



**Queensland Kids
Partnership**
every child thriving

QKP

Year in Review

2025–26

Engaging systems to enable young Queenslanders to thrive

August 2026

Queensland Kids Partnership (QKP) acknowledges the traditional owners of the lands across Queensland and beyond, upon which we live and work, and their continuing connection to land and sea, and to kin, culture and community.

We pay respect to Elders past and present, and to First Nations colleagues. QKP also acknowledges the First Nations leaders, caregivers and organisations that have advocated for children and their families and communities.

We acknowledge the consequences of adversity and trauma experienced at the hands of systems over generations. We acknowledge the resilience, determination, leadership, generosity and innovation they have long demonstrated.



Smoking ceremony at Childhood Builder Capability Champion immersion in May 2026

Welcome!

Across Queensland, people and organisations are contributing every day to shaping the relationships, opportunities and environments that create wellbeing for children and young people.

To the families and caregivers building thriving lives with the children and young people in their homes, neighbourhoods and networks; the clubs, coaches and creatives enabling young Queenslanders to grow and shine; the education leaders creating environments for learning and curiosity; and the many professionals supporting children and families when they need it - we see and value you all.

We also recognise the many people working to strengthen the conditions surrounding young Queenslanders they may never meet. Through leadership, collaboration and stewardship, community and regional leaders are working across sectors, disciplines and geographies; while leaders in government, research, philanthropy, service and community organisations are helping shape a Queensland where every child and young person can thrive.

No single family, service, organisation or government can create the conditions for thriving alone. Lasting change happens when all parts of the system work towards shared goals and reinforce one another's efforts.

Right now, while many people are contributing to children's wellbeing, not all young Queenslanders experience the strong, connected environments that support thriving. Opportunities remain uneven across the state with one in four children starting school in Queensland developmentally behind, with postcode remaining a major determinant of adversity and inequity. Across several key measures of child and youth wellbeing, Queensland has important opportunities to improve outcomes and equity.

We are a partnership committed to changing this. Queensland Kids Partnership (QKP) exists to align and strengthen the collective effort needed to create thriving conditions for every child and young person in Queensland. Since late 2020, we have been bringing together people, communities, decision-makers, change-makers and workplaces from across Queensland.

Together, we improve connectedness, learning, and support strengthening the conditions surrounding children. Our ambition is for every baby, child and young person to thrive, every family to feel supported and connected, and every community to be resourced and take collective responsibility for raising thriving Queenslanders. We are pleased to produce this report to share our progress with those who enable and contribute to the work of the partnership, and to celebrate what is possible when we work together.

In June 2025, we launched the QKP's Impact Strategy for 2025 – 2030. The Strategy builds on the momentum, lessons and progress of the partnerships' first 5 years and focuses our effort and resources on 6 strategic shifts. As these shifts grow and spread across Queensland, they have the potential to reduce inequity and improve outcomes for thousands of children and their families.

The focus of our partnership is on:

- communicating effectively about what all kids need to thrive
- building the knowledge and skills of caregivers and practitioners
- ensuring kids get the support they need, when they need it
- strengthening the way stewardship for kids happens across Queensland
- supporting communities to create places where kids thrive
- ensuring resources are fair and impactful.

As we look back on the first year (July 2025 – June 2026) of stewarding this strategy, we are immensely grateful that the partnership continues to grow – more people and organisations are bringing their passion, knowledge, lived experience, and determination to contribute to these 6 strategic shifts. In the following pages, we share highlights and tangible, measurable progress in each of them.

We also share how, over the last year, the QKP team have worked hard to improve the way we enable the partnership to achieve this progress in the years ahead. As a team we have:

- deepened our commitment and practice to co-leading with First Nations people
- strengthened our governance by co-leading systems change in Queensland with those who have the biggest stake – children and young people
- enabled stronger distributed leadership across the partnership by transitioning key initiatives and resources to partners
- invested in our skills and structures for systems change learning
- started focusing on the economic determinants of thriving.

As this report demonstrates, there is much to celebrate. Across Queensland people and organisations are working together in greater numbers, aligning their efforts around what children and young people need to thrive. Together, they are creating momentum for meaningful and lasting change.

Every new connection, capability and collaboration helps build stronger conditions for children today and for generations to come. Together, we are showing that a Queensland where every child can thrive is not only possible, but achievable.

To those who make up Queensland Kids Partnership – thank you for your trust, generosity and commitment, we dedicate this report to you. And for those who are learning about the partnership – welcome!



Jane Yacopetti
Chair, QKP
Management Board



Michael Hogan
Executive Convenor, QKP



Melodie Potts Rosevear
CEO, ARACY

Executive summary

Queensland Kids Partnership (QKP) is demonstrating the distinctive value of an intermediary that can convene, connect and align people, organisations, communities, funders and decision-makers around a shared ambition: that within one generation, every young Queenslander is thriving.

In the first year of stewarding QKP's 2025–2030 Impact Strategy, the partnership has moved from building foundations to showing how coordinated effort across portfolios can strengthen the systems and environments surrounding children, young people and families.

The central strategic message from 2025–26 is that lasting change for children cannot be achieved through isolated programs or single-organisation effort. It requires stronger conditions across the system: shared language about what children need to thrive; stronger relationships and trust across sectors; increased capability and capacity; fairer and more impactful resource flows; genuine stewardship with children and young people; and practical changes that improve the everyday experiences of families. QKP's work is contributing to each of these conditions.

Impact and key insights

QKP is making the work of systems change more visible, more connected and more actionable. Across the report, early indicators point to four reinforcing forms of system impact: increased connectivity, increased capacity, increased capability and better experiences for children and caregivers. These are not isolated achievements; they are mutually reinforcing shifts that help move Queensland from fragmented activity towards a more coherent child and youth wellbeing system.

- **Connectivity is increasing** as QKP brings together funders, place-based leaders, government, community organisations, researchers and young people to build trust, share learning and coordinate action.
- **Capacity is growing** through more aligned investment, philanthropic engagement and partner-led initiatives that direct resources towards prevention, early intervention and what communities need.
- **Capability is strengthening** as shared frameworks, neuro-informed approaches, First Nations-led knowledge, system change leadership and learning, hub practice and practical tools are embedded into organisations and communities.
- **Experiences are improving** as children, young people and caregivers encounter more responsive, connected and strengths-based support in everyday settings.

System shifts emerging through QKP's work

QKP is beginning to see shifts across both visible and less visible parts of the system. At the structural level, resources are starting to move differently. At the relational level, new networks and communities of practice are helping people learn together, coordinate effort and build trust. At the deeper level, mindsets are shifting as children and young people are recognised as partners in stewardship, First Nations knowledge is centred alongside Western approaches, and thriving is framed as a shared responsibility across families, communities, services and systems.

Examples throughout the report show these shifts in practice: funders and place-based leaders moving from transactional engagement towards deeper relationships and co-designed approaches; the Intergenerational Stewardship Table embedding young people in strategic leadership; Childhood Builder Champions starting to translate neuro-informed practice into local settings; Growing Deadly Brains strengthening culturally grounded capability; Queensland Hubs Exchange of Expertise and Learning building a stronger foundation for child and family hubs; and Thriving Kids in Disasters turning young people's insights into practical action.

What is working for QKP as an intermediary

QKP's intermediary role is working because it fills a critical gap between strategy, evidence, relationships and implementation. QKP bridges systems, sectors, disciplines and locations. The partnership is not simply delivering activities; it is enabling others to lead, collaborate and adapt. Its value is most evident where QKP brokers relationships that would not otherwise form, translates evidence into usable practice, helps partners align around shared outcomes, and generates learning that allow ideas to spread across places and sectors.

Several ways of working appear especially important: convening diverse partners around a common agenda; centring children and young people; backing First Nations leadership; using shared frameworks such as The NEST and the Waters of Systems Change; supporting distributed leadership rather than ownership by QKP; and combining relationship-building with practical action, funding pathways and measurement. These intermediary functions are creating the conditions for work to continue beyond any single project or team.

Barriers, challenges and how QKP will address them

QKP is tackling systems barriers and challenges that are not new or unique. They include:

- **System fragmentation:** children, families, services, funders and decision-makers are still navigating parts of the system that do not consistently connect, align or reinforce one another.
- **Uneven access and equity:** children and families continue to experience different opportunities and levels of support depending on where they live, their circumstances and the strength of local service environments.
- **Resources not yet flowing upstream:** investment does not yet consistently prioritise prevention, early intervention and community-led approaches at the scale required.
- **Capability and shared practice are still emerging:** common language, evidence, tools and ways of working are not yet embedded evenly across workforces, organisations and communities.
- **Co-leadership takes time and trust:** genuine stewardship with children, young people and First Nations partners requires sustained resourcing, careful relationship-building and ongoing accountability.
- **QKP's intermediary role must keep maturing:** influence, learning and leadership need to continue becoming more distributed across the partnership, rather than held centrally by QKP.

