



Thriving Queensland
Kids **Partnership**
connect • catalyse • learn



Thriving Places Thriving Kids Collaborative April 2023 Meeting Report





1. Background

1.1 What is Thriving Places, Thriving Kids Collaborative

Thriving Places Thriving Kids Collaborative aims to create a space where:

- innovation will be sparked,
- learning is embraced, and
- place leaders are equipped and supported to catalyse change across the system.

The purpose of the Collaborative

- **Connecting** - place-based leaders with the support, capabilities and resources required.
- **Catalysing** - address system challenges and accelerate the change across the system levers.
- **Learning** - leaning into the local wisdom, amplifying stories of impact, challenges, and opportunities.

1.2 What is Thriving Queensland Kids Partnership

Thriving Queensland Kids Partnership (TQKP) is a Queensland-based intermediary and relationships broker focused on systems change for the benefit of children and youth. Instigated and hosted by ARACY - Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth, TQKP brings together a cross-sectoral coalition of Queensland leaders, organisations, practitioners, and collaborators working together with the shared purpose of improving the conditions for Queensland children and young people to thrive. We do this by influencing six key levers to catalyse and achieve lasting change at a systems level.

TQKP works through initiatives that are strategically planned to help 'weave systems together' and 'amplify the value and impact' of the philanthropic, not-for profit, government, and university sectors. Collectively, we work to change systems so that all Queensland children, youth, families, and communities can thrive, both now and into the future. TQKP's method is grounded in ARACY's evidence-based model, [The Nest child](#) and youth wellbeing outcomes framework, and in the [Harvard Center](#) on the Developing Child's Three Principles.

1.3 What are the six System Levers?

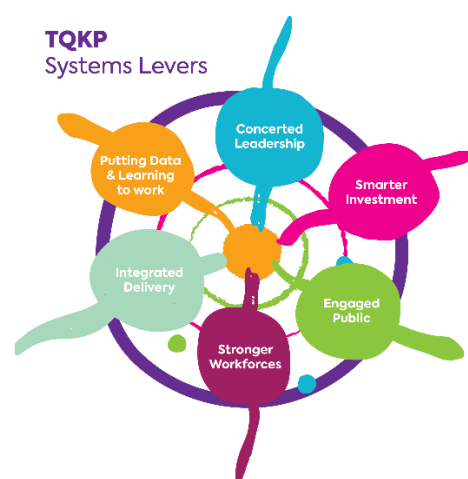
A collaboration between ANZSOG and Every Child - [Leading for Every Child](#) worked with leaders across Australia to investigate the connections, the capabilities, the ways of working to truly make a difference for children and young people.

The project explored how a systems approach can impact on outcomes for children and young people, identifying the systems reform directions that are needed to elevate the needs of children and young people and to work together to improve outcomes and make lives better.

The elements essential that have emerged in this project are:

1. Concerted systems leadership
2. Smarter investment
3. Engaged public and communities
4. Workforce capability to work in systems approaches
5. Integrated delivery of services
6. Putting data, evidence and learning to work

