

## Survey responses to Putting Queensland Kids First Consultation Draft

### 1. What are the core principles you think should inform our early intervention and prevention approach to support children, young people and families?

Brave Foundation (Brave) firmly believes the core principles of the Putting Queensland Kids First Plan (the Plan) must address the structural barriers families face to thrive. It is critical that systemic and structural barriers to healthy and happy families are identified, and change must be targeted in these areas. There is also an opportunity for the Plan to use strengths-based framing and language that highlights the resilience and capabilities of families.

A whole of community approach and intervention at a community level would help to draw attention to some of the systemic enablers and barriers of thriving families. This could include the capability building focus of the workforce addressed the Plan; however, we encourage a broader focus to support workers across the public service, ensuring there is training for all staff which addresses implicit bias and stigmatising attitudes. As Brave works closely with expecting and parenting teenagers we often hear of discrimination and fear of stigma that prevents young parents from accessing necessary supports and resources.

It is also important that the Plan doesn't overlook the importance of investment in tertiary intervention. It is clear to Brave that targeted and specialised intervention support is still needed to support young parents living in-risk. Redistribution of resourcing to focus wholly on the prevention and early intervention side of the continuum risks exacerbating intergenerational cycles of marginalisation for families contending with extreme life challenges.

### 2. What are the key protective factors in keeping children and young people on positive trajectories, and how can we further boost these?

In addition to the protective factors highlighted in the Plan, other key protective factors include:

- Quality relationships within family and with peers, as well as non-parental adults in communities and within professional services.
- Supporting young people and children's agency with opportunities to meaningfully participate in decision-making, and the development of systems to support this.
- Feeling valued and respected by adults in their communities.
- Access to opportunities, resources and supports that effectively address inclusion barriers (including cognitive, language, transport, age-appropriateness, and childcare).



### **3. Are there any other priorities you think that Queensland Kids First should consider? (including investment priorities)**

As highlighted in our response to question one, the Plan must not overlook investment in tertiary intervention – targeted and specialised intervention to support young parents living in-risk (and are past being at-risk) is linked to early intervention for their children.

Further, there is an opportunity for the Plan to invest in understanding what bias and discrimination may exist in government funded and operated services that support young people and their children. Often a barrier for accessing certain services for young people is poor experiences with these services due to stigma and discrimination.

Brave also believes not only is it important for young people and their children to have their needs met, but also their dreams, desires and passions and developing competencies supported.

### **4. How can we best support connection to culture and community for children, young people and families?**

Alongside collaborative partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations, there must also be co-governance on matters affecting First Nations families. Connection to culture is also a protective factor for children and young people identifying with other ethnic cultures that have been minoritised within Western cultural contexts. Supports and services that include culturally and linguistically diverse children, young people and families need to be culturally responsive, and a diverse range of cultural advisors need to be resourced to support this work. Consideration should also be given to building capability in cultural humility and responsiveness across the community and public service workforce.

Ensuring accessibility for all is an essential part of inclusive communities. This can be achieved through consultation with target audiences around what is required to make access barrier-free. For example, consulting on suitable times, virtual options, different modes of learning, language and communication accessibility, and provision of transport and childcare support to facilitate access to certain services.

### **5. What would it look like for us to work together as partners, all committed to improving outcomes for children and young people**

Brave supports the Plan's commitment to partner with NGOs and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations to deliver local, place-based and targeted interventions to respond to the needs of Queensland children, young people and families.

We also want to highlight the many benefits that come with partnering with and resourcing service delivery providers that have strong track records and are evidence informed. Further, ensuring there is ongoing quality evaluation of partnership services is of great importance.