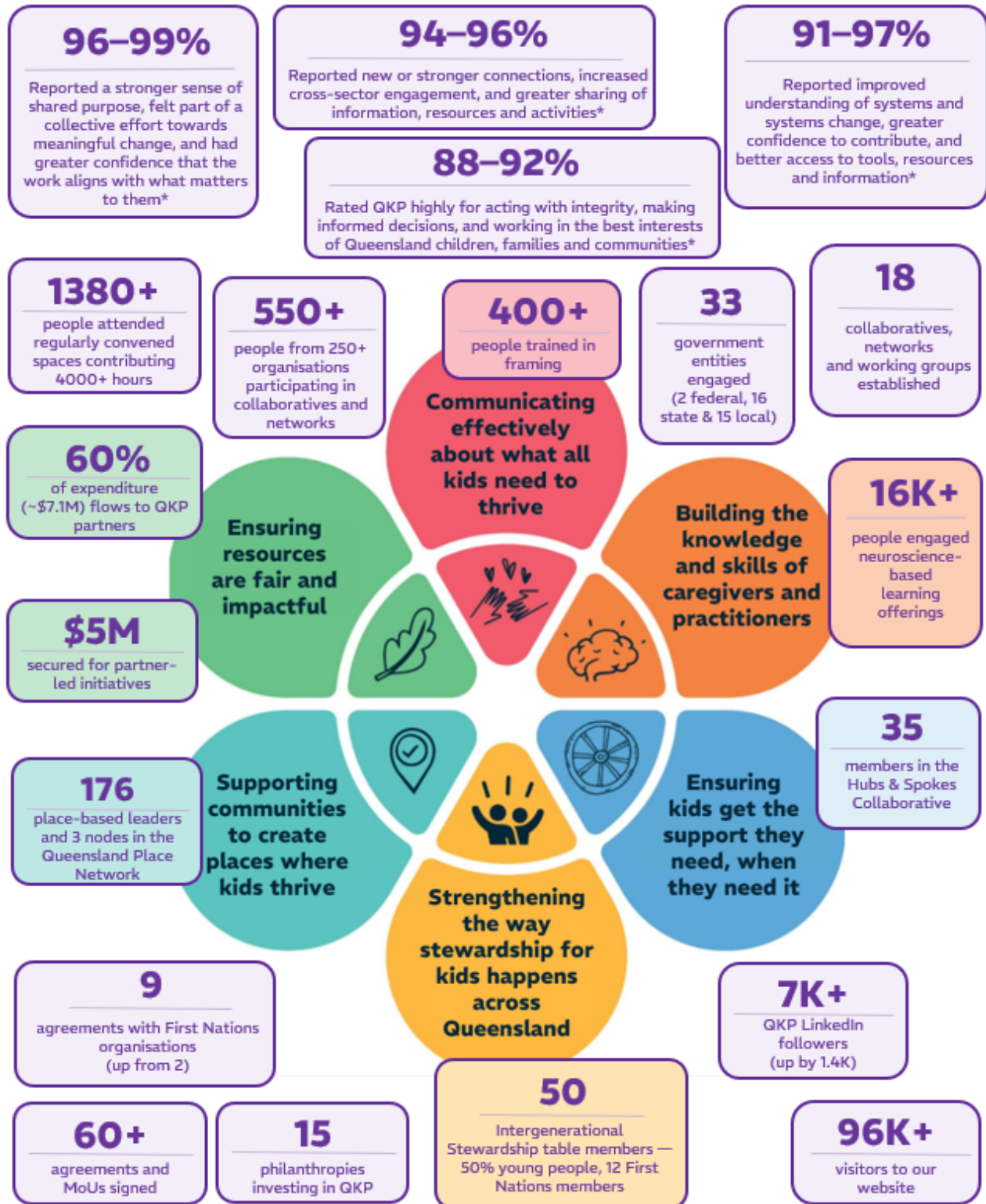
QKP will address these challenges by sharpening its focus on the six strategic shifts, continuing to invest in First Nations co-leadership and intergenerational stewardship, strengthening its measurement, evaluation, learning and research approach, and supporting partners to translate evidence into practice. It will continue to convene the right people around shared priorities, build the capability of workforces and communities, influence fairer and more impactful resource flows, and use learning from place-based and partner-led initiatives to inform broader system change.

The opportunity ahead

QKP's strategic opportunity is to build on the momentum of 2025–26 and convert early signs of systems change into deeper, more durable shifts over the life of the 2025–2030 Impact Strategy and beyond. The work ahead is not only to sustain individual initiatives, but to strengthen the conditions that make thriving more likely across Queensland: concerted leadership, shared accountability, aligned effort, equitable investment, stronger capability, trusted relationships and meaningful roles for children, young people, families and communities in shaping the systems that affect their lives.

Queensland Kids Partnership

2025 – 26: at a glance



*2026 QKP Partnership Survey (n=117-121)

Contents

Acknowledgment	01
Welcome	02
Executive Summary	04
QKP 2025-26: at a glance	06
The partnership	08
Our frameworks and how to read this report	09
System impacts	12
Portfolio progress	24
How we are strengthening QKP as an intermediary	30

Queensland Kids Partnership

Shifting the conditions that surround every young Queenslander can only be achieved through a large-scale partnership. QKP is building just that.

The partnership is made possible by the people, organisations, communities, families, children and funders who bring their leadership, knowledge, relationships, resources, efforts and lived expertise to an ambitious shared agenda for change. This agenda is comprised of:

Our vision

Within one generation, every young Queenslander is thriving.

Our purpose

To build a partnership able to positively shift the systems and environments that shape the lives of young Queenslanders.

Our Impact Strategy 2025–2030

Our multi-layered approach to shifting the systems and environments surrounding kids towards thriving, through 6 inter-connected portfolios.

The QKP team

The role of the QKP team is to enable the partnership by convening collaborations, catalysing innovation and enabling learning.

We are an **intermediary** — we bring people, organisations and communities together around our shared vision and purpose. We broker relationships, resources, knowledge, and joint initiatives. We build capabilities and enable learning. We align efforts to achieve the type of change that no single organisation, community or sector could achieve on their own.



Our frameworks & how to read this report

The QKP team guides the work of the partnership using 3 complementary frameworks:

1. [ARACY's The NEST Wellbeing Framework](#)
2. [Waters of Systems Change](#)
3. QKP's Systems Impact Framework.

Together, these frameworks provide a shared way of understanding what it takes to thrive, what it takes to shift systems, and how our work contributes to better outcomes for Queensland children and young people. In this report, we have integrated these 3 frameworks to visually show QKP's contribution to systems change.

Our frameworks

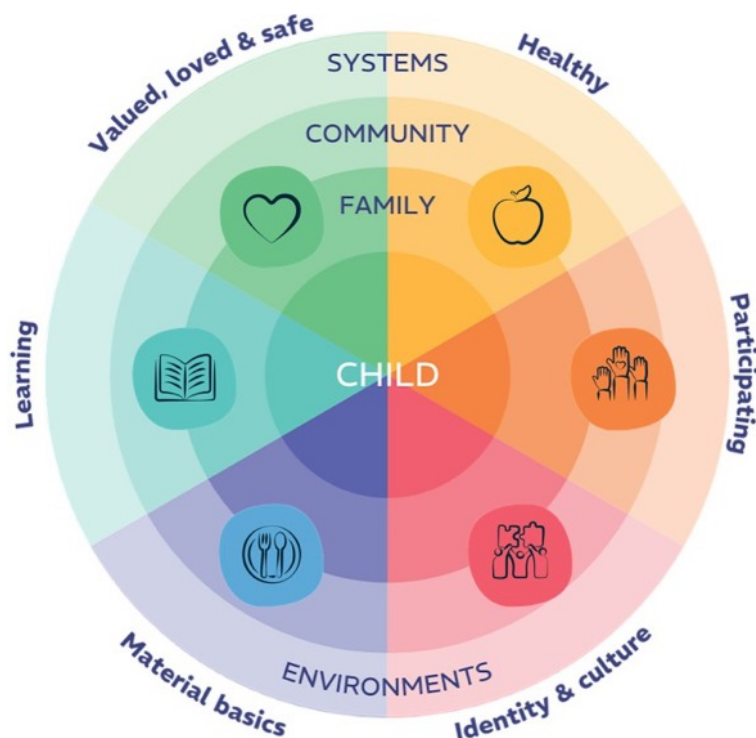
What thriving looks like – the NEST

The NEST is Australia's national child and youth wellbeing framework. It describes six interconnected domains essential for thriving. *The NEST* views the child not in isolation, but at the centre of 3 nested layers of influence - their family, community, and broader societal systems.

QKP uses *The NEST* to build a common understanding about what thriving means in the lives of young Queenslanders. *The NEST* ensures the partnership's efforts:

- centre children
- are holistic and systemic – considering each layer that influences how a child thrives
- are grounded in what matters in the everyday lives of young Queenslanders.

We use *The NEST* to support stronger understanding of child development, more connected and responsive services, more inclusive communities, better decision-making, and more coherent experiences for families and their kids.