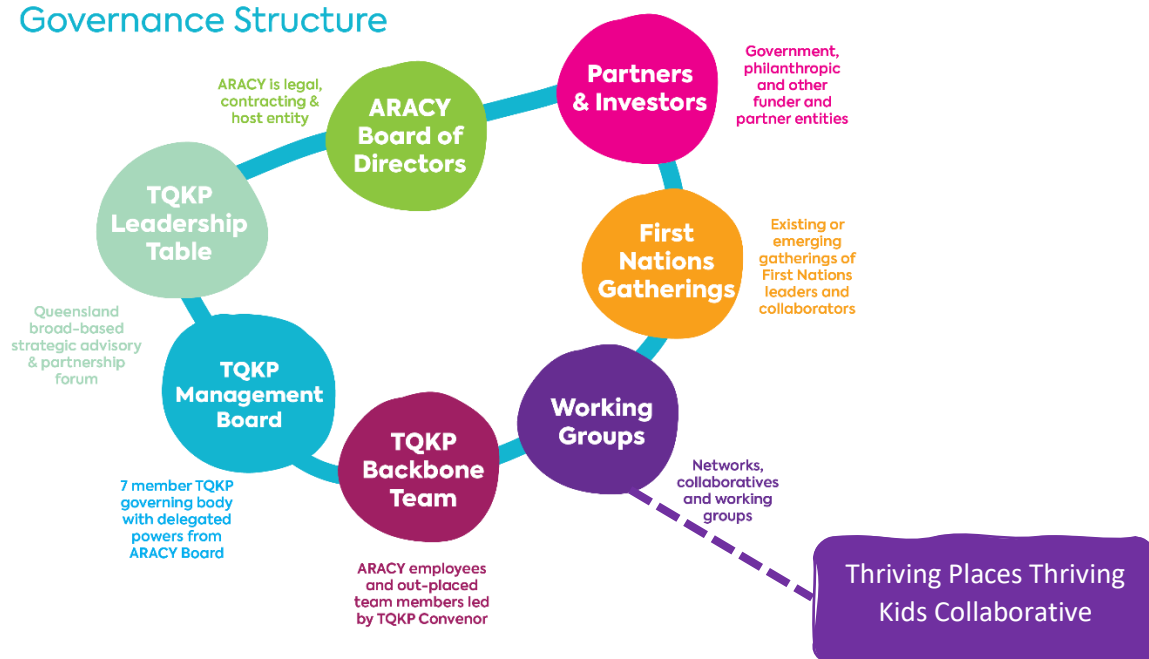
TQKP has structured its work to ensure that we focus on the six system levers





1.4 What is the TQKP governance structure – where does the TPTK network fit?

Phase 2 Governance Structure



1.5 What is TQKP focused on?

Phase 2 of the work has a focus on 10 key initiatives that are both lead and supported by TQKP, one in which is the Thriving Places, Thriving Kids Network. Further details on each of the initiative are in below table.

Initiative	Purpose	Partners
Thriving Qld Kids Brain Builders Initiative	to mobilise the burgeoning insights from neuroscience as a lever for workforce, organisational and systems capability uplift.	Led by TQKP together with the Qld Brain Institute, collaborating with Palix Foundation / Alberta Family Wellness Initiative, Yiliyapinya, Emerging Minds, and Qld institutes, agencies and NFPs
Thriving Kids Framing initiative	to facilitate broader use of evidence-based framing on child and adolescent development to shift public understanding and support and workforce capabilities.	Led by QFCC, collaborating with NAPCAN, Qld agencies and NFPs, Parenting Research Centre & Frameworks Institute, to use science-based framing and language
Thriving Kids Data Roadmap/ GenQ initiative data platform	to harness the power of child wellbeing data and community wisdom, and to reduce gaps and duplicated effort, for communities, investors, and providers, and decisionmakers	Data Roadmap is led by TQKP. GenQ is led by Health & Wellbeing Qld, with DCHDE, CHQ, QUT & GU
C4C Community Leadership and Partnership Capability Program	to enhance the impact and sustainability of DoE's Early Years Places, Partnership Facilitators and Connect 4 Children networks across Qld	Led by Qld Dept of Education to scaffold support for 102 local Connect for Children networks & 54 Early Years Places.
Thriving First Nations Kids Initiative	to provide a channel for collaborative systems work in alliance with First Nations leaders, organisations, and communities	Led by QATSICPP, in collaboration with Family Matters Qld and other First Nations organisations, leaders and communities
Thriving Country Qld Kids Collaborative	to provide a channel for collaborative systems work engaging rural and remote Queenslanders	Facilitated by TQKP in conjunction with country-facing universities JCU and CQU.
Thriving Places, Thriving Kids Network	to support collaborators and catalysts involved in child and youth focused, place-based initiatives across Queensland	Led by TQKP with reps from Cairns South, Yarrabah, Townsville, Gladstone, Gympie, Lockyer, Logan and others places, along with peaks

2.2 We have spent time listening to place leaders.

The Workshop in parliament house brought together 60 place leaders, decision makers and influencers to connect, learn from local wisdom and catalyse the change required to advance the priorities identified.



