



Commissioner Williams' Message

The FRC continues to support community members to build stronger futures through responsibility and opportunity.

The Family Responsibilities Commission (FRC) remains a beacon of innovation and collaboration, uniquely blending First Nations leadership with state and federal systems to drive meaningful change in Queensland's Welfare Reform communities. Since its establishment in 2008, the FRC has been a cornerstone of the Cape York Welfare Reform, demonstrating that when responsibility is embraced and opportunities are provided, the cycle of disadvantage can be broken within a generation.

This year, the FRC has once again proven its ability to adapt and respond to the evolving needs of individuals and families in Aurukun, Coen, Doomadgee, Hope Vale, and Mossman Gorge. At the heart of this work are the Local Commissioners—First Nations leaders who bring cultural authority, lived experience, and deep community knowledge to their roles. Their efforts, supported by FRC staff, have empowered families to take responsibility for school attendance, child welfare, and financial management, creating safer and more stable homes for children.

The 2024–25 reporting period has seen a significant shift towards voluntary engagement, with more clients proactively seeking support and entering into agreements outside of formal conferences. These voluntary engagements, alongside the Commission's targeted referrals to support services, are helping individuals build the capabilities needed to overcome challenges and create brighter futures for their families. This reflects growing trust in the FRC's approach and a deepening sense of personal responsibility within communities.

The FRC's work is underpinned by its commitment to Closing the Gap. By fostering self-determination and cultural respect, the Commission is helping to address systemic issues such as over-representation in child protection and the justice system. Importantly, the FRC's partnerships with government agencies, community organisations, and schools have strengthened its ability to deliver holistic, client-centred support.

The FRC's achievements would not be possible without the support of its valued partners—the Queensland Government, the Australian Government, and the Cape York Institute—who, as members of the Family Responsibilities Board, provide critical guidance and collaboration. I would also like to thank the Deputy Commissioner, Rod Curtin, Local Commissioners and registry staff, whose dedication and leadership are the backbone of the Commission's success.

Finally, I acknowledge the efforts of the Registrar, Helen Weedon, and Michelle Synott, for their work in preparing this Annual Report, and Wayne Massey, Executive Officer (Corporate) for preparing the Financial statements and the Review of financial performance section. Their thoroughness has ensured the report reflects the scope of the Commission's work and its ongoing impact.

With gratitude and determination, I look forward to continuing the Commission's vital work in partnership with communities, governments, and organisations to create a brighter future for all.

Tammy Williams
Commissioner