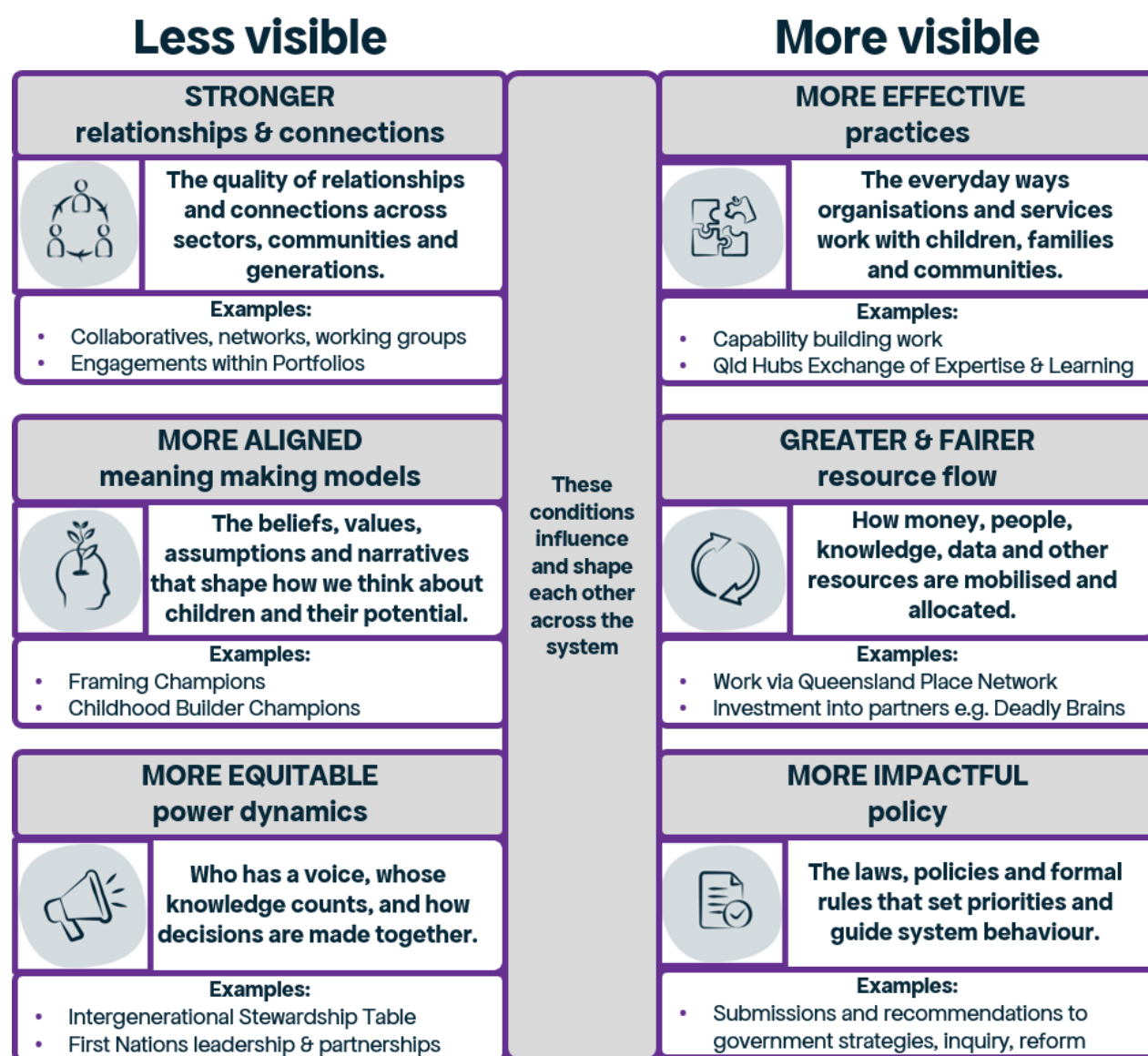


What it takes to shift systems

To more deeply understand and articulate how change happens in *The NEST's* 'system and environments' layer, QKP draws on [The Waters of Systems Change](#) framework. The framework describes 6 levers that, if targeted at the same time with sustained effort, can shift systems and environments towards thriving.

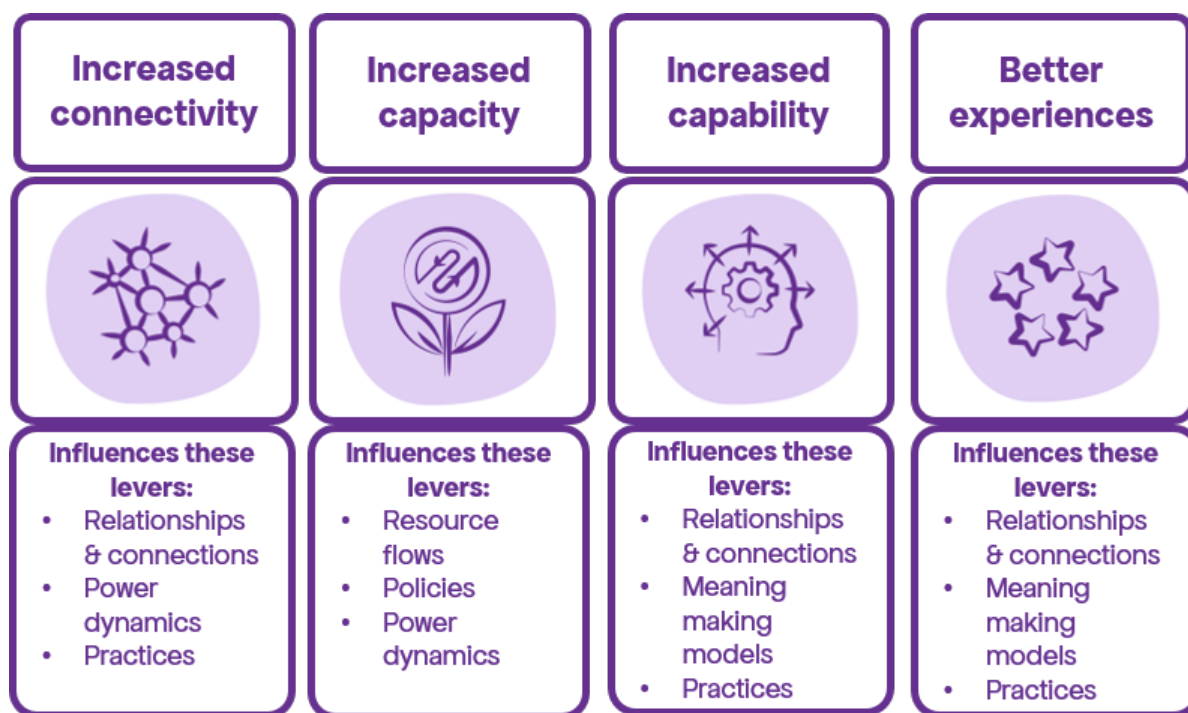
The figure below illustrates how we use *The Waters of Systems Change* to ensure the partnership's efforts are targeting all six levers in ways that are both structural (more visible: practices, resource flow, policy) and relational and transformative (less visible: relationships & connections, meaning making models [recent evolution from 'mental models'], power dynamic).

At QKP, we are enabling these types of changes...



The system impacts we work towards

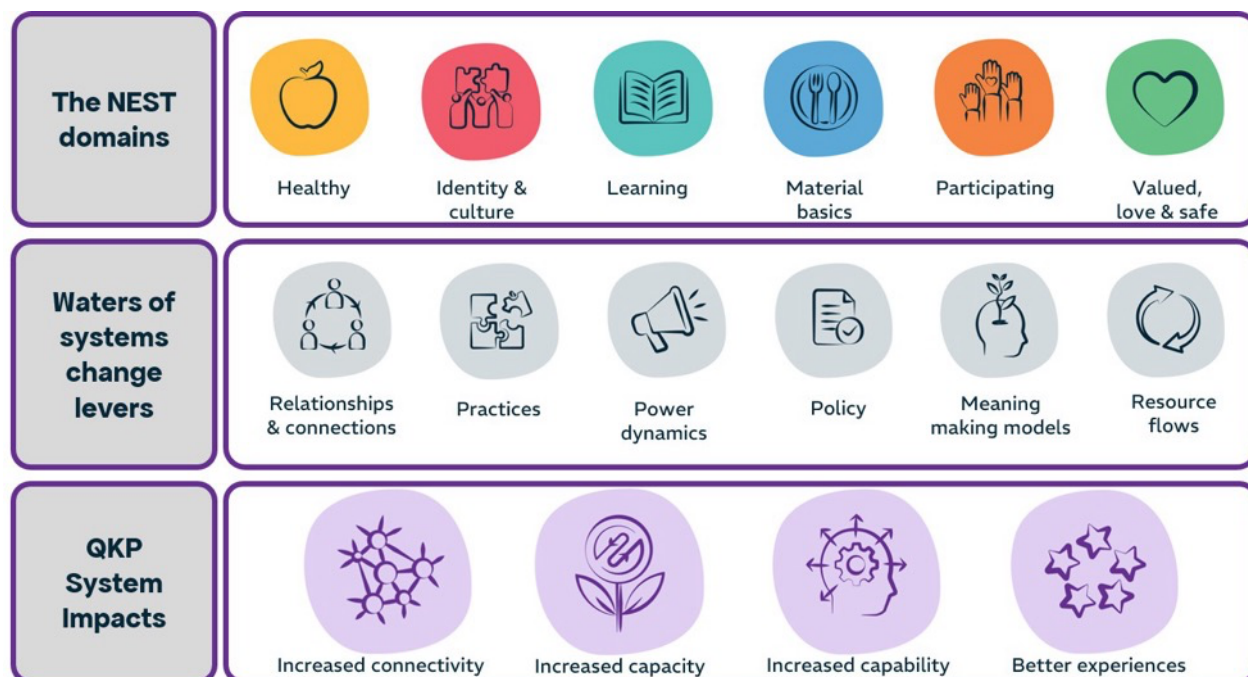
The QKP team has developed a Measurement, Evaluation, Learning and Research (MELR) framework to track progress of QKP's 2025-30 Impact Strategy. The figure below shows the 4 tangible system impacts QKP measures and tracks, and how those impacts influence the 6 levers that shift systems and environments towards thriving.



How to read this report

To integrate the 3 frameworks that guide QKP's work, we have created a summary of the icons that represent the domains for thriving, the levers for systems change, and the measures of system impact.

We have used these icons throughout this report to show where and how the QKP's work is positively shifting the systems and environments that shape the lives of young Queenslanders. For ease, we include the legend below to remind readers of the meaning of each icon.



An icon legend to help you read this report

System impacts



1: Increased connectivity

More places and services collectively act, learn and adapt to positively shift systems.

This year QKP enabled greater connectivity by

Convening **18** collaborations with **550+** people from 250+ organisations.
Tracked measurable improved connection, shared learning and coordinated action around shared priorities — building the social infrastructure needed for systems change.

Strengthening relationships and engagement with **33 agencies across all three levels of government:**

- 2 federal government departments
- 16 Qld government agencies
- 15 Qld local governments.

