



Thriving Queensland Kids Partnership Charter



Thriving Queensland
Kids Partnership
connect • catalyse • learn



every child **thriving**
aracy





Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands upon which we live and work, and their continuing connection to land and sea, kin, culture and community.

We are privileged to welcome and grow our children and support our families in these places.

We pay respect to Elders past and present, and to First Nations colleagues.

We also acknowledge the First Nations leaders, advocates and organisations that have fought for children and their families, and endured the consequences of adversity and trauma for generations.

We acknowledge the strength, resilience, determination, leadership, generosity and innovation of First Nations peoples, and we recognise the value inherent in Indigenous ways of 'knowing, being and doing'.



Why TQKP?



We want all Queensland children and young people to have a great start and journey in life.

To support the development and learning of all Queensland children, we need to build a supportive environment around them, including family, kin and communities; physical and built environments; services and systems such as education, health and housing; cultural knowledge and values – to see our children thrive.

Health, development, safety and learning outcomes for Queensland children and young people have generally improved over time, but we can do better. Too many Queensland children, young people and families are missing out on experiences and opportunities that contribute to a great start and journey in life, compared to their peers in other places.

Stress and adversity are unevenly distributed across the population. Some children experience too much adversity and their families can't easily access the resources they need at crucial times in their development. This results in poor health, wellbeing, and learning outcomes, both now and for their future.

If our services and systems are not sufficiently geared or connected to provide the right opportunities or supports, at the right time and in the right way, our kids miss out on their very best start and journey in life.

Children thrive when our policies, programs and systems offer strong support to all families and communities according to their need. Stronger support can help families navigate life's ups and downs such as financial challenges, the impact of poverty, racism, and other stressors. We must make support available to children who are currently missing out because we want all children to thrive.

Inequities that could be avoided are unfair. We must assist children and young people according to their needs and the needs of their families and communities. We must fix the systemic barriers that prevent children, young people, families and communities thriving.

These core beliefs are what drives TQKP, and we are using what we know from science, evidence and experience to change the odds of Queensland children, young people and families thriving, now and into the future.

Our long-term goal is to contribute to transforming our systems so that more children in our state experience healthy development.

At the very least, and as a measure, we are committed to bringing down the disproportionate rates of developmental vulnerability that Queensland children and young people experience, to Australian averages by 2032.



What is TQKP?

TQKP is a growing community of people and organisations whose common purpose is:

***‘to change the odds for Queensland children,
young people and families to thrive’.***

To achieve our objectives of ensuring all children are getting the supports they need regardless of where they live, and reducing the number of children and their families who are experiencing inequity and vulnerability, we know that many people and agencies need to be working together towards clear, shared goals, and on agreed priority initiatives.