2.3 We have spent time defining the collective system challenges and what we heard from you is that we need;

1. Greater recognition of local efforts and achievements
2. Better connections with decision makers
3. Better connections and sharing across and between the place based initiatives, and with state and national efforts
4. Great support for local innovation and integrations
5. Greater effort to address system barriers;
 - a. data
 - b. inflexible short-term investments, and
 - c. capability building



2.4 We also have connected more broadly in the eco-system of place understanding what's influencing the thinking on Place within Queensland and nationally such as;

- Nexus Centre
- Australian Governments interest in place- Federal Treasurer essay in the monthly
- Queensland – 18mth out from an election
- Large body of research on what works for place
- Building interest in place
- Measuring what matters- focus on place
- Interim Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee– with 6 recommendations focused at place-based initiatives



Federal Treasurer Jim Chalmers in his essay in The Monthly early this year also pointed to the importance of focusing our attention on place-based initiatives

“for building a more inclusive and resilient economy, where communities have the genuine input, local leadership, resources and authority to define a new and better future especially for kids”.

Recommendation 11 *The Government provide long-term certainty around funding provision for place based strategies, with a priority on ensuring operational continuity for successful existing initiatives*



Federal Budget 2023-24

- \$64.0 million over 6 years from 2023–24 to extend the Stronger Places, Stronger People program to deliver place-based initiatives in partnership with 10 local communities and state and territory governments to improve outcomes for disadvantaged children and their families, and to enhance place-based initiatives in 6 of these communities
- \$16.4 million over 4 years from 2023–24 to the Australian Bureau of Statistics to implement the Life Course Data Initiative to capture data insights to inform long term policy responses aimed at interrupting cycles of intergenerational disadvantage
- \$7.8 million over two years from 2023–24 to develop a whole-of-government Framework to Address Community Disadvantage that will identify strategic objectives and key principles to guide how the Commonwealth will work in partnership with communities to enable them to build their capability to address cycles of disadvantage.



2.5 What pieces of TQKP work is supporting place-based initiatives

We have started to connect current work to support what we have heard that can support place and shift systems. Below highlights a number of initiatives that are already focussing on what places said they needed to thrive.

What places need	What initiatives are focused at supporting places in what they need		
Greater recognition of local efforts and achievements	- Parliament House Workshops - TQKP Leadership Table		
Better connections with decision makers			
Better connections and sharing across and between the place-based initiatives, and with state and national efforts	- Thriving Places, Thriving Kids Collaborative - Queensland Integrated System Collaborative - Queensland chapter, National Hubs Network - Family Hubs Framework - Thriving Queensland Country Collaborative		
Great support for local innovation and integrations	- Place-Based Roadmap - Place-Based Data Collaborative - Thriving Places, Thriving Kids Collaborative		
Greater effort to address system barriers;	Data	Investment	Capability Building
	- Data Roadmap - GenQ Data Platform - Place-Based Data Collaborative	- Early Years Roadmap - Queensland Kids Funders Alliance - Investment Dialogue for Children	- Brain Builders Initiative - C4C Leadership & Partnership Capability - Childhood Builders

More details on the above initiatives in appendix 1

3. Workshop Discussion

3.1 Testing the value propositions that were identified at the May workshop

The workshop component of the network meeting focused on testing the value propositions across the six level, to understand if anything has changed, is something missing and identify what is of most value to create the systemic change.

How might we build stronger place based (PB) workforces?	
Stronger Workforces <i>Success in improving outcomes will require further effort to build the capability of all child wellbeing workforces, especially in core, common and contemporary knowledge, skills and attributes for all those working with, or who have systems responsibilities for, children, young people and families.</i>	Explore - ways to invest that builds the local capability in place - ways to improve the succession planning for place-based initiatives - innovative solutions place that attract, train and retain early years workforce Create - workforce capability package that brings together the key evidence-based frameworks that support place-based initiatives - fellowships and secondments across the system - mentoring and coaching opportunities for place-based practitioners
How might we improve the engagement of public, caregivers and communities in place based (PB) initiatives?	
Engaged Public <i>a critical element – for effective parenting, safe and supportive communities and enabling systems - is a compelling, shared public and systems-wide narrative about child and adolescent development. Also vital is effective public and community engagement.</i>	Explore - ways that place-based work can be seen and heard - how barriers can be removed in place to enable inclusive engagement, focused on strengths, that is not one off, and embeds feedback Create - space for testing ideas collectively Advocate for - adequate funding for community participation and engagement is part of all place-based funding



How might we put data, evidence, learning to work in place-based initiatives?

