



**Queensland Kids
Partnership**
every child thriving

Reforming investment for strong young parent-led families

Roger Meany
Lead, Investment and Strategy

Turning Point – 26 March 2026



We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the places where we live and work, and their continuing connection to land and sea, kin, culture and community.

We pay respect to Elders past and present, and to First Nations colleagues.

We acknowledge the resilience, determination, leadership, generosity and innovation of First Nations peoples, and we recognise the value inherent in Indigenous ways of ‘knowing, being and doing’.



**Within one generation,
every young Queenslander
is thriving.**

Why?

					
12,000	1 in 3	30%	> 50%	30%	Motivated
Teens raising children	First Nations mother	Living with the father	In OOHC born to teen mother	Have babies while in or exiting OOHC	For change



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“Young parents hold high hopes and want support that aligns with their own visions, goals and values. They seek autonomy, equity and systems that help them lead their families forward, on their terms.”

Bernadette Black



**A replicable,
scalable cross-
system support
model for young
parents and their
children.**





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MICAH PROJECTS



**BRISBANE
YOUTH
SERVICE**



B R A V E

yourtown



What **works well** in supporting young parents and their children? You said...



Relationship-based and trauma-informed approach

‘Without that, the work can’t be effective’



Perseverance and flexibility

‘Persistence is central’



Targeted early intervention responsive to developmental stage

needs.

‘A 16-year-old parent’s needs are different to a 30-year-old parent’s. Getting the balance right for the teenage brain is the starting point.’

What **works well** in supporting young parents and their children? You said...



Service collaboration, partnership and integration

‘Young parents don’t have to retell their story...’



Peer connection and support

‘Peer connection and support is SO powerful’



Lived experience to inform service design and delivery

‘They soon set us straight!’

Opportunity & challenge?

You said...

Funding insecurity and constraints

‘The Big 3’ - Housing and homelessness, Health & DFV

Young parent linkage with mainstream services

Support of young fathers

What works? From the research...



Targeted support



Integrated
approaches



Early
intervention
proactive
engagement



Crisis to
aspiration
continuum



Peer support



Scaffolding to
access
mainstream
services

What's missing?



Policy focus



Investing early



Targeted support



System integration



Navigation support



Data sharing



Practice framework



Evaluation framework

How?



1. Leverage

‘Pockets of promise’



2. Expertise

Of various types



3. Empower

Young parents



4. Steward

Stewardship approach



5. Support

System support



6. Adapt

Adapt the program

Core model elements



Case managers



Antenatal care



Child health nurses



Educators



Allied health



Sexual/reproductive health



Peer support



Safe spaces



Learn/earn pathways



Specialist access

Underpinning factors

					
1. Workers	2. Continuity	3. Neuro-informed	4. Partners	5. Transitions	6. Communities
Skilled workers	Relationship based, consistent	Policy and practice	Inclusion of fathers/partners	Supported to mainstream	Connected and engaged

Innovation and Outcomes Fund

					
1. Existing	2. New	3. Trial	4. \$30M over 5 years	5. Selection	5. Administrator
Add elements	In areas of need	Trial and evaluate	Service, support, evaluation	Eol and criteria based	Oversee and enable

Proposed investment

\$30 million

in action learning
over 5 years

resulting in a replicable two-generation
intervention model and enablers for system
change

500

young parent-led families
directly experiencing improved trajectories

vs

Avoided costs

\$902,000

average future cost per young mother +
children

including welfare, service and out-of-home
care costs.

Source: Stronger Communities Investment Unit 2018 Insights
Report

=

>\$450 million

direct system saving
plus ongoing cost benefits from system and
program reform

Benefits



1. Capability

Build shared capability



2. Costs

Reduce costs



3. Evidence

Evidence-based



4. Sustainability

Longer-term approach



5. Reform

System reform



6. Trajectories

Improved for parent & child

The system reform we're after



Stretched



Inconsistent



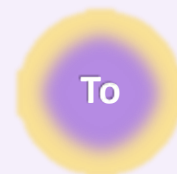
Unconnected



Projects



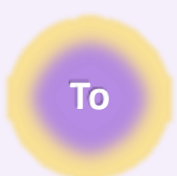
Some areas



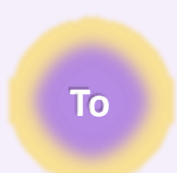
Enhanced



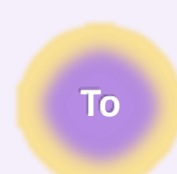
Consistent



Integrated



Program



All the right areas





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“When young parents have access to the right support, they find each other, they find friendship, they kick goals, and they raise children who thrive. They break generational cycles and build stronger families. Investing in these programs isn't just the right thing to do, it's the smart thing to do.”

Rachel, 22, speaking at the 2025 Queensland Family and Child Commission Youth Summit



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Queensland Kids Partnership is an initiative of ARACY