the *Family Law Act 1975*.
Harm	Any detrimental effect of a significant nature on the child's physical, psychological or emotional wellbeing. Harm can be caused by physical, psychological or emotional abuse or neglect, or sexual abuse or exploitation. Harm can be caused by a single act, omission or circumstance, or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances.
Intake	Intake is the first phase of the child protection continuum, and is initiated when information or an allegation is received from a notifier about harm or risk of harm to a child or unborn child, or when a request for Child Safety assistance is made.
Intervention	The intervention for the child is the action taken by the chief executive to give the help that the child needs. Examples include: • giving support services to the child and his or her family • arranging for the child to be placed in care under a care agreement.
Intervention with parental agreement	Refers to ongoing intervention with a child who is considered in need of protection, based on the agreement of a child's parent/s, to work with the department to meet a child's safety and protection needs.
Investigation and assessment	Investigation and assessment is the second phase of the child protection continuum. It is the Child Safety response to all notifications to determine the safety and protective needs of a child.
Maltreatment	Non-accidental behaviour towards another person, which is outside the norms of conduct and entails a substantial risk of causing physical or emotional harm.
National Framework	*The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009–2020* is a Council of Australian Governments policy framework that aims to ensure that Australia's children and young people are safe and well.
Natural justice/ procedural fairness	The two principles of the term have been developed by courts to ensure that the process by which a decision is made is fair and reasonable. Put simply, the first requires a decision-maker to give a person or organisation who will be affected by the decision-maker's decision an opportunity to 'have their say' about the case against them, which the decision-maker must then take into account when making a decision. The second principle requires a decision-maker not to have a personal interest in the outcome and to make a decision impartially.
Non-government organisation	For the purposes of the Commission's work, a non-government organisation is a recognised organisation or organised body with an active operation in the child and family welfare sector. Non-government organisations may be funded solely or in part by government (Australian and/or state/territory). Non-government organisations are also referred to as non-government agencies or voluntary services.
Notification	See child protection notification.

Ongoing intervention	Ongoing intervention is the third phase of the child protection continuum. It occurs when it is necessary for the department to provide support and assistance to the family to reduce risk to a child, or to the extent necessary to ensure that the child's protection and care needs are met. There are three types of ongoing intervention: • a support service case • intervention with parental agreement • intervention with a child protection order.
Out-of-home care	Out-of-home care refers to placements of children, subject to statutory child protection intervention, using the authority of the *Child Protection Act 1999,* section 82(1). Out-of-home care includes placements with: • a licensed care service • an approved or kinship carer • another entity.
Primary services	Primary prevention is defined as both the prevention of an adverse outcome before it occurs and the reduction of its prevalence. Primary prevention programs are generally directed at the general population and can include activities such as increasing the economic self-sufficiency of families, making health care more accessible and affordable, expanding and improving coordination of social services, providing more affordable child care services and preventing unwanted pregnancy.
Public health model	The public health model encapsulates a 'composite approach' to prevention whereby interventions to prevent child maltreatment, or to respond to varying degrees of risk of child maltreatment, are available at primary, secondary and tertiary levels. In this model, services are delivered on a continuum from primary services, which offer supports at the universal or community level, through to tertiary services, which target children and families where abuse has occurred and/or where there is significant risk of abuse.
Recognised entities	An entity (an individual or organisation) with whom the chief executive must consult about issues relating to the protection and care of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.
SCAN teams (Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect teams)	The SCAN team system enables a coordinated multi-agency response to children where statutory intervention is required by facilitating: • the sharing of relevant information between members of the system • the planning and coordinating of actions to assess and respond to children's protection needs • a holistic and culturally responsive assessment of children's protection needs.
Secondary services	Secondary interventions target families who are 'at risk' of child maltreatment. Where families are at risk of harming a child, secondary approaches give high priority to early intervention. Secondary interventions generally involve early screening to detect children who are most at risk, followed by an intervention to deal with the risk factors.
Statutory child protection services	The phrase 'statutory child protection services' refers to statutory agencies/departments (that is, departments established by Parliament) charged with responsibility for securing the safety and welfare of children. Such services/departments are designed to intervene to protect children where children have been harmed or are at risk of harm. Statutory agencies have a legal mandate for such intervention, which is prescribed in relevant legislation.
Structured Decision Making	Structured Decision Making (SDM™) is an assessment and decision-making model to assist the Child Safety officer and team leader in making critical decisions about the safety of children.
Subpoena	A document issued by a court ordering a person to attend court and produce information or testify in a case.
Substantiated harm	The outcome of an investigation and assessment where it is assessed that the child or young person has experienced significant harm and/or there is unacceptable risk of harm, and there is no parent able and willing to protect the child.
Tertiary services	Tertiary interventions target families in which child maltreatment has already occurred. Tertiary interventions seek to reduce the long-term implications of maltreatment and to prevent maltreatment recurring.
Universal services	See primary services.
Unsubstantiated harm	The outcome of an investigation and assessment where it is assessed that there is no evidence that the child has experienced significant harm and there is no unacceptable risk of harm.

Appendix

Appendix 1

Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry advisory group membership

Dr Anne Brennan	Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist
Dr Jan Connors	Director, Child Protection Unit, Mater Children's Hospital
Adjunct Professor Chris Goddard	Director, Child Abuse Prevention Research Australia, Monash University
Dr Scott Harden	Child, Adolescent and Adult Forensic Psychiatrist
Ms Hetty Johnston	Executive Director, Bravehearts
Ms Natalie Lewis	Chief Executive, Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak
Dr Karen Martin	Associate Professor, Early Childhood School of Education, Southern Cross University
Mr Garth Morgan	Executive Director, Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Human Services Coalition
Associate Professor Stephen Stathis	Clinical Director, Child and Family Therapy Unit, Royal Children's Hospital
Dr Clare Tilbury	Senior Lecturer, School of Human Services, Griffith University
Ms Karyn Walsh	President, Queensland Council of Social Services and Coordinator, Micah Projects
Mr Lindsay Wegener	Executive Director, PeakCare
Ms Llewellyn Williams	Social and Emotional Wellbeing Counsellor, Link Up Queensland

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