Putting evidence, data and learning

Improving child and youth wellbeing requires a more systematic approach to putting data, insights, learnings and expertise to work. There is considerable scope to: improve data matching and data sharing; keep fostering innovation and continuous improvement; improve reform implementation; and balance the focus on accountability arrangements with 'human learning systems' approaches

Data

- coordinate place-based data access, clearinghouse for data sharing

Evidence

- build local evidence of what works and why in place
- update the Qld place-based framework
- develop a shared understanding of what place-based work is and not
- seek funding for industry-based scholarships- researching into joint challenges

Learning

- data upskilling
- develop a place-based evaluation framework that has ability to share learning across places

How might we improve concerted leadership in place?

Concerted Leadership

Success in improving outcomes will require further effort to build the capability of all child wellbeing workforces, especially in core, common and contemporary knowledge, skills and attributes for all those working with, or who have systems responsibilities for, children, young people and families.

Explore

- ways to strengthen and resource Place-based leadership
- existing place-based champions at all levels that can advocate for PB work
- how the devaluation of decision making could occur in place

Create

- place-based Qld workshop- follow up from May workshop
- shared understanding on what a backbone means

Advocate for

- funding/measures that reward innovation and system change
- cross-sectorial shared values and vision

How might we integrate services in place?

Integrated Delivery

We need to design-in a core focus on enabling human development, connection and agency into policy and practice; strengthen services across the universal, secondary and tertiary systems, especially to the children and families experiencing most vulnerability; leverage digital transformation and inclusion to enable citizens and practitioners to navigate systems; and systematically revamp outdated models and inequitable barriers

Explore

- how to integrate agency systems in place (reporting and outcomes)
- ways to restructure governance to model integration from top to bottom

Create

- opportunities for places to test, learn and scale TQKP initiatives

Advocate for

- integrated systems that are the rule not the expectation
- the universal system to be tailored to place –and has a rural lens

How might we make smarter investment in place?

Smarter Investment

Success in raising child wellbeing requires the investment of sufficient financial and other resources, and their effective and efficient utilisation:

- well-balanced across the universal, secondary and tertiary systems;
- supporting innovation;
- informed by evidence; and
- driving value, impact and productivity from existing and new investments and assets, across all sectors

Explore

- demo sites for Place-based co-investment trials
- ways to coordinate place investment across government

Create

- shared accountability- not just shared measurement across investment
- localised system ecologies
- stronger system stewardships

Advocate for

- funding that is long term, flexible and includes adequate resources for evaluation, innovation, capacity building and operations



3.2 Emerging Patterns for Exploration in the Place Roadmap

Participants of the network spent time in small groups and identified what was currently of most value and interest. Below is a summary of the key threads that were discussed

Threads	
Place-based formula	Document the journey in building place-based initiatives. • what does it look like? • what are the practices we are using? • what are we learning?
Data	Articulating the journey to shared measurement • what works and what is not useful • what the role of community in the co-creation • what are the values that underpin the measurement Building the shared understanding and data literacy in place Building a culture of learning action system
Knowledge Hub	Building a place-based clearinghouse that builds on knowledge • what are the resources, tools, templates that exist • what is the evidence that we draw on
Evidence	Embedding processes for sustainable delivery of place-based initiatives • how are we translating place-based practice into evidence • how are we bedding down the ethics of the approach • how are we building in evaluation from the start (planning phase)
Investment	Build an understanding of the investment and distribution of services in place • how do we know the current investment in place and to what effect • what does the current of investment into communities looks like • how is the service system performing and responding to investment in place • how dollars are being spent in our community
Voice	Ensure the voice of children, families and communities is used and is central in place-based initiative • what does it take to initiative collective action and ownership

4. What happening now and what's planned

4.1 The Place-based Roadmap

The focus for the next 6 months is on co-creating a place-based roadmap that propose systemic actions and builds collective action and accountability needed for place-based initiatives to thrive