Public servants are actively engaged in all QKP portfolio initiatives.

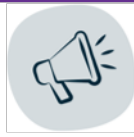
Expanding partnerships with First Nations organisations and leaders.
(from 2 to **9**).

Establishing the **Qld Place Network** in partnership with Logan Together (LT), Gladstone Region Together (GRT) and Cape York Partnership (CYP) as **3 nodes** to better connect and support **55** place-based initiatives across the state.

Influencing these levers



Relationships & connections



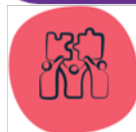
Power dynamics



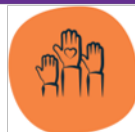
Practices

Gathering **1380+** people in regularly convened spaces who collectively contributed **4000+** hours of time and wisdom via their engagement.

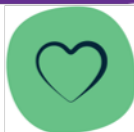
...and creating improved conditions in these domains



Identity & culture



Participating



Valued, love & safe

Establishing a **50-person Intergenerational Stewardship Table** (IGST) with 50% young people and 12 First Nations members (7 young people).

Relationships, trust and shared purpose are strengthening

Among 121 Partnership Survey respondents, 94–98% reported a stronger sense of shared purpose, felt part of a collective effort, or made new connections through QKP, while 88–92% rated QKP highly for integrity, decision-making and acting in children's best interests.

What happens when systems are more connected

When people, organisations and communities are supported to become more connected, children and young people experience more holistic and responsive support, fewer gaps in care, and better developmental outcomes. Smoother transitions happen between home, school and services; children's developmental delays and risks are identified and responded to much faster; and trauma is reduced as families retell their stories fewer times to different organisations. Building trusted relationships, sharing learning and making decisions together creates systems that are better able to act, learn, adapt, and improve experiences for children and families. Sustained and deepening connectivity makes the intergenerational vision of every young Queenslanders thriving possible.

Connecting funders and place-based leaders

Many of the factors that shape outcomes for children, young people and families sit across different parts of the system, yet the people influencing those outcomes often have limited opportunities to build relationships, learn together and coordinate their efforts.

QKP's approach is to strengthen connections across the system. We believe that when people build trust, deepen understanding and learn alongside one another, they are better able to align resources, adapt their approaches and take collective action around what communities need.

One example is our work through the Queensland Place Network to strengthen relationships between philanthropists and place-based leaders. Together, philanthropists and place-based leaders recognised that engagement was often transactional despite a shared commitment to community wellbeing. In response, funders joined a Community of Practice, place-based leaders participated in a *Demystifying Philanthropy Learning Sprint*, and both groups came together through an immersion visit to Thriving Lockyer Kids.

As Nikki Martin reflected, participants were ***“immersed not just in the work, but the relationships and connections we have built over 10 years... It's always a proud moment when you get to share and it is received with active listening and curious questioning.”***

These stronger relationships are now leading to practical changes, including co-designed approaches to commissioning and shared decision-making that bring resources closer to community needs.



Thriving Lockyer Kids – place immersion via Queensland Place Network (QPN)

This is one of many ways QKP helps connect people, places and institutions, creating the relationships and shared learning needed for collective action and system change.

A first step on the journey to sharing leadership across generations

Creating better outcomes for young Queenslanders requires more than listening to their voices—it requires creating genuine opportunities for them to influence decisions and shape the future. And that is what QKP is doing. In 2025, QKP shifted from an adult-only Leadership Table to an Intergenerational Stewardship Table (IGST). Twenty-five younger people from across Queensland joined older system leaders, community representatives, and people with lived experience, to guide QKP's strategy and collectively influence the systems and environments that surround young Queenslanders.

Early learnings from the IGST highlight the power of this approach. Members described the inclusion of young people as a "game changer", bringing new ideas, lived experience and greater accountability into leadership spaces. Rather than listening to or consulting with young people, the IGST is experimenting with a different way of working—one where diverse intergenerational voices shape the agenda from the beginning. One example is the IGST's contribution to the Queensland Family Strategy.

While this is only the start of the journey, it offers glimpses of what becomes possible when young people are recognised as partners and co-leaders in shaping the systems they will inherit.

This is one example of this shift in practice.



The IGST gathering in July 2026



2: Increased capacity

More fair and sufficient resources driven by what works to enable all young Queenslanders to thrive.

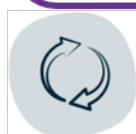
This year QKP enabled more capacity by

Resourcing 11 diverse organisations across Queensland with:

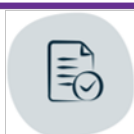
- a role dedicated to embedding neuro-informed practice into their organisations, communities and networks
- an internal senior 'sponsor' within each organisation to authorise the focus on neuro-informed practice and reduce barriers to adoption
- a vibrant community of practice focused on leveraging this increased capacity to maximise impact for children and families.

Growing awareness and engagement with the Queensland Kids Funders Alliance by successfully nominating QKFA for a 2026 Qld Philanthropy Award.

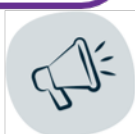
Influencing these levers



Resource flows



Policy

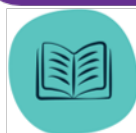


Power dynamics

Growing the amount of funding and number of philanthropic partners investing in the work of the Partnership from 9 to **15**.

Collaborating with philanthropic, government, research and community partners to **align investment around shared priorities** for children and families, including a focus on young parents.

...and creating improved conditions in these domains



Learning



Healthy



Material basics

Distributing over **60%** of resources generated via QKP to partnering organisations and grew the number of partner agreements.

Supporting

- researchers and institutes to bring R&D funds to Queensland
- the co-development of funding propositions with the Queensland Kids Funders Alliance and the Investment Dialogue for Australia's Children
- partners to leverage and mobilise financial, in-kind and knowledge resources through collaborative funding.

Sharing thought leadership and proposals for:

- investment, commissioning and contracting reforms to the Queensland Treasurer, the Australian Productivity Commission, the Qld Preventative Peaks Alliance, DSS Families and Children Reform, and the Qld Commission of Inquiry into Child Safety
- greater public investment in preventive, early intervention and developmental initiatives via budget and other submissions.

What happens when systems have increased capacity

When more resources – channelled in equitable and evidence-based ways – are directed to creating the conditions for thriving, children experience profound compounding benefits. At the macro level, research shows that resourcing thriving shifts the focus from reactive crisis management to prevention and wellbeing. To make the case for comprehensive resourcing of thriving, QKP has been resourcing increased capacity at smaller scales... and seeing early signs of impact.

Growing local capability to strengthen system capacity

Creating lasting change requires more than effective programs. It requires organisations to have the knowledge, tools, relationships and support to put evidence into practice in ways that fit their communities. The Childhood Builder Champions Initiative was established to build this capability by bringing organisations together to learn, share and apply neuro-informed, relational approaches in their own settings.



The first Childhood Builder Champion Immersion – May 2026

The strong interest in the initiative highlighted the demand for this type of support, with more than 40 applications received. The initiative now brings together practitioners from 12 organisations across Queensland, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations, health services, playgroups, child protection, youth justice, and rural and remote communities. While the initiative is only just underway, early signs of impact are emerging. Here is one example of what is already changing on the ground.

At Townsville Aboriginal and Islander Health Service (TAIHS), Childhood Builder Champion Kayla joined the program in May 2026. She has since developed and begun sharing practical resources with young parents, including First Nations families not currently connected to playgroups. The resources encourage serve-and-return interactions, play and everyday learning at home, giving families simple, practical ways to strengthen relationships and support their children's development.

Funding where it matters most

QKP is starting to see a shift in how resources flow across Queensland's child and family system—towards prevention, early intervention and approaches informed by what works. Creating fairer and more sufficient resourcing requires more than attracting new funding; it requires bringing together funders, partners, evidence and shared priorities to influence where investment is directed and where it can have the greatest impact.

This year, early signs of this influence emerged. QKP helped shape and unlock significant investment for partners, including a \$2 million, 5-year commitment to making more of *First 5 Forever* through the State Library of Queensland. Work to build the case for early oral language is creating momentum for future coordinated investment, while advocacy and engagement with young parents has helped elevate the issue as a national investment opportunity with philanthropy networks and the Investment Dialogue for Australia's Children.

Through the Queensland Kids Funders Alliance and other partnerships, stronger connections between funders are supporting greater alignment around investment priorities, while alliances such as the Preventative Peaks Alliance are strengthening the case for shifting resources upstream into prevention rather than crisis response.

These are just some of the signs of a broader shift underway. As relationships strengthen and priorities become more aligned, we are seeing more examples of how QKP helps resources flow towards what children, families and communities need to thrive.



Queensland Kids Funders Alliance, nominated by QKP, recognised with the Innovation Award at Queensland Philanthropy Week 2026



3: Increased capability

More Queenslanders with the knowledge, language, tools, and skills they need for all kids to thrive.

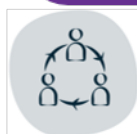
This year QKP enabled more capability by

Establishing 6 new **capability-building initiatives** – Stewardship for Kids, Childhood Builder Capability Champions, TKID Disaster Coaches, Qld Hubs Exchange of Expertise and Learning (QHEEL) Immersions, and the Queensland Early Oral Language Project.

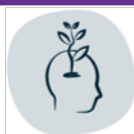
Expanding the Framing Champions and supporting national work on early years mindsets with Frameworks Australia to spread the use of evidence-based framing.

Expanding access to evidence-informed learning offerings on child development and neuroscience (**16K+** engaged to date) and evidence-based framing (**400+** trained this year).

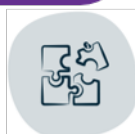
Influencing these levers



Relationships
& connections



Meaning
making models

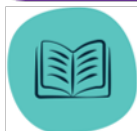


Practices

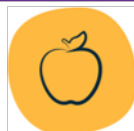
Convening and supporting **Communities of Practice** that enable partners to learn, share experiences and solve challenges together (Framing, Childhood Builders, Brain Builders, Systems Sanctuary).

