Queensland Government’s implementation updates to recommendations arising from the *Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board 2018-19 Annual Report*

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<tr>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Implementation update</th>
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| Recommendation 1  
The Queensland Government increase the availability, accessibility and integration of services that support young mothers and their families experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, domestic and family violence. Funded services should incorporate key elements, including, but not limited to:  
- delivery of early intervention and supportive responses  
- a focus on continuity of midwifery care  
- provision of trauma-informed responses to intergenerational violence  
- delivery of services in an integrated fashion utilising multi-disciplinary approaches. These services should give appropriate consideration to the intersections of vulnerabilities and complexities experienced by all mothers; and be accessible to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and those with disabilities. | Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women | The recommendation is accepted.  
On 1 October 2020 the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence responded:  
The Queensland Government has increased the availability, accessibility and integration of services for young mothers including:  
- integrating specialist domestic and family violence workers into mainstream family support services (Family and Child Connect, and Intensive Family Support) to strengthen multi-disciplinary service integration and accessibility to domestic and family violence support  
- establishing eight domestic and family violence high risk teams across the state comprised of representatives of a range of government agencies as well as specialist domestic and family violence organisations to support people at high risk of domestic and family violence. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander senior project officers provide a cultural connector role for advice and referrals and supporting prevention and early intervention  
- improving the ability of midwives to support and refer all women experiencing domestic and family violence during pregnancy according to recommendations in the *Not Now, Not Ever* report and previous Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board (the board) annual reports. Comprehensive training has been provided to midwives to screen for, respond to and refer women experiencing domestic and family violence, an additional 100 midwives have been recruited across Queensland public maternity units, and through the First 1,000 Days project. The First 1,000 Days project aims to improve access to continuity of carer models across pregnancy, labour and birth, postnatal and early parenting to the child’s second birthday  
- launching the *Growing Deadly Families Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Maternity Services Strategy 2019-2025* in November 2019. The strategy and implementation plan focus on developing and strengthening meaningful partnerships; co-design of services; providing care that is culturally safe and woman-centred; and increasing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce in maternity services. |
• implementing Queensland’s plan to respond to domestic and family violence against people with a disability, building on the domestic and family violence reforms already underway in Queensland to further drive improvements to services, systems and data to increase awareness of, and better respond to, people with disability impacted by domestic and family violence

• Children’s Health Queensland, with support from the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships is engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to co-design the right@home program in Caboolture to ensure the program is culturally sensitive and accessible. The right@home program is a home visitation service focused on early intervention to support children and families at risk of exposure to adverse childhood experiences and trauma

• establishing regional child youth and family committees and local level alliances across the state to promote the integration of responses to children and families

• developing and launching the Queensland’s Framework for Action to Reshape our Approach to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Domestic and Family Violence in response to Recommendation 20 of the board’s annual report 2016-17. The framework, launched in May 2019, aims to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives are considered across all responses to domestic and family violence.

The Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women is continuing to deliver a range of responses to ensure families receive holistic responses that address their multiple needs, and responses are informed by an understanding of trauma including:

• two Young Parents Programs delivered by Micah, Young Mothers for Young Women and Caboolture Young Mothers for Young Women established in 2017/18, the latter of which includes a nurse/midwife role

• two health home visiting programs operating in South East Queensland, one piloting the right@home program in Logan, that assist new parents experiencing heightened risk of harm from domestic and family violence, including screening for domestic and family violence

• specialist domestic and family violence practitioner roles within family support services, including new investment in specialist domestic and family violence workers in five Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family wellbeing services.

Specialist domestic and family violence worker roles will be embedded within community-controlled organisations delivering the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family wellbeing services to provide a culturally sensitive response
to domestic and family violence when required by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families. The locations for the initial trial of this initiative are the Gold Coast, Toowoomba, Rockhampton, Bowen and Townsville. Work will continue on the implementation of the 2019-21 action plan to support Queensland’s *Framework for Action to Reshape our Approach to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Domestic and Family Violence*, led by the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women in collaboration with the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships.

