

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Title:	External Learning Partnership
Date of issue:	30 January 2026
Return date:	13 February 2026
Contact person:	Roger Meany – roger.meany@aracy.org.au

About ARACY and the Thriving Qld Kids Partnership

ARACY - the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth - was established in 2002 to galvanise and translate into policy and practice the best available evidence to help all children and young people in Australia to thrive. TQKP is an initiative of ARACY.

The wellbeing of Queensland's children is shaped by what surrounds and happens to them – relationships, experiences and environments. Infants, children and young people do well when the people and places around them are well connected, supported and equipped. Since late 2020, [Thriving Queensland Kids Partnership](#) (TQKP) has been bringing together decision-makers and practitioners, caregivers and communities, and organisations from multiple sectors and systems, from across Queensland.

In June 2025, TQKP launched a new, bold five-year Impact Strategy setting the agenda for our next chapter. Our shared vision is a Queensland where every child and young person can thrive. The Strategy describes the 'systems impacts' we want to achieve:

- to improve connectivity, capability, and capacity in communities, workforces, organisations and systems, and
- to improve experiences of, and outcomes for, families.

To this end, TQKP's efforts are being focused in six inter-connected portfolios:

1. Engaging Hearts and Mindsets
2. Building Brains and Bodies
3. Enabling Stewards and Voices
4. Strengthening Places and Spaces
5. Growing Investments and Impacts, and
6. Integrating Hubs and Spokes.

Project Overview:

[Thriving Queensland Kids Partnership](#) (TQKP) has been funded by the Bowness Foundation to deliver Phase 1 of the [Early Oral Language Partnership](#) (QEOLP). The Partnership will bring together key partners and collaborators to create a dynamic, cross-sector coalition focused on strengthening early oral language development, increasing the number of Queensland children starting school developmentally ready and contributing to developmental, health and wellbeing outcomes more broadly.



The Queensland Early Oral Language Partnership responds to the Bowness Family Foundation's national call to **connect, understand and act**, recognising that oral language is essential to a child's development and has impacts across the life course.

Phase 1 of the Partnership aims to:

- Bring together cross-sector organisations who are committed to supporting children's early oral language development to form the Queensland Early Oral Language Partnership (QEOLP).
- Map what's already happening in Queensland for early oral language - the resources, programs, campaigns, health checks, services that we already have – what's working, identifying any gaps and understanding the strengths and weaknesses of the broader system that can support or hinder early oral language development.
- Develop a strategic Queensland Early Oral Language Roadmap for how Queensland will work together to implement a plan for children's early oral language. This will link to existing policies, plans, programs and evidence.
- Develop clear ways to measure the success of the Partnership and Roadmap and share what we learn, so that best practice early oral language development is available to as many communities, families, educators and services as possible.
- Develop and apply criteria to identify local communities in Queensland to 'pilot' this work for Phase 2 of the initiative.
- Develop an investment proposal to governments and philanthropies for Phase 2 of the QEOLP to implement the Roadmap.

Our Requirement

[Thriving Queensland Kids Partnership](#) (TQKP) is seeking to engage a learning partner to facilitate knowledge translation, assist with the development of the Roadmap, and to develop a monitoring, evaluation and learning framework to assess the effectiveness of the [Queensland Early Oral Language Partnership](#) (QEOLP) initiative and support its ability to scale and translate learning for future phases.

We are seeking an external learning partner who has the expertise, experience and passion for early oral language and child development and is a skilled learning partner with systems change initiatives.

To do this well, TQKP requires the learning partner to:

- **Design and refine evaluation and learning questions** linked to TQKP's Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Reporting (MELR) Framework, and our QEOLP Theory of Change, that will guide continuous learning and adaptive decision-making. (see Attachment: QEOLP Theory of Change). These questions should meaningfully support ongoing learning and adaptive decision-making across the program and reflect contemporary evidence on the social determinants influencing early oral language development.
- **Develop a MELR framework** tailored to the Partnership for Phase 1 and 2, while aligning to and providing learning insights to mature TQKP's MELR Framework. (see Attachment: TQKP MELR V3).