Worked alongside partners to **spread use of common frameworks and tools** (e.g. The Nest and The Resilience Scale), such as QFCC, Act for Kids, Brisbane Youth Services, MICAH, Logan Together, Gladstone, QCOSS and CHQ's Head to Health.

...and creating improved conditions in these domains



Learning



Healthy



Participating

Releasing the Enabling Workforces and Organisations Toolkit, and supporting Logan Together's Building Brains for Better Futures initiative.

Child development capabilities are strengthening:

- with approximately **85%** of participants reporting increased knowledge, skills and confidence to apply neuroscience and neuro-informed approaches.
- partners using resources such as Brain Builders, the Resilience Scale and Framing Guides **to strengthen family-facing practice, evaluation, communications and advocacy**. E.g. "I have shared resources and conducted activities with families that I accessed from the Brain Builders learning modules and Resilience Scale"
- access to QKP child development resources continues to grow, with 9K+ visits to framing, brain health and Brain Builders resources.

Convening Australia's best systems leadership organisations to co-design the **Stewardship for Kids** initiative (launching Sept 2026).

Among Partnership Survey respondents (n=117-121), **91-97%** reported greater understanding of systems change and increased confidence to contribute through their role, everyday actions and guiding others.

What happens when systems have increased capability

Capability building creates lasting change when learning is embedded into everyday practice. Rather than remaining with individuals, new and shared knowledge, language and tools begin influencing how organisations, communities and networks communicate, make decisions, collaborate and support children and families.

As a result, children are more likely to experience consistent, responsive and developmentally appropriate support wherever they learn, grow and seek help.


Child & Family Wellbeing Assessment Guide

The *Child & Family Wellbeing Assessment Guide* provides a structure for assessing the wellbeing and safety of children, young people and their family. The Guide (1) maps child and family needs across six domains of wellbeing, and (2) provides a shared understanding of the *Type of Support* recommended to enhance child and family wellbeing.

The assessment focuses on current family needs, although it is acknowledged that needs and the *Type of Support* required may change over time.

Who is involved in this assessment? Start date: Date last updated: Completion date:

Name	Age	Relationship	Name	Age	Relationship

Wellbeing Domains

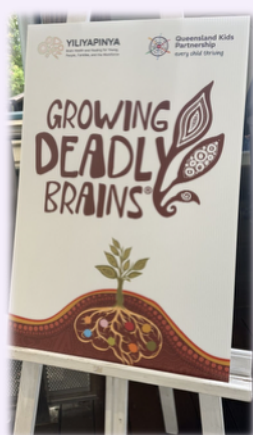
Area of Wellbeing	What this means	Area of Wellbeing	What this means
Valued, Loved & Safe	• Feel safe, secure, and protected (home/community) • Feel valued and respected and heard • Be heard and responded to • Have stable and warm/cool place to live	Learning	• Are engaging in education, learning, employment • Are developing educational skills • Are supported to learn (home and school)
Material Basics	• Have enough food, water, and clothing • Have access to learning materials and activities	Participating	• Are engaging with peers, groups, and activities • Can have their opinions heard and valued • Have access to technology
Healthy	• Are emotionally supported and happy • Have a healthy mind and body • Have access to health services	Identity & Culture	• Supported to know about, connecting to their culture • Feel like they belong • A positive sense of self-identity and self-esteem

Example of embedding shared language into practice by Act for Kids

Growing Deadly Brains: Increasing systems capability through First Nations leadership

Growing Deadly Brains is a First Nations-led initiative by Yiliyapinya Indigenous Corporation that honours cultural knowledge alongside neuroscience to support the healthy development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

In 2025 QKP partnered with Yiliyapinya to secure 3-year funding. In 2026, QKP helped Yiliyapinya to make culturally grounded, neuro-informed knowledge accessible across Queensland through free learning resources, professional development, Brain Health Coaches, a Community of Practice, and a community-led Brain Story campaign.



Poster from the launch of Growing Deadly Brains & quote from "All in for Deadly Brains" webinar

Yiliyapinya's resources are now rippling outward to support practitioners across Queensland to create consistent, culturally safe support for children and families.

Find out more at: <https://www.yiliyapinya.org.au/growing-deadly-brains-1>

Embedding frameworks into everyday practice

Child and family hubs (hubs) have the potential to transform how children and families access support by creating stronger connections between families, services and communities. This potential requires more than local commitment, it depends on shared learning, strong networks and opportunities to build capability. Across Queensland, the foundations are strengthening for hubs to work in more connected, consistent and effective ways.

This year, the Hubs and Spokes portfolio continued to build momentum by strengthening connections across Queensland's hub network, aligning with national hub efforts and developing a shared vision for the future. The Queensland Hubs Exchange of Expertise and Learning (QHEEL) is one example, attracting 22 expressions of interest from organisations at different stages of their hub journey, all seeking to strengthen capability and innovation.



The first QHEEL immersion brought together 9 organisations to visit 5 diverse Logan hubs over 2 days in March 2026. Participants explored effective hub practice, built new relationships and shared practical insights. Afterwards, all reported increased confidence and capability, new connections and learnings already being applied in their own contexts. The immersion met or exceeded expectations for every participant, with many describing it as "insightful", "informative", "captivating" and "mind-blowing".

As further QHEEL learning opportunities are delivered, more examples will emerge of how stronger hub capability, and connections can improve support for children and families. QKP will also share learning nationally through the National Child and Family Hubs Network, and with other jurisdictions, helping strengthen the workforce and amplify the impact of hubs, including their role in supporting the Thriving Kids initiative.

Find out more at: <https://tqkp.org.au/our-initiatives/thriving-kids-integrated-service-systems-collaborative/>



4: Better experiences

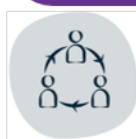
More kids and caregivers with access to the support they need at the right time, right place, and in the right way

This year QKP enabled better experiences by

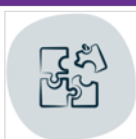
Supporting implementation of the Child and Family Hubs Framework developed by QKP, **established the Qld Hubs Exchange** and supported the National Child and Family Hubs Network.

Supporting collaborative and place-based approaches that bring organisations together around the needs and aspirations of children, young people and families.

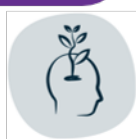
Influencing these levers



Relationships & connections



Practices

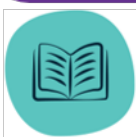


Meaning making models

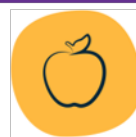
Supporting the Qld Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Peak Protection Peak's (QATSICPP's) leadership of the **Thriving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Strategy** and initiative to shift the systems and service experiences of First Nations children, families and communities.

Making recommendations to the Queensland and Australian Governments outlining a systems reform roadmap for implementation of the **national Thriving Kids initiative** to transform the experience of families with children with developmental delays and/or autism.

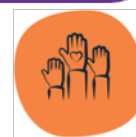
...and creating improved conditions in these domains



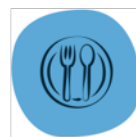
Learning



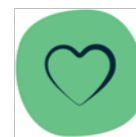
Healthy



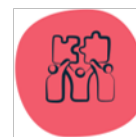
Participating



Material basics



Valued, love & safe



Identity & culture

Strengthening opportunities for children, young people and First Nations communities to **influence conversations, priorities and decision-making**, including through the Intergenerational Stewardship Table.

Informing a roadmap for a **Queensland Families Strategy** with the Intergenerational Stewardship Table, and as a critical friend to QCOSS' Raising Queensland campaign.

Making a submission to the Queensland Commission of Inquiry into Child Safety and the Queensland Government **proposing a 'whole of systems' reform roadmap** to transform the experience of families and children at risk or engaging with the Child Protection system.

What happens when systems enable better experiences

When systems operate differently, support becomes shaped around children's and families' real lives. Children and young people are listened to as knowledge holders, trusted relationships carry support into everyday places, and adults adapt practice in response to what children and families say they need. Children and families experience support that is connected, responsive and centred on their strengths, voices and aspirations, they are more likely to feel valued, safe and included, and to receive the support they need to learn, grow and thrive.

"It helped me to talk with the kids I was working with in a balanced way – we explored things that were going well (green boxes), and things that were harder (red boxes). ... We created it with toys and blocks ... it helped to support conversations and shared ways of working between the family, our team, and school. Attendance for the young person went from 21% to 40%."



Resilience scale used in conversations with children and reflections by Karly Green on what changes are experienced in practice and by young people.

From better futures to brighter story times: helping children talk about their brains

One way QKP works to enhance children's and caregivers' experiences is by partnering with organisations in different ways to bring neuroscience into everyday practice and build a shared language around child development. Through these partnerships, we help scale and embed evidence about child development across communities, services and workforces. One example is Logan Together's *Brain Building for Better Futures*, for which QKP helped secure Queensland Mental Health Commission's funding in 2024. The project co-designed a place-based approach to building shared understanding of brain development across the Logan community and, by June 2026, around 50 agencies and more than 3,000 practitioners and educators had engaged with its resources.

These ideas are now coming to life at Logan Library, where resources from the initiative are being turned into practical, playful experiences with children. Drawing on concepts about brain development, the library has introduced puppet-making activities that help children talk about their brains, emotions and learning through stories, creativity and play. In this trusted community setting, children can explore how they develop in ways that are age-appropriate, enjoyable and empowering, guided by their own interests and perspectives.

This is one of many stories we hear from partners about the value of this work. Through simple but intentional activities, children have opportunities to build understanding, confidence and self-expression, while caregivers and communities are better equipped to support them in the right place, at the right time and in the right way.