The career pathways and models of care across the First 1,000 Days Project has been initiated to support women undertaking midwifery-based care during pregnancy. An evaluation of the project will be undertaken at the mid-year review. Based on the outcome of this review, the initiative will be considered for further funding.

### Recommendation 2

**The Queensland Government increase the availability, accessibility and integration of primary prevention service responses and awareness campaigns to families, children and young people with the purpose of breaking the cycle of intergenerational trauma and violence.**

**Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women**

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<tr>
<th>The recommendation is accepted in principle.</th>
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<tr>
<td>On 1 October 2020 the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence responded:</td>
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<td>The Queensland Government recognises the importance of prevention and integration across service responses to domestic and family violence aimed at breaking existing cycles of intergenerational trauma and violence, and ensuring young people understand the importance of healthy relationships.</td>
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<td>Respectful relationships education is implemented in all Queensland state schools. This will continue to be delivered through strengthening implementation of the curriculum and ensuring the quality of programs delivered.</td>
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<td>The Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women will continue to roll out public awareness raising messages, promote the domestic and family violence information portal, strengthen integrated service responses and include accessibility and integration as key themes in the new practice standards for the domestic and family violence sector (which commenced on 1 July 2020).</td>
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### Recommendation 3

**The Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women amend the Domestic and Family Violence Common Risk and Safety Framework to incorporate evidence-based questions that specifically assess for risks to children who are exposed to domestic and family violence.**

**Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women**

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<tr>
<td>On 1 October 2020 the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence responded:</td>
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<td>A multi-agency work plan has been developed to strengthen Queensland’s integrated service response to domestic and family violence, in response to findings from the evaluation of the integrated service response trial completed in 2019. The revision and validation of the Domestic and Family Violence Common Risk and Safety Framework (the framework) is a key action of the multi-agency work plan.</td>
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<td>The Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women will explore options to revise and validate the framework, ensuring the framework is evidence-based and inclusive of priority populations such as children, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, culturally and linguistically diverse people, people with disability and LGBTIQ people.</td>
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This work will be supported by partner agencies through their participation and implementation of the integrated service response working group and multi-agency work plan, with a view to the eventual statewide implementation of the framework across the domestic and family violence service system in Queensland, reflective of local co-designed approaches to integrated services delivery.

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<th>Recommendation 4</th>
<th>Department of Justice and Attorney-General</th>
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| The Queensland Government propose to the Council of Australian Governments that the Commonwealth of Australia implement an independent and appropriately resourced death review mechanism within the Family Court of Australia and the Federal Circuit Court of Australia. This death review mechanism would facilitate learnings from the deaths of children, young people and parents known to the family court system at the time of their death or within appropriate proximity to their death with a view to prevent or reduce similar deaths in future.

The proposed death review mechanism should be informed by research and the existing state-based death review mechanisms of domestic and family violence related deaths and deaths of children known to the child protection system, including the systems that operate in Queensland. The proposed death review mechanism should be independent, transparent, utilise relevant |
| The recommendation is accepted in principle. On 3 October 2020 the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Leader of the House responded: On 1 September 2020, the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice wrote to the Commonwealth Attorney-General, providing copies of the Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board’s (the board) report and Queensland Government response and outlining the board’s key findings related to this recommendation. This included that the Family Court system does not have a death review mechanism to enable learnings to be made from the deaths of those known to the system and, as a result, it is unlikely the Family Court system is made aware of the death of a child subject to an order and is therefore unable to reflect and make subsequent improvements in service delivery. The letter also noted the importance of not duplicating the national domestic and family violence death review mechanism that already exists through the Australian Domestic and Family Violence Death Review Network. The Attorney-General welcomed the Commonwealth Attorney-General’s thoughts on the board’s recommendation, including the prospect of further consideration by the Council of Attorneys-General.