- **Recommend and define robust methods for data collection and analysis**, including possible collaboration on data collection across the TQKP portfolios and initiatives (see Attachment: TQKP's 2025-2030 Strategy and Intended Impact). This would include ascertaining best fit early oral language and child development data collection across systems, communities and settings. Flexibility to capture unanticipated and unintended outcomes and an appropriate mix of qualitative and quantitative measures will be important.
- **Provide ongoing knowledge translation** and evidence syntheses to inform the development of a Queensland Early Oral Language Roadmap that drives meaningful system improvements, impacts and influences positive early oral language development outcomes and enables sustained, long-term action at a place and systems level, considerate of First Nations perspectives.
- **Provide support to assess and evaluate** the potential pilot sites for Phase 2 of the initiative, with an intention to scale from the learnings provided.
- **Design and facilitate learning loops** and opportunities across the Partnership and communities.
- **Produce consolidated reporting** across Phase 1 for the activities above including a final report.

We are inviting proposals that:

- Describe your approach to:
 - developing a QEOLP MELR framework within the existing TQKP MELR framework and capacity, and
 - supporting the implementation and adaptation of the TQKP MELR Framework.
- Describe how you will develop an evaluation that reflects contemporary understanding of social determinants of language development, using nationally and internationally recognised measures regarding child language outcomes.
- Describe how you will generate insights to inform the development of a Queensland Early Oral Language Roadmap.
- Describe how you will engage key partners and collaborators in the work.
- Build the capacity of the TQKP Team. Our intention is to grow our ownership/leading role regarding the QEOLP MELR post year one.
- Describe how you will bring First Nations' wisdom and lens' into your work. Share how you are planning to do this in the context of TQKP's work.
- Propose regular reviews of how our Partnership is progressing. We seek information regarding when and how these reviews will happen, and what will/may occur afterwards.
- Demonstrate a cost-effective approach that maximises value and efficient use of project resources, including what you might contribute to realising TQKP's vision and the legacy you would like to leave.

Services Agreement

The initiation, conduct and reporting of the project will be subject to a Services Agreement that will include provisions related to intellectual property and collaboration on any publications that emerge.

Indicative budget and timeline

The indicative budget for this project is \$97,000 including GST. All work (excluding the final report) to be completed by 15 September 2026. Proposals that enhance the value of the project by indicating other contributions are especially welcome.

Proposal format and lodgement

Please submit your application as a Word or PDF document. Relevant attachments are welcome.

Please forward all completed applications via email to **tqkp@aracy.org.au**. Alternative means of lodgements can be arranged via negotiation.

Please contact the listed contact person if any issues with lodgement are encountered.

Activity Timetable	Date
RfP document issued	30 January 2026
Closing date for proposals	13 February 2026
Successful respondent notified	20 February 2026
Learning Partner onboarded	2 March 2026

Proposal content

Proposals must outline the following:

- Respondent's details, including:
 - Entity Name
 - ABN
 - Address
 - Contact Person
 - Phone Number
 - Email Address
 - Web Address
- A detailed explanation / description of the methods and processes proposed for the delivery of the project
- A summary, high-level project plan to demonstrate how the respondent will meet the required timeframes
- A quotation with a clear fee structure, inclusive of: GST and any expenses necessary to complete the assignment; and of any other contributions able to be made to enhance the value of the project
- The personnel proposed to conduct the work, with a description of their skills and experience in relation to this specification (include resumes if applicable)
- Detailed description and examples of your / your organisation's experience in completing similar and/or related assignments or other work

7. Contact details of two referees willing to comment on the organisation's and/or consultant's work
8. Professional Indemnity and Public Liability insurance policy details.

Selection Criteria

Criteria	weighting
Demonstrated understanding and engagement with the subject matter of the project	40%
Demonstrated previous performance with projects of similar or related nature	20%
Methodology	20%
Cost & Contribution	20%

Insurance and Indemnity

Workers' Compensation

- The respondent must effect, and ensure that each of its sub-contractor's effects, a WorkCover policy of insurance complying with the provisions of the Accident Compensation Act 1985 in respect of all of its employees.

Public Liability Insurance

- The respondent must, at all times during the Contract Term, be the holder of a current public liability policy of insurance in the joint names of the respondent and its sub-contractors, providing coverage for an amount of not less than \$10 million.

Professional Indemnity Insurance

- The respondent must, at all times during the Contract Term, be the holder of a current professional indemnity policy of insurance in respect of the activities specified, providing coverage for an amount of not less than \$5 million.

Further information

Please direct any queries to:

Roger Meany



Thriving Queensland Kids Partnership

connect • catalyse • learn

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Convenor, Brains and Investment
Lead, Strategy and Governance

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