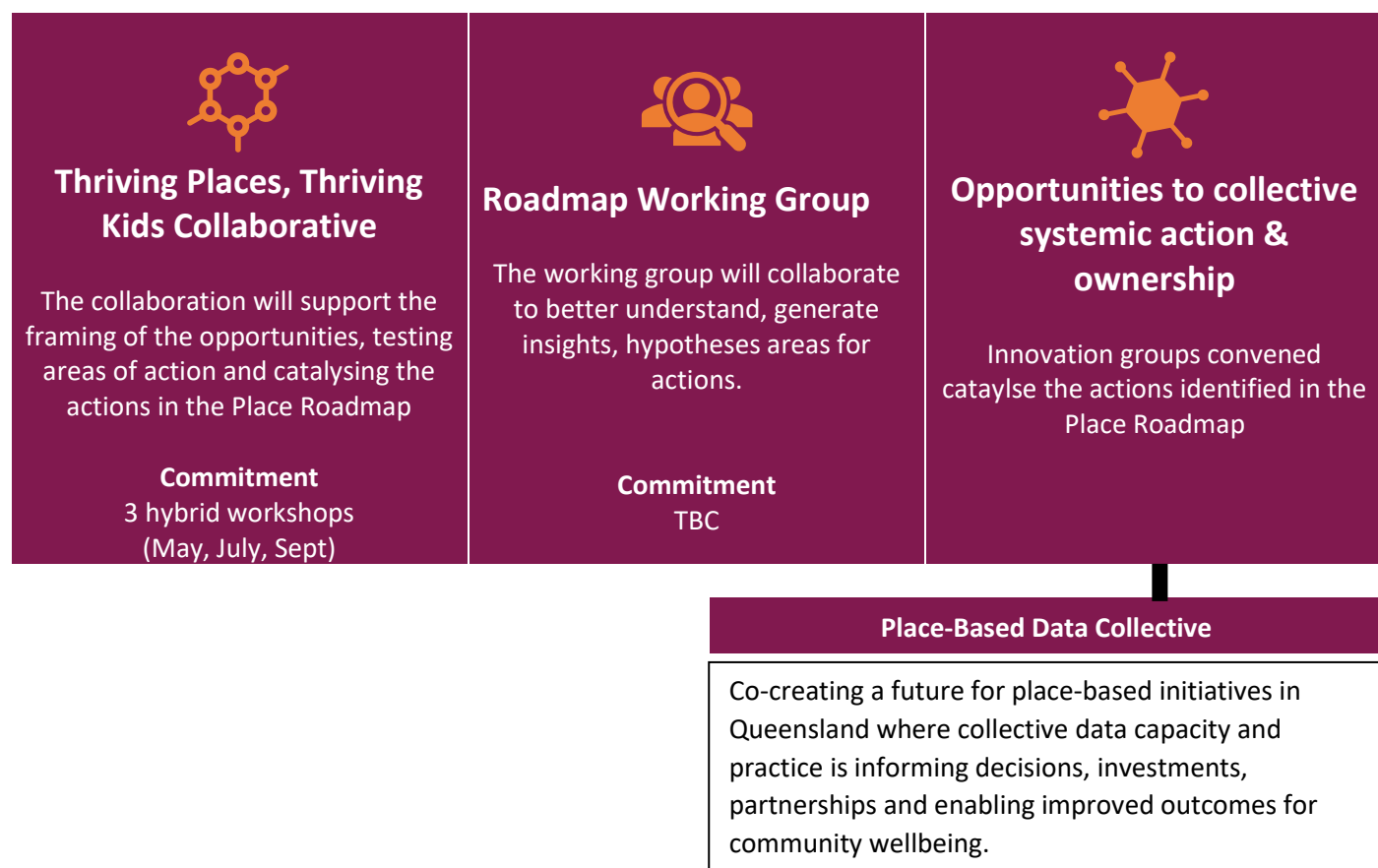
For the roadmap we are

- establishing a roadmap working group- which we dive deeper in the learning questions
- designing the approach for taking action

If you are interested in being part of the roadmap working group email Rowena rowena.cann@aracy.org.au



4.2 Roadmap, Collaborative and Action Groups-How does it all fit together?



4.3 What is the place-based data collective?

The purpose of this place-based data Collective is to:

- understand the landscape of potential request to QLD government and other data stakeholders from place-based initiatives that may have some commonalities.
- explore ways that we can streamline data requests across PB initiatives.
- explore ways that we can strengthen the data capacity and capability across place-based initiatives.
- leverage emerging or existing opportunities to support data access
- provide a collective PB voice to contribute to GenQ data platform design

What is the collective current focus?

