



22 January 2024

Commissioner Anne Hollands
Australian Human Rights Commission

Email: [REDACTED]
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Dear Commissioner

Re: supplementary submission re place-based initiatives

Further to ARACY's previous submission to the Commission's inquiry into youth justice and child protection, TQKP is pleased to provide a further submission focusing on the value and impact of child and youth-focused, place-based collective impact initiatives. [Thriving Queensland Kids Partnership](#) (TQKP) commends the Commission for undertaking this inquiry and giving due attention to the place of 'place' in the inquiry.

TQKP was initiated with the purpose to 'catalyse systems to change the odds for Queensland's children, young people and their families to thrive'. Most Australian children and young people are doing well, but too many aren't thriving due to adverse life experiences and lack of access to the resources and services they need. This contributes to poor child development and health outcomes with impacts for our whole community.

TQKP is a cross-sectoral coalition and broker hosted by [ARACY](#) – the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth – with a focus on supporting systems change. Our challenge is to use who and what we have, and what we know and learn, support leaders and catalysts, and facilitate collaborative action, innovation and development, to make the whole greater than the sum of the parts.

TQKP is currently supported by seven philanthropies and is engaging five Queensland government statutory authorities, nine Queensland government departments and a growing number of institutes and community organisations. The TQKP Charter is available [here](#) and a copy of our recent Year in Review is available [here](#).

'Place' is one of the key 'threads' that TQKP draws on to facilitate collective systems-level efforts to weave systems together to improve life opportunities and outcomes for children and young people. TQKP is facilitating 'place' through our portfolio of 10 systems initiatives, including specifically:

- Thriving Places, Thriving Kids Network
- Thriving Country Qld Kids Collaborative
- Thriving Kids Integrated Systems Collaborative
- Thriving Kids Brain Builders Initiative, including 'Brain Healthy Places and Spaces' projects
- Childhood Builders Initiative, including place-based capability development using the Nest, Common Approach and Resilience Scale (such as with GRATE)
- TQKP Early Childhood Development Better Systems Roadmap, including direct financial and other support for the Logan F2000 Days Plan and the Thriving Lockyer Kids projects.

[REDACTED] has been a growing interest in Australia and globally in place-based initiatives as a vital

[REDACTED] the extent of inequity and incidence and impacts of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)

- enable local leaders and community networks to actively engage in child and youth development
- strengthen the capabilities and capacities local community and service eco-systems



- improve the engagement, effectiveness and efficiency (and reduce waste and duplication) of Government, community and philanthropic efforts and investments
- align the coherence of efforts at local, regional, state/territory, and national levels
- drive coordination and collaboration to deliver the integrated responses
- ██████████sed implementation of macro strategic policy and reform agendas of state/territory and national governments, and
- advance more holistic, preventive, developmental, and trauma and neuro-informed approaches to child wellbeing.

We have appended copies of recently Australian materials.

We note for example, that a number of Queensland-based place initiatives (and other entities in the Queensland ecosystem) utilise [The Nest](#) child and youth wellbeing outcomes framework – including Logan Together and Gladstone’s GRATE - as an organising framework. We commend this to the Commission, along with AFWI’s [Resilience Scale](#) and MCRI’s [Restacking the Odds](#), as vitally important frames and tools to facilitate the approaches we have outlined above.

TQKP/ARACY has recently advanced propositions to the Queensland and Australian Governments, and to philanthropies, backing enhanced investment, capability development and facilitation of child and youth-focused place based initiatives. These are being canvassed in the following materials appended to this submission (attached or linked below) includes:

- TQKP’s 2023 Early Child Development Better Systems Roadmap (available [here](#))
- TQKP’s 2024 response to the Putting Queensland Kids First draft plan (available [here](#))
- TQKP’s Thriving Places, Thriving Kids Rivermap (see attached)
- TQKP’s 2024 Thriving Places, Thriving Kids Prospectus (see attached)
- ARACY’s 2023 paper on Place (available [here](#)).

We’ve recently provided some of these materials to Australian and Queensland Government Ministers and agencies, and are hopeful that these and other like propositions will be prioritised in the forthcoming 2024-25 Budgets. We note too that the recent report of the Senate Community Affairs Committee on ‘The extent and nature of poverty in Australia’ recommend a greater commitment to place-based efforts, as did last year’s report of the Australian Treasurer’s Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee..

We have also appended a number of other recent Australian reports on place.

Thrivng Queensland Kids Partnership looks forward to working with you to improve child and youth wellbeing outcomes across so that every Queensland child, in every family, in every community has the best chance to thrive. Rowena Cann, TQKP lead on place, and I would be more than happy to provide a further briefing and discuss any of this material with the Commission team undertaking the Inquiry.

Yours sincerely



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