As explained in the Queensland Government’s response to this recommendation, the Council of Attorneys-General is considered the more appropriate forum to progress this proposal as the Commonwealth Attorney-General is responsible for the Family and Federal Circuit Courts. |
experts and have sufficient scope and powers to:
- access information and address issues of individual accountability
- identify common systemic gaps or issues across the system
- make recommendations to improve systems, practices and procedures as they relate to identifying and managing domestic and family violence related risk.

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<th>Recommendation 6</th>
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| The Queensland Government (Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women, Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) develop a specialist model to identify and respond specifically to intergenerational trauma and cumulative harm within families, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families. Elements of the model should include:
- a focus on effective early intervention to children and young people
- trauma-informed engagement with families who have histories of low levels of engagement with services, or system fatigue
- a culturally sensitive approach to engagement with families, children and young-people. |

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women</th>
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<tr>
<td>The recommendation is accepted in principle. On 1 October 2020 the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence responded:</td>
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<td>The Queensland Government has a strong commitment to addressing domestic and family violence in collaboration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, demonstrated through the development of Queensland’s Framework for Action – Reshaping our approach to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander domestic and family violence (the framework). The framework recognises the impact of intergenerational trauma as a key contributor to social issues in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The government has invested in 33 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family wellbeing services across the state, to undertake trauma-informed work with Indigenous families experiencing complex social issues such as domestic and family violence, to enhance their capacity to care for and nurture their children. The government has committed additional investment in the services to enhance their capacity to offer a holistic response to the diverse needs of families. This includes the creation of 31 youth and family worker roles across the state, and the establishment of specialist domestic and family violence worker roles to provide a culturally sensitive response to domestic and family violence when required by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in five of the family wellbeing services in high priority locations. In addition to its investment in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander support, the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women invests in 43 intensive family support services that seek to address the complex family issues that contribute to involvement in the child protection system. The services support families regarding both the immediate practical problems affecting them, as well as the underlying impacts of trauma that render families vulnerable.</td>
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Independent reports evaluating the trial of two evidence-based models are close to finalisation. Learnings will enhance the capacity of secondary family support services to address unhelpful family dynamics and contribute to long term strengthening of relationships. Evaluation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family wellbeing services, including the impact of the new specialist domestic and family violence positions is due to commence shortly.

**Recommendation 7**
The Queensland Government (Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women, Department of Health, and Queensland Police Service) review existing domestic and family violence risk assessment tools to ensure they are inclusive of cultural considerations.

**Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women**
The recommendation is accepted.

On 1 October 2020 the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence responded:

A multi-agency work plan has been developed to strengthen Queensland’s integrated service response to domestic and family violence, in response to findings from the evaluation of the integrated service response trial completed in 2019. The revision and validation of the domestic and family violence common risk and safety framework (the framework) is a key action of the multi-agency work plan.

The Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women will explore options to revise and validate the framework, ensuring the framework is evidence-based and inclusive of priority populations such as children, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, culturally and linguistically diverse people, people with disability and LGBTIQ people. This work will be supported by partner agencies through their participation and implementation of the integrated service response working group and multi-agency work plan, with a view to the eventual state-wide implementation of the framework across the to domestic and family violence service system in Queensland, reflective of local co-designed approaches to integrated services delivery.

**Recommendation 9**
The Queensland Government ensure that service responses, training and awareness campaigns in relation to older people experiencing violence include explicit reference to intimate partner violence as experienced by older people and that this is acknowledged as distinct from elder abuse. The Queensland Government should also explore opportunities to strengthen and clarify the referral pathways between

**Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors**
The recommendation is accepted.

On 23 September 2020 the Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors responded:

Key stakeholders for consultation were identified, and stakeholder discussions commenced with a focus on opportunities to build capacity and capability for the domestic and family violence sector to ensure appropriate service responses are available and accessible for older people experiencing intimate partner violence. A literature review and cross-jurisdictional analysis of responses and interventions for older people experiencing intimate partner violence is being undertaken by the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors (the department). This preliminary work explores a variety of modes to build awareness about intimate partner violence experienced by older people, and explores available referral pathways to appropriate support services. The department will continue to consult with stakeholders in collaboration with the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women to support domestic and family violence services to build service capacity, and recognise and respond appropriately to older people experiencing intimate partner violence.
elder abuse and domestic and family violence support services and promote the accessibility of specialist support services for older people experiencing intimate partner violence in any future elder abuse awareness campaigns.