The collective is mapping the components and journey elements required to achieve the shared vision and identify those elements or projects that are already underway or in concept development. The aim of the mapping is to enable planning, maximise alignment, minimise duplication risks, identify gaps, optimise resources, and identify collaboration opportunities.

Please call Rowena 0408 977 994 if you are wanting more information on the Place-based data collective



4.4 Who is and been involved in Thriving Places, Thriving Kids Collaborative

The aim of the network is to bring together a range of stakeholder who are working or supporting place-based initiatives across Queensland. The stakeholders that are in **bold** below contributed to the April network meeting.

Name	Organisation/Initiative	Name	Organisation/Initiative
Geraldine Harris	Pathways to Resilience	Craig Cunningham	SMBI- Brisbane South PHN
Lynette Luxford-Shepherd	Department of Education	Alana Wahl	Laidley Community House
Kathy Faulkner	Brisbane North PHN	Rebecca Crompton	Logan Together
Skye Frazer-Ryan	Department of health	Sherena Zanus	Restacking the Odds
Kamila Davidson	TQKP	Sally Staton	University of Qld
Nadia Harley	Dept of Education	Rebekah Pick	Mission Australia
Jacinta Perry	TQKP	yOni Yinarr	Your Town- CfC
Kara Lilly	University of Sunshine Coast	Cassy Dittman	Central Qld University
Matt Statham	Brisbane South PHN	Kaitlyn Bruschi	Health Qld
Sophie Morson	TQKP	Megan Fox	Mission Australia
Charmaine Stubbs	Salvation Army	Crystal Taylor	Mission Australia
Laura Barnes	Collective Change	Em James	Neighbourhood Centres Qld
Luke Sinclair	Central Qld University- Team Bundaberg	Nicci Martin	Together 4 Lockyer
Kim Hudson	Mission Australia- CfC- inla- Ipswich	Geoffrey Woolcock	University of Southern Qld
Kylie Bock	Cairns South	Lorna McGinnis	Gladstone (GRT)
Sandy Houen	University of Qld	Rachel Kristy	
John Fry	Dept of Education	Michael Hogan	TQKP
Abbie Grant-Taylor	Gympie	Rowena Cann	TQKP
Penny Dawkins	ARACY	Tonia De Bruin	Your Town
Melanie Ohl	Gladstone (GRT)	Emilia Janca	Brisbane North PHN
Ryan O'Leary	QCOSS	Lucille Chamber	Darling Downs and West Moreton PHN
Mary Anne Collier	Your Town- Moreton region	Allan Dale	JCU- Cairns Institute
Ruth Fagan	Yarrabah Leadership Table	Tara Day-Williams	DSE- SPSP
Warwick Pawsey	Brisbane North PHN	Tim Reddel	Uni Qld
Chris Mundy	Neighbourhood Centres Qld	Elisa Crooks	Mackay Council
Scott Brown	QCOSS	Peta Irvine	Local Government Mangers Aust
Charlotte Young	DSDSATSIP	Sarah-Jane Bennet	Griffith Uni
Janella Cox	Laidley Community Centre	Cathy Boorman	Griffith Uni
Sarah Branch	Griffith Uni	Curtis Pitt MP	Speaker of the House
Glen Becket	LGAQ	Stacey Messer	Department of Communities, Housing & Digital Economy
Jane Worrell	Department of Education	Andrew Harvey	Griffith-Pathways in Place
Karen Loto	The Smith Family- C4C Vincent	Paul Rennie	Mission Australia
Aimee Dutoit	Dept of Premier and Cabinet	Michaela Pieterse	YourTown
Amanda Queen	Brisbane North PHN	Michelle Lucas	Logan Together
Sarah Brown (wilde)	Mission Australia	Dru Armstrong	Health & Wellbeing Qld
Amy Fernando	SMBI Listeners	Kerry Dearness	Department of Education
Emma Ashe	Wesley Mission Qld	Ross Homel	Griffith University
Jan Archer	Alliance for Leadership and Learning	Hilton Travis	SMBI Listeners
Cathy Wilkinson	Stephanie Alexandra Kitchen Garden Foundation	Dan Marias	Play Matters
Rachel Phillips	DSDSATSIP		