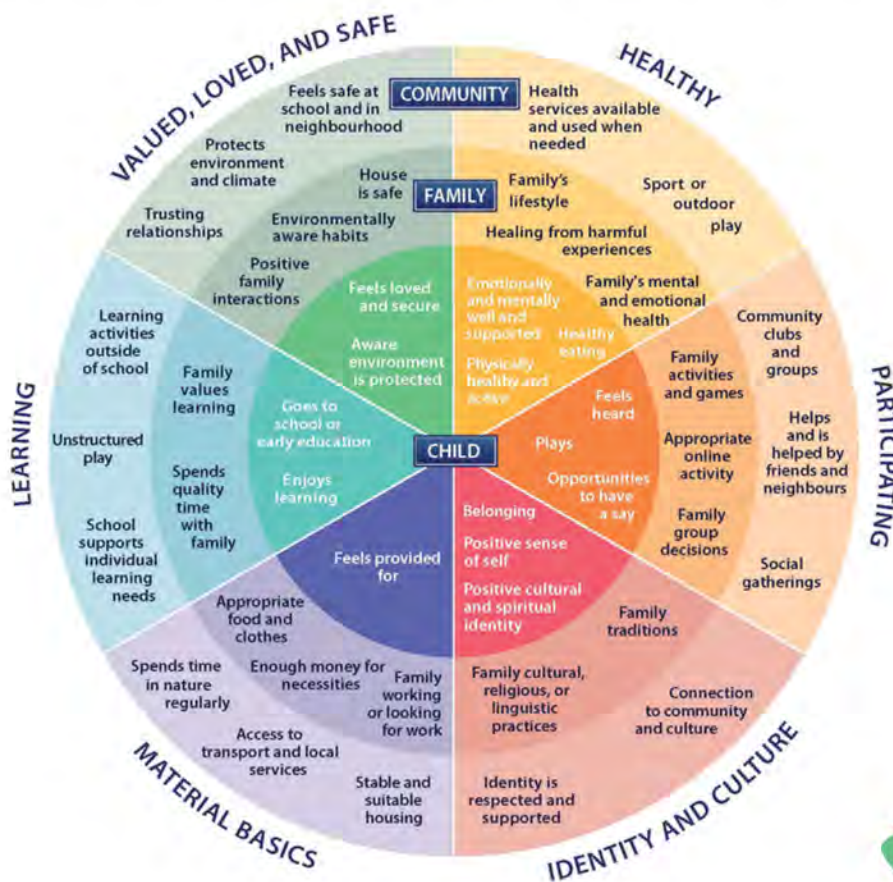
TQKP is a vehicle for systems, organisational and community-level leaders, practitioners and academics, philanthropies and caregivers from across Queensland to come together to ‘play, do and learn’ with a view to advancing constructive and practical systems change initiatives.

TQKP’s work is underpinned by The Nest – Australia’s evidence-informed, holistic, child-centred and strengths-based outcomes framework and agenda for what children, young people and families need to thrive – developed by ARACY.

We also base our work on the three key design principles of the world-renowned work of the Harvard Center on the Developing Child. These are:

- Support responsive and safe relationships and environments
- Reduce adverse childhood experiences and sources of toxic stress
- Build and strengthen core skills and capabilities for life.

The framework and these principles enable shared understanding and efforts across the child, youth and family-related services and systems, and help us see the connections and contributions we can all make to child and adolescent development and wellbeing.



How does TQKP work?

Supported by ARACY, overseen by the TQKP Management Board, and guided by the TQKP Leadership Table, TQKP is working as an intermediary or broker – connecting, catalysing and learning from these collective efforts.

TQKP's focus is on facilitating systems work through initiatives that 'weave systems together' - creating connections, growing capabilities and acting together.

TQKP's approach is to use 'what and who we have, and what we know and learn'. That means listening to lived experience and expertise, leveraging available resources, facilitating collaborations on specific initiatives, working at all levels, and supporting learning, good stewardship and partnership.



QLD child, youth and family ecosystem of individuals, families, communities, organisations, sectors, and systems



What does engaging with TQKP involve?

Queensland is fortunate to have an ecosystem with many great caregivers and communities, leaders and practitioners, agencies, organisations and institutes, and philanthropies, networks and catalysts for change. TQKP aims to 'amplify the value and impact' of the work of our philanthropic, not-for-profit, government and university sectors, rather than competing or duplicating.

The impact of TQKP relies on the ability and willingness of our partners, collaborators and networkers – our community – to come together, share, learn and support one another, and to work with a shared purpose of changing the odds for children, young people and families in Queensland to thrive.

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People and organisations can engage in TQKP in various levels and ways – as partners, collaborators, or networkers – and this may vary over time:

Partners

sign up to funding, service or collaboration agreements or MoUs

Collaborators

participate in working groups, communities of practice or specific initiatives

Networkers

participate in TQKP's learning forums and subscribe to our e-bulletins and social media

Those engaging with TQKP are also encouraged to play in ways that embrace TQKP's operating principles and approach. These are:

We put the interests, agency, rights and voices of people – especially children and young people, and their families and communities – at the heart of what we do.