Messaging and awareness-raising resources will be developed to promote the incidence of intimate partner violence experienced by older people as distinct from elder abuse.

**Recommendation 10**

The Queensland Government commission research in relation to service accessibility and engagement with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer or other related identities, including to the justice system, in relation to domestic and family violence. This research should inform the development of strategies to increase service engagement and utilisation.

**Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors**

The recommendation is accepted.

On 23 September 2020 the Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors responded:

Improving accessibility and engagement with domestic and family violence services for people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer or other related identities (LGBTIQ+) is a priority for the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors (the department). This work will build on existing evidence, advice provided by members of the LGBTI roundtable, and previous awareness-raising activities to identify whether further research is needed. The department commenced work with support from the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General to identify key stakeholders for consultation to identify gaps in service accessibility and engagement. The department, with support from Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, will commence consultation with stakeholders including those who work directly with LGBTIQ+ experiencing domestic and family violence. Existing resources will be leveraged and the need to enhance service accessibility and engagement will be further investigated to ensure support for LGBTIQ+ people to access domestic and family violence services.

**Recommendation 11**

Queensland Government agencies review their domestic and family violence training and associated resources to ensure materials are appropriate and inclusive for LGBTIQ+ communities.

**Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors**

The recommendation is accepted.

On 23 September 2020 the Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors responded:

In 2019, the LGBTI roundtable, facilitated by the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors (the department), raised the issue of domestic and family violence awareness training for government agencies. The department’s director-general contacted Queensland Health, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and Queensland Police Service highlighting the importance of awareness among court, hospital staff and police officers, about domestic and family violence experienced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer or other related identities (LGBTIQ+). Agencies responded with advice about their current and future awareness training and their commitment to supporting LGBTIQ+ individuals and their families experiencing DFV. Responses included:
- development of a domestic and family violence toolkit of resources supported by a suite of face-to-face and eLearning modules. The toolkit resources focused on building knowledge about the nature, dynamics and impacts of domestic and family violence and using sensitive inquiry to respond and make appropriate referrals for LGBTIQ+ people
- promotion of an LGBTIQ+ domestic and family violence website providing information, resources and safety planning tips
- inclusive training materials that support the needs of LGBTIQ+ people in domestic and family violence court proceedings
- procedures for ensuring the safety of LGBTIQ+ people attending specialist domestic and family violence courts to ensure their support through the court process
- educational resources to improve understanding about key domestic and family violence and other issues facing LGBTIQ+ communities
- collaborative research to understand the attitudes, perceptions and beliefs of prosecutors relevant to domestic and family violence in LGBTIQ+ communities.

The LGBTI roundtable plays a key role in ensuring policies, programs and services delivered by the Queensland Government agencies are inclusive of, and responsive to, the needs of LGBTIQ+ communities.

Recommendation 11 is completed, however the department will continue to engage routinely with the LGBTI roundtable to raise awareness of domestic and family violence in LGBTIQ+ communities, identify gaps in domestic and family violence service accessibility and engagement, and leverage opportunities to recognise survivors and support LGBTIQ+ people in abusive relationships.

This work is supported by the Public Service Commission which provides ongoing, business as usual support to government agencies to ensure domestic and family violence workplace responses and resources are appropriate for a range of cohorts, including LGBTIQ+.