Appendix 1

Further details on the current TQKP led or supported initiative

Integrated Services

What do places need

1. Greater recognition of local efforts and achievements
2. Better connections with decisionmakers and influencers
3. **Better connections and sharing across and between the child-focused, place-based initiatives, and with state and national efforts**
4. Greater effort to address systems barriers: data, 'programitis', inflexible shortterm investments, capability building
5. Greater support for local innovation and integration

What's happening to support better connections

Queensland Integrated System Collaborative

- Establishment of a cross-sectoral Integrated Child, Youth and Family Service Systems Collaborative to inform and enhance initiatives that aim to provide seamless service delivery for this cohort

Queensland chapter, National Hubs Network

- Intended establishment under the National Child and Family Hubs Network to support local best practice for hubs as a critical type of integrated service delivery

Family Hubs Framework

- Development of a practice framework for child and family hubs in the Queensland context to help inform their design, implementation and/or evaluation.

The Bryan Foundation and Queensland Government are working collaboratively to deliver FamilyLinQ—its first integrated school-based hub will open at Kingston State School in 2023.



System Barriers-Data

What do places need

1. Greater recognition of local efforts and achievements
2. Better connections with decisionmakers and influencers
3. Better connections and sharing across and between the child-focused, place based initiatives, and with state and national efforts
4. **Greater effort to address systems barriers: data, 'program-itis', inflexible short-term investments, capability building**
5. Greater support for local innovation and integration

What's happening to support greater effort to address systems barriers: data

1. Data Roadmap

TQKP



2. GenQData Platform -

Health & Wellbeing Queensland



3. Place-Based Data Access

TPTK

- Understanding the landscape PB Data & explore ways that we can streamline data requests across PB initiatives.
- Exploring ways that we can strengthen the data capacity and capability across PB initiatives.
- Providing a collective place voice to contribute to GenQ.



System Barriers-Investment

What do places need

1. Greater recognition of local efforts and achievements
2. Better connections with decision-makers and influencers
3. Better connections and sharing across and between the child-focused, place-based initiatives, and with state and national efforts
4. **Greater effort to address systems barriers: data, 'program-itis', inflexible short-term investments, capability building**
5. Greater support for local innovation and integration

What's happening to support greater effort to address systems barriers: inflexible short-term investments

What is this looking like

Early Years Roadmap

Identifying recommendation for how funding can be better done to support the early years service system

TQKP Led

Queensland Kids Funders Alliance

bringing together philanthropic funders with an interest in children and Qld Government to facilitate a coordinated approach

TQKP supported

Investment Dialogue for Children

15-20 foundations interested in children and young people, particularly those with an interest in reducing disadvantage, looking to combine philanthropic funding with federal and state funding to create a significant investment over a four-to-five-year period

ARACY supported

System Barriers Capability Development

What do places need

1. Greater recognition of local efforts and achievements
2. Better connections with decision-makers and influencers
3. Better connections and sharing across and between the child-focused, place-based initiatives, and with state and national efforts
4. **Greater effort to address systems barriers: data, 'program-itis', inflexible short-term investments, capability building**
5. Greater support for local innovation and integration

What's happening to support greater effort to address systems barriers: capability building

1. Brain Builders Initiative

Mobilising the burgeoning insights from neuroscience as a lever for workforce, organisational and systems capability uplift

Led by TQKP together with the Qld Brain Institute, collaborating with Palix Foundation / Alberta Family Wellness Initiative, Yiliyapinya, Emerging Minds



2. C4C Leadership & Partnership Capability

Led by **Department of Education** the package will include

Framework and continuum

Online self-assessment tool

Online modules

Supporting leaders in place to enhance the impact and sustainability across the Connect 4 Children network

3. Childhood Builders

Bringing together a suite of evidence-based tools & frameworks to building cross-sectoral leadership and partnership capabilities to support the stewardship of child, family and place-based service systems.