We acknowledge the experiences, wisdom and generosity of First Nations people.

We prioritise collaboration and bring a generous and creative mindset.

We value connectivity, take a whole of systems approach and work to reduce fragmentation, rubs and gaps.

We encourage experimentation, innovation and demonstration, sound scaling and embedding.

We work to ensure that resources, power and benefits are distributed fairly and used appropriately.

We have audacious goals that reflect what parents, caregivers and our communities want for our kids.

We are developmental and seek to build connections, capabilities, and capacities because of what we do and how we work.

We question positively and respectfully, listen intently and discover together.

We value facts, are robust in our methods, are driven by data, evidence and experience, and build and share knowledge.

We model and enable learning and accountability through continuous assessment, reflection, and improvement.

The TQKP vision

The TQKP vision is that 'all Queensland children and young people have a great start and journey in life'. We will enable this through collective efforts to:

- reduce stresses, inequities, adversity and insecurity
- support strong family relationships and positive connections and healthy and safe environments in families and communities
- build core capabilities and resilience in individuals, families and workforces, and
- take holistic, joined up approaches to creating better outcomes for children, young people and families.

To do so, TQKP facilitates practical initiatives that use key systems levers and core 'threads' that help weave our systems, services and supports together, threads such as outcomes, places, brains, platforms, stories, capabilities, skills, hubs and linkers.

TQKP supports signatories to this Charter to apply a systems lens in their efforts that contribute to this vision, and to facilitate our collective work towards shifting the following levers, which are our means for system-wide change and impact:

Putting data and learning to work

- enabling community and decision makers to access, share and use valued data and insights across systems
- enabling learning and participating in measurement, evaluation and adaptation
- adopting evidence-informed and outcome-oriented strategies, policies, programs and practices

Concerted leadership

- engaging in systems stewardship, reform and improvement
- engaging in cross-sectoral and multi-service partnerships and collaborations
- supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders and organisations' child, youth and family wellbeing initiatives

Smarter investment

- enabling co-investment and commissioning for outcomes in what works, when, where and for whom it matters
- growing philanthropic and impact investment
- embedding decision-making processes that are informed by data and evidence

Integrated and developmental services

- enabling service integration, innovation and navigation across systems
- promoting common approaches to outcomes and to capability building
- enabling place-based child, youth and family wellbeing initiatives
- leveraging digital transformation to enhance accessibility and efficiency

Stronger workforces

- facilitating understanding and use of shared, science-informed knowledge, language and skills in child and youth development, parenting, and caregiving

Caregiver, community and public engagement

- sharing evidence-informed narratives and effective framing about what it takes for children, young people and families to thrive
- enabling people's voices, experiences and agency, including in the design, delivery and assessment of initiatives.
- supporting community-led initiatives and systems engagement



The TQKP Charter pledge



..... (Name/name of organisation)

I/we acknowledge that enabling all Queensland children, young people and families to thrive requires collaborative and collective efforts to 'catalyse systems to change the odds'.

I/We will contribute in whichever ways, and whatever levels, are possible and appropriate to ensure our systems are well geared, connected and working well together to give all Queensland children and young people a great start and journey in life.

As a partner or collaborator with TQKP, I/we will endeavour to:

- listen to the lived experience of children, young people and their families, and our frontline practitioners, and amplify their voices to others
- participate in cross-sectoral collaboratives, working groups and communities of practice
- contribute to and share learnings about what works and what matters
- facilitate access to workforce and organisational development initiatives that build common knowledge, language, and skills
- use evidence-based 'integrative' and 'developmental' frames and tools in our policies, programs and practices

My/our role in and contribution to child, youth and family wellbeing in Queensland is to:

My/our proposed activities include:

.....
Name/name of organisation

.....
Position (if appropriate)

.....
Signature

.....
Date

Thriving Queensland Kids Partnership

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