Find out more about the initiative: www.logantogether.org.au/brainbuilding

From listening to action: young people shaping disaster resilience

QKP's work aims to strengthen relationships and connections, build capability, turn ideas into action, and learn and adapt. Across QKP's work, we also seek to influence the deeper conditions for systems change—including meaning mental models—by deliberately centring children and young people so their voices shape practice and contribute to better experiences. The Thriving Kids in Disasters (TKiD) Initiative is one example of how this looks like in practice. TKiD brings people and organisations together to strengthen how children and young people are included in disaster resilience, response and recovery, turning evidence, relationships and ideas into practical action.



TKiD at the Scenic Rim Disaster Forum

One example began when QKP heard two young women from the PCYC Emergency Services Cadets identify a need for practical Psychological First Aid (PFA) training for young people. QKP:

- connected the cadets with headspace and TKiD Alliance partners
- found others already delivering PFA with young people
- brought partners together to shape a program
- connected the group with the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR), which funded the initiative.

Young people helped shape the training, delivery and evaluation, including leading interviews and photography to capture their experiences. Six sessions reached around 90 young people and 15 adult leaders across 5 locations. Participants gained practical skills in self-care and supporting others, with groups now exploring how to embed PFA into their activities and share these skills more widely. In this way, young people are better equipped to access and provide the right support when they need it, in places and ways that work for them; and their voices are helping shape how that support is delivered. Partners are reviewing what was learned and exploring how the approach could scale across Queensland. It is one example of how listening to young people, connecting the right people and resources, and acting on their ideas can change practice, with more examples emerging across TKiD and QKP.

For more visit: [Plan C: Youth Psychological First Aid](#) and watch this [Video](#)

Portfolio progress

Engaging Hearts and Mindsets

What success looks like:

- Widespread use and advocacy of evidence-based messaging, stories and resources when promoting what children, young people, their families and communities need to thrive.
- Evidence of shifts in how people think, feel, speak and act towards supportive change for children, young people and their families.



IN 2025–26 QKP:

- Established 17-person Hearts and Mindsets Collaborative.
- Welcomed new Framing Champions: 9 new members joined 22 existing members.
- Co-facilitated delivery of tiered learning opportunities (workshops, webinars, coaching, Community of Practice w/117 members, Champions sessions) to 400 stakeholders.
- Engaged with Framework Australia's Early Years Mindsets research and community of practice.
- Developed partner and stakeholder journey mapping for increasing reach, amplification and distributed leadership.

OUR BIG WINS

- Recognised worth + value-add from engagement within the portfolio by our partners.
- Collaboration growth and diversity, and many continuing long-term and deep partner engagements.
- Joint action via shared work on campaigns, advocacy, policy submissions e.g. Thriving Kids Initiative, National Alliance for Libraries and Early Years, State of Australia's Children's Report, Commission of Inquiry.
- Increased embedding framing in QKP social media.

Our key partners and collaborators:

Queensland Family and Child Commission; State Library Queensland; Parenting Research / Raising Children Network; NAPCAN; Play Matters; Office for Youth; Deadly Choices; Hand Heart Pocket; You Can't be Serious Film and Photography; Green Fox Studios; Emerging Minds; UQ Public Health; Act for Kids; Brisbane Youth Services; Parenting Resource Centre, UniSC, PeakCare; QCOS; Youth Advocacy Centre; Early Childhood Australia; QATSICPP; FrameWorks; and 115 members of the Framing for Change Community of Practice.

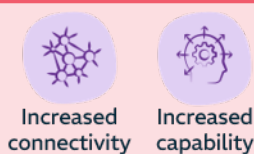
This portfolio is resourced by the Queensland Family and Child Commission and Hand Heart Pocket, and is supported by QKP's core funders: the Paul Ramsay Foundation, Tim Fairfax Family Foundation, Hand Heart Pocket and The Bryan Foundation.

This portfolio contributes to progress towards:

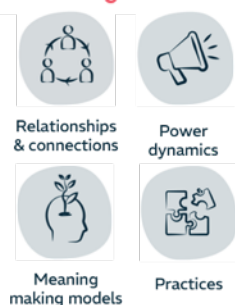
QKP'S OUTCOMES:

- Productive engagement from leaders to children
- Increased child development capabilities
- Systems oriented learning and improvement

SYSTEM IMPACTS:



This portfolio is influencing these levers



Building Brains and Bodies

What success looks like:

- An increase in leaders, practitioners, caregivers and organisations that are engaging in building thriving childhoods.
- An increase in strategies, policies, programs, investments and practices that are explicit about developing the capabilities and relationships children, young people, families and communities need to be connected, resilient and thriving.



IN 2025–26 QKP:

- Launched the Enabling Workforces and Organisations resources and toolkit.
- Established the Childhood Builder Capability Champions initiative (11 organisations).
- Convened the 56-member Brains and Bodies Collaborative
- Facilitated The Nest, Common Approach & The Resilience Scale learning for 1000+ participants.
- Established the Qld Early Oral Language Project (QEOLP), with contributions from Children Health Qld (CHQ) and DoE, convened a diverse Coalition, and produced an Asset Map.
- Worked with UQ as knowledge and implementation partner for Brain Builders initiatives, incl. the 2nd Brain Builders Summit.
- Supported suite of partner-led initiatives, including UQ's Brain Healthy Schools, State Library's Together We Grow, Yiliyapinya's Growing Deadly Brains and Logan Together's Brain Building for Better Futures.

OUR BIG WINS

- Advanced a suite of Childhood Builders initiatives and resources.
- Engaged a growing coalition of system leaders, practitioners and organisations championing neuro-informed policy and practice with caregivers, educators, practitioners and communities.
- Strengthened shared leadership with First Nations partners through the active involvement of Yiliyapinya and Kowa in the Childhood Builder Capability Champions Initiative.
- The QEOLP symposium with a guest speaker: internationally recognised researcher Prof. Cristina McKean (Oxford).

Our key partners and collaborators:

Queensland Mental Health Commission, Yiliyapinya Indigenous Corporation, UQ Child Health Research Centre / Queensland Brain Institute, Early Childhood Australia, Alannah & Madeline Foundation, University of the Sunshine Coast, James Cook University, Griffith University, Queensland University of Technology, TAFE Qld, Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Children's Health Queensland (Qld Centre for Perinatal and Infant Mental Health, EdLinQ and Project ECHO), Department of Education, University of Melbourne, Health and Wellbeing Qld, Dovetail, Emerging Minds, Pathways to Resilience, 12 organisations partnering in the Childhood Builder Champions initiative, plus 40+ organisations involved in QEOLP.

This portfolio is resourced by the Minderoo Foundation, Tim Fairfax Family Foundation, Hand Heart Pocket, and the Bowness Family Foundation, and supported by QKP's core funders: the Paul Ramsay Foundation, Tim Fairfax Family Foundation, Hand Heart Pocket and The Bryan Foundation.

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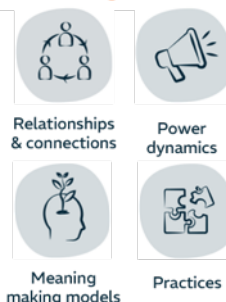
QKP'S OUTCOMES:

- Productive engagement from leaders to children
- Increased child development capabilities

SYSTEM IMPACTS:



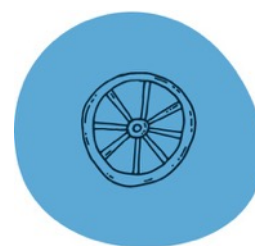
This portfolio is influencing these levers



Integrating Hubs and Spokes

What success looks like:

- Increased alignment and amplification of stakeholder priorities regarding hub uplift in Queensland and beyond.
- Increased capability in and application of the Hubs Framework in Queensland settings.
- Greater flow and impact of resourcing for hub models in Queensland according to need.
- Thriving Kids initiative is rolled out in an integrated, place-based way
- Enhanced knowledge generation and application to optimize impact.



IN 2025–26 QKP:

- Established 35-member Hubs and Spokes Collaborative (+convened 6 meetings).
- Launched QHEEL which generated 22 complete expressions of interest.
- Engaged Murdoch Children’s Research Institute as the QHEEL evaluation partner.
- Coordinated inaugural immersion for nine applicants from 9 orgs across five Logan hubs.
- Co-developed the Hubs & Spokes Strategy to 2030.
- Co-produced a ‘team Qld’ hubs investment proposal for the Qld and Australian Governments.
- Commenced the Queensland Hubs System Project with The Bryan Foundation and Social Ventures Australia.
- Undertook planning for other QHEEL offerings.
- Established the Thriving Kids Working Group (13 IGST members, incl. 5 young people, to guide QKP).

OUR BIG WINS

- Strengthened connections and collaboration across Queensland’s child and family hubs.
- Built shared commitment to the future design and investment of Child and Family Hubs.
- Created a stronger foundation for consistent and connected hub development and scaling across Queensland.
- Continued to ensure alignment with the National Child and Family Hubs Network.

Our key partners and collaborators:

Autism Queensland, Brisbane South PHN, Cape York Partnerships, Centre for Community Child Health Research, Community Hubs Australia, Griffith University, Investment Dialogue for Australia’s Children (IDAC), Murdoch Children’s Research Institute, Neighbourhood Centres Qld, Play Matters, Qld Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak, Queenslanders with Disability Network, Qld Health, Department of Education, State Library of Queensland, The Benevolent Society, Qld Foundational Supports Working Group, X-Stitch.