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<th>Recommendation 12</th>
<th>Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women</th>
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<td>Government funded and other organisations that currently provide support services for victims and their children, and perpetrators of domestic and family violence, review how their services are promoted and branded to</td>
<td>The recommendation is accepted in principle.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>On 1 October 2020 the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence responded:</td>
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<td>The Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women commenced a project to implement the government response to this recommendation. The research phase of the project is complete. This included surveying existing research on LGBTIQ+ people’s experiences with the domestic and family violence service system, reviewing the department’s allocation of available funding and exploring contracts with service providers to identify possible improvements, and</td>
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ensure they are inclusive and accessible for LGBTIQ+ people where appropriate.

undertaking a review of how domestic and family violence services are currently promoting themselves when it comes to LGBTIQ+ inclusion.

The second phase of the project, scheduled for late 2020 and early 2021, will include consultation with domestic and family violence and LGBTIQ+ services and advocacy organisations. This consultation will focus on identifying domestic and family violence services’ current attitudes, policies and practices when it comes to providing support to LGBTIQ+ people, and identifying challenges for LGBTIQ+ people seeking to access services. Once consultation is complete, the department will develop potential solutions and next steps to address challenges and improve inclusive practices.

Recommendation 13
The Queensland Government (Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors and Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women) support the development of community-led strategies to help drive local community action, including in rural, regional and remote areas, to reduce the incidence and impact of domestic and family violence.

Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women and Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors

The recommendation is accepted.

On 23 September 2020 the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, and the Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors responded:

The Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women and the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors are working together to identify and engage with domestic and family violence services in rural, regional and remote areas with a high incidence of domestic and family violence. This work includes a review of the specific contexts of domestic and family violence in these areas, and exploration of creative responses to domestic and family violence using existing resources in local communities.

The Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women and the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors will work together to develop a plan to engage rural, regional and remote communities to support development of community-led strategies to help drive local community action to reduce incidence and impacts of domestic and family violence.

Recommendation 15
The Queensland Government review the operation of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012 to strengthen the ability of the court to impose conditions within a protection order with respect to financial arrangements. Any review should consider:

- relevant provisions from other jurisdictions, in particular the legislation in Victoria

Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women

The recommendation is accepted in principle.

On 1 October 2020 the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence responded:

The Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012 provides a broad discretion for courts to impose any conditions considered necessary or desirable to protect aggrieved persons from domestic and family violence. The Department of Housing and Public Works service offering has been enhanced to support customers to resolve housing needs with flexible assistance that includes addressing the economic barriers that victims face in leaving an abusive relationship by increasing access to safe, secure housing.

The Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women will work with the Department of Justice and Attorney-General will identify potential legislative and non-legislative solutions that meet the intent of this recommendation. This may include jurisdictional analysis of legislation in other jurisdictions and consideration of existing provisions that are available to address economic barriers and consideration of the intersection with the family law system. The
- the need to address the economic barriers that victims face in leaving an abusive relationship, as well as the continuing impact of prior economic abuse
- the need to implement cultural change within the judiciary and the legal services system to promote the use of existing provisions that intersect with the family law system.

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<tr>
<th>Recommendation 16</th>
<th>Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women and Department of Justice and Attorney-General will work together to understand the extent to which courts are exercising existing jurisdiction in respect of financial arrangements of parties in domestic and family violence proceedings.</th>
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<td>The Attorney-General propose a review of funding for family law legal aid and financial counselling services for victims of domestic and family violence. This should include consideration of the need for specialist legal aid and legal assistance services that focus on financial and property settlements where domestic and family violence is present.</td>
<td>The recommendation is accepted in principle. On 3 October 2020 the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Leader of the House responded: The Queensland Attorney-General wrote to the Commonwealth Attorney-General requesting he consider a review of family law legal aid for victims of domestic and family violence, with a particular focus on the need for assistance in financial and property settlement matters. The Department of Justice and Attorney-General is working with Legal Aid Queensland to conduct a desktop audit of activities, programs and funding utilisation in the family law area, specifically focused on property settlements in domestic and family violence cases. The Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors — in conjunction with Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General — commenced work on a scan of financial products provided by financial institutions to support people experiencing domestic and family violence.</td>
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