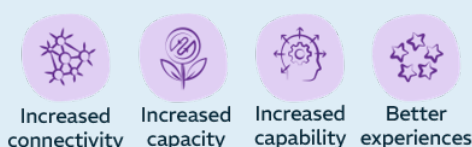
This portfolio is resourced by The Minderoo Foundation, and is supported by QKP’s core funders: the Paul Ramsay Foundation, Tim Fairfax Family Foundation, Hand Heart Pocket and The Bryan Foundation.

This portfolio contributes to progress towards:

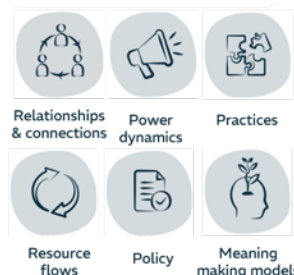
QKP’S OUTCOMES:

- Productive engagement from leaders to children
- Increased child development capabilities
- Systems oriented learning and improvement

SYSTEM IMPACTS:



This portfolio is influencing these levers



Enabling Stewards and Voices

What success looks like:

- More leaders and change makers are engaged in stewardship initiatives.
- More systems and services are designed and delivered heeding lived experience of and becoming accountable to C&YP for their impact.
- More leaders and change makers commit to partner and collaborate to change systems for C&YP, families and communities.



IN 2025–26 QKP:	OUR BIG WINS
– Transitioned to and convened the QKP Inter-Generational Stewardship Table (IGST). – Led the co-design and co-development of the Childhood Stewards Initiative. – Explored accountability to children and young people with the Accountability Futures Collective. – Promoted children and young people's voices through the Voices Learning Hub webpage. – Supported QATSICPP's leadership of the Thriving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Strategy and initiative.	Established new models of shared leadership through the Intergenerational Stewardship Table by bringing young people and adults together as equal partners in shaping change. – Strengthened co-leadership with First Nations. – Embedded First Nations knowledge, perspectives and leadership alongside Western approaches from the outset for Childhood Stewards Initiative. – Strengthened the national systems change field via Design Team.

Our key partners and collaborators:

Capacity building partners: Alliance for Leadership Learning, Collaboration for Impact, Centre for Public Impact, The Australian Centre for Social Innovation, Pathways to Prevention, PLACE Australia, Emergent Action, ARACY, Jane Yettica, Liz Skelton, Ruth Toomey, Super Native; GroupWorks, and the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience.

Intergenerational Table Partners: Settlement Services International, Create Foundation, Your Town, Cape York Partnerships, Griffith University, Mission Australia and Cairns South Together, Office for Youth, QFCC, Youth Advocacy Centre, and Accountable Futures Collective.

This portfolio is resourced by the Minderoo Foundation, Hand Heart Pocket, Tim Fairfax Family Foundation, Youth Futures Fund, and supported by QKP’s core funders: the Paul Ramsay Foundation, Tim Fairfax Family Foundation, Hand Heart Pocket and The Bryan Foundation.

This portfolio contributes to progress towards:

QKP’S OUTCOMES:	SYSTEM IMPACTS:
– Productive engagement from leaders to children – Increased system stewardship	  Increased connectivity Increased capability



Strengthening Places and Spaces

What success looks like:

- An increase in the number of communities enabled as change agents.
- Policy, practice and investment are better geared to support place-based and country-focused environments and infrastructure.
- Communities have better data visibility.
- Local Governments recognise C,Y & F wellbeing as a priority.
- The Qld place & country ecosystem is better connected and able to solve systemic challenges.



IN 2025-26 QKP:

- Established the Queensland Places Network (QPN), including governance, shared learning, funder engagement and government relationship planning.
- Strengthened funder collaboration and shared learning through the Funders CoP, Funders Learning Day and the Breakthrough Innovation Group (on Collaborative Commissioning work).
- Progressed shared measurement and local government engagement, incl. the first phase of the Local Government Project.
- Convened the Thriving Kids in Disasters Alliance, commenced testing the Disaster Coaches Model, strengthening connections with local gov. & disaster management partners.
- Convened the Country Collaborative and co-developed Journey Access Mapping to better understand regional and rural experiences and access.

OUR BIG WINS

- Built stronger foundations for coordinated place-based action by connecting funders, government, practitioners and communities through the newly established QPN.
- Advanced Queensland's readiness to better support children and families through disasters by aligning partners around shared action and investment priorities and testing new approaches.
- Amplified regional, rural and First Nations perspectives to inform Thriving Kids priorities and future action.

Our key partners and collaborators:

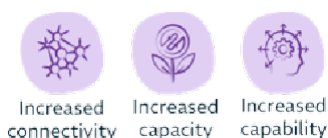
Logan Together, Gladstone Region Engaging in Action Together and Cape York Partnerships; 176 participants in the QPN; QKFA and IDAC; 11 Queensland and Federal Government agencies, 15 Local Governments (incl. 1 ROC); JCU, UQ, USC, CQU and Griffith University; PLACE; 34 organisations in the TKiD Alliance; Outback Futures and five Central West Qld LGAs; Qld Health and Children's Health Queensland, Inspector-General Emergency Management, Queensland Reconstruction Authority; Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety (DFSDESCS) Community Recovery Branch; UNICEF; Robset Consulting, Raising Children's Network, Emerging Minds, LGAQ – Disasters, Australian Red Cross, PCYC, Suncorp, RACQ, KidSafe, Baby Give Back; 30 organisations in the QKP Country Collaborative; BushKids, Royal Far West, Little Sparkles, Ngukathati Children & Family Centre, Torres & Cape Health & Hospital Service, Regional Jobs Committee Mt Isa, The Smith Family, Better Health NQ, QATSICPP, Western & Northern PHNs and CheckUp. This portfolio is resourced by the Hand Heart Pocket, Tim Fairfax Family Foundation, The Bryan Foundation, Cages Foundation, Dusseldorf Forum, Equity Trustees (EC White Trust), Shepherd Family Foundation, and FRRR; and supported by QKP's other core funders: the Paul Ramsay Foundation.

This portfolio contributes to progress towards:

QKP'S OUTCOMES:

- Productive engagement from leaders to children
- Systems oriented learning and improvement
- Productive investment in systems initiatives

SYSTEM IMPACTS:



Growing Investments and Impacts

What success looks like:

- Growth and shifts in public and philanthropic investment into what works and what matters.
- Changed investment and commissioning processes that are better informed, planned and governed.
- More collaborative research and knowledge translation focused on improving the development, wellbeing and resilience of Qld's C&YP.



IN 2025–26 QKP:

- Supported Queensland Kids Funders Alliance collaborations on shared priorities.
- Supported the Investment Dialogue for Australia's Children's work across Governments and philanthropies.
- Developed a Young Parents investment prospectus and literature review.
- Canvassed transformative investment reforms in submissions to the Treasurer, Productivity Commission, Minister for Families, and the Child Safety Commission of Inquiry.
- Supported the Queensland Places Network's Innovation Group workshop on Collaborative Commissioning.
- Commenced scoping a Commissioning policy position and playbook
- Contributed to state and national networks developing prevention-oriented investment proposals.
- Brokered connections between communities, governments, universities and philanthropies for specific initiatives.
- Commenced early scoping with the QKP Board on sustainability directions and options beyond Phase 3.

OUR BIG WINS

- Influenced investment into priority initiatives, helping secure support for QKP-led work (QEOLP) and partner-led initiatives such as SLQ and Growing Deadly Brains.
- Advanced strategic collaboration across QKFA and IDAC, including establishing young parents as an IDAC investment priority.
- First 10,000 Days Network established at UQ, one of only three across the university.
- Catalysed Play 32, a cross-sector coalition engaging decision-makers and delivery partners of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games to champion children's play and voice as a lasting legacy.

Our key partners and collaborators:

Queensland Government agencies (especially Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Office for Social Impact in Queensland Treasury), IDAC, Primary Health Networks, particularly in relation to Thriving Kids, Queensland Kids Funders Alliance and other philanthropic partners, Preventative Peaks Alliance, QCOSS Raising Children Network, SEED Foundation (national prevention framework).

This portfolio is supported by QKP's core funders: the Paul Ramsay Foundation, Tim Fairfax Family Foundation, Hand Heart Pocket and The Bryan Foundation.

This portfolio contributes to progress towards:

QKP'S OUTCOMES:

- Productive investment in systems initiatives

SYSTEM IMPACTS:



How we are strengthening QKP as an intermediary

Growing learning network

Systems change depends on learning. Across 2025–26 we strengthened learning as a core part of how we work, using it not only to understand our progress, but also to continually adapt and support others to learn alongside us and to build capabilities for systems level learning. We grew our learning network through partnerships with experts in systems change evaluation and strengthened our Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Reporting (MELR) infrastructure, creating more space for reflection, sensemaking and shared learning.

OUR LEARNING PARTNERS	BUILDING LEARNING INTO HOW WE WORK
We are building a learning network around QKP, drawing on partners who help us ask better questions, test assumptions, make sense of signals and strengthen how we understand contribution in complex systems. We: – partnered with Orange Compass and Kowa Collaboration to strengthen our learning practice — embedding learning loops, deepening sensemaking, and MELR practice – established Systems Change Evaluation CoP (facilitated by Mark Cabaj), alongside ARACY, IDAC and the Accountable Futures Collective—building capability in systems evaluation – engaged in the Systems Sanctuary Collective Learning offering with 14 of our partners.	We also strengthened the everyday steps that help learning become part of our practice. We: – introduced dedicated spaces and platforms for capturing insights and evidence – embedded regular MELR-focused team meetings and quarterly sensemaking days – used external evaluators for portfolio initiative-level evaluations – began improving how we capture data so more time can be spent on reflection, adaptation and sharing insights.

We have advanced our work on how we will evaluate systems change, and communicate our contribution and approach population-level change of children and young people in Queensland.

LEARNING ABOUT SYSTEMS CHANGE EVALUATION	POPULATION-LEVEL WELLBEING AND QKP'S MELR
A key shift this year was growing confidence in how we understand and communicate QKP's contribution to systems change – a direct result from our engagement with Mark Cabaj. So far, we have: – tested an adapted Outcome Harvesting approach to identify and capture QKP's contribution to systems change – applied and refined this approach internally, through the CoP, and at the PLACE Summit — building shared understanding and confidence in its use, and received positive and encouraging feedback – strengthened our ability to identify and interpret ripples and signals of systems change across multiple data sources.	We took important steps towards understanding how QKP's work connects to the bigger picture of child and youth wellbeing in Queensland. We: – engaged with UNICEF, ARACY and ATALS (with Minderoo) on work relating to the State of Australia's Children (SoAC) Report – hosted a webinar on State of Queensland's Children that focused on wellbeing data for Queensland from the SoAC Report – joined the ATLAS Partner Working Group, improving access to indicators aligned to The NEST wellbeing domains for QLD – began exploring the potential for a Queensland Wellbeing Index for children and young people.

Strengthening how we take up our role

We are changing the way we take up our role. Looking ahead, you will see us improve how we:

01 SHARE LEADERSHIP FOR SYSTEMS CHANGE	02 CO-LEAD WITH FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE, ORGANISATIONS AND COMMUNITIES
We will continue shifting leadership, influence and resources to partners and collaborators, supporting those closest to the work to lead systems change and lead while using our role to connect, enable and amplify collective action.	Our commitment is to walk alongside First Nations leaders, organisations and communities through stronger partnerships, shared decision-making and culturally grounded ways of working; learning from and elevating First Nations leadership across our networks and initiatives.
03 CO-LEAD WITH AND BE ACCOUNTABLE TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE	04 SUPPORT INTER-GENERATIONAL LEADERSHIP OF SYSTEMS CHANGE
Our focus is on creating more opportunities for children and young people to shape decisions, influence systems and contribute their lived expertise. We will strengthen youth voice and participation across our governance, partnerships and collaborative work.	Our approach brings together the perspectives and strengths of different generations to inform action and decision-making. We will grow and embed inter-generational leadership and continue maturing and sharing this practice through the IGST and beyond.
05 ENABLE SYSTEMS LEARNING	06 EXPLORE THE ECONOMIC DETERMINANTS OF WELLBEING
Our priority is to strengthen how learning is generated, shared and applied across partnerships, portfolios and the broader ecosystem. To support this, we will encourage wider use of The Nest and other shared frameworks and tools to inform planning, investment, engagement, practice and accountability across local, regional, organisational and system levels.	We will prioritise building our understanding of the economic and commercial factors shaping children's wellbeing, connecting with others advancing this work and exploring how we can bring greater attention to the economic conditions influencing children and families' opportunities to thrive.

This year has strengthened our belief that systems change grows through relationships before it shows up in results. We have learnt that when people share language, trust, evidence and leadership, the work becomes stronger, more distributed and more capable of shifting the conditions around children. The movement is growing — across communities, services, government, philanthropy, research and young people themselves — and so is the work ahead.

We look forward to continuing this work and strengthening impacts though what we learn, and to continue transforming our State to a place where every young Queenslander can thrive now and into the future.

QKP 's FY26 financial position

QKP is enabled by the combined resources generously provided by our philanthropic partners (see below) and by the hundreds of people and organisations that contribute their time, wisdom and organisational resources.

QKP is hosted by ARACY, who handle QKP's funding agreements and financial management and reporting through a dedicated account. ARACY's annual audited accounts are available at www.aracy.org.au.

QKP is in a positive financial position at the end of year 1 of phase 3, resulting from higher income generated, funds carried over from phase 2, higher interest earned on funds held, and a lower than budgetted spend and draw down as we began implementing the Phase 3 Impact Strategy and portfolio plans.

QKP's summary FY26 financial statement is here:

\$'000	Act	2025-26 Bud	Chg	2024-25 PY
Income				
Funding	4,648.4	6,023.8	(1,375.4)	3,816.0
Donations	435.8	0.0	435.8	100.0
Other (including in Kind)	232.4	151.1	81.3	90.0
Total Income	5,316.6	6,175.0	(858.3)	4,006.0
Core Operating Costs				
Salaries and related labour costs	2,536.9	2,679.1	(142.2)	1,556.9
Engagement & Communciation	219.2	239.2	(20.0)	104.3
Monitoring, Learning & Evaluation	130.9	100.0	30.9	3.6
Office, supplies, insurance & other	149.6	162.7	(13.1)	157.3
Total core operating costs	3,036.5	3,181.0	(144.4)	1,822.2
Portfolio Costs				
Building Brains & Bodies	638.7	815.0	(176.3)	1,000.5
Strengthening Places & Spaces	729.7	831.1	(101.4)	588.6
Stewards and Voices	655.5	970.5	(315.0)	304.8
Integrating Hubs & Spokes	87.2	425.0	(337.8)	54.8
Engaging Hearts & Minds	102.5	75.0	27.5	235.1
Growing Investments & Impacts	66.5	25.0	41.5	0.0
Total Portfolio Funding	2,280.1	3,141.6	(861.5)	2,183.9
Total Expenses	5,316.6	6,322.6	(1,005.9)	4,006.0
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	0.0	(147.6)	147.6	0.0

Funds Generated \$'000	FY26	FY25	Chg
Funds generated	4,346.3	8,273.7	(3,927.4)
Funds drawn down to fund work/programmes in the year	5,316.6	4,006.0	1,310.6
Funds held in advance	4,827.7	5,550.1	(722.4)

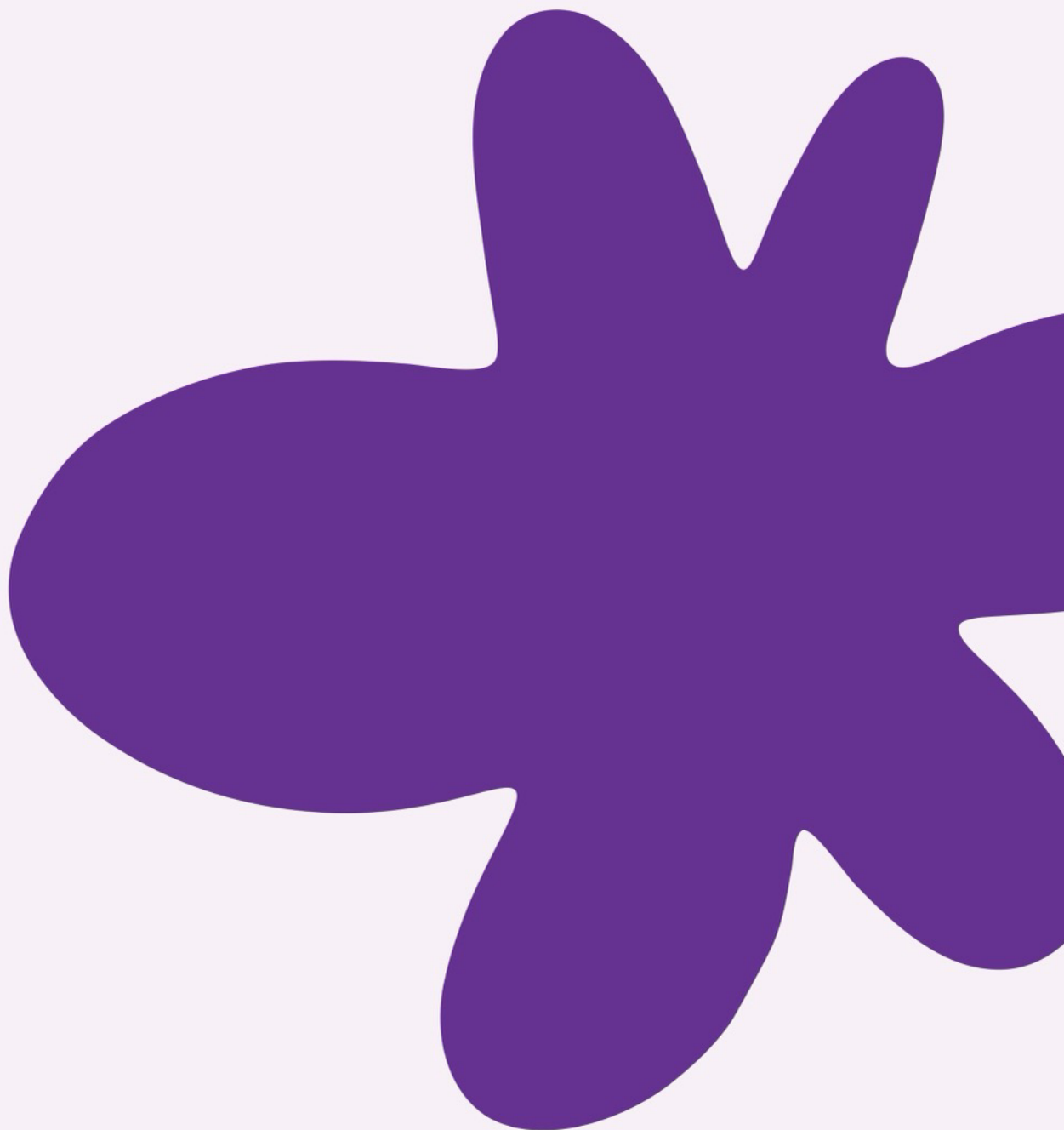
We gratefully acknowledge the financial contributions and other support received from the following funding partners, including members of the Queensland Kids Funders Alliance and/or the Investment Dialogue for Australia’s Children:



Youth Futures



**Queensland Kids
Partnership**
every child thriving



Join our growing movement of people and organisations who are working together to create a fairer, healthier Queensland for every child and young person in every community.

qkp.org.au