

Appendices



Appendix B – Analysis of the Queensland Government’s ‘Our Way’ strategy and the *Family Responsibilities Commission Act 2008*.

The FRC Act supports Queensland’s ‘Our Way’ strategy, initiated to address the over-representation of Indigenous children in Queensland’s child protection system, as demonstrated in the following table.

Our Way Strategy Enablers and Building Blocks	Family Responsibilities Commission Act 2008 Objects and Principles
Focus on the child	<p>Best interests of children</p> <p>s5(1): The FRC Act is to be administered under the principle that the wellbeing and best interests of a child are paramount.</p> <p>s5(2)(b): In a conference about an agency notice involving a child, the child’s views and wishes should be taken into account in a way that has regard to the child’s age and ability to understand.</p>
Empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parents, families and communities	<p>Early intervention and local authority</p> <p>s4(1)(b): A main object of the FRC Act is to help people in welfare reform community areas to resume primary responsibility for the wellbeing of their community and the individuals and families of the community.</p> <p>s5(2)(a)(i) & (ii): The Commission should deal with matters in a way that facilitates early intervention...and makes appropriate use of community support services.</p> <p>s5(2)(c): Aboriginal tradition and Island custom must be taken into account in matters involving Aboriginal people or Torres Strait Islanders.</p>
Enable self-determination	<p>Local authority and decision making</p> <p>s50: Constitution of commission for conferences requires Local Commissioners appointed for the welfare reform community area from where the client lives or lived.</p> <p>s51(3): In appointing Local Commissioners for conference the FRC must consider their appropriateness, having regard to the clan or family group to which the person belongs; and consider whether the Local Commissioners should be male or female.</p> <p>The decision-making power of the FRC at conference is held by Aboriginal Commissioners.</p>



Appendices

Appendix B continued

Our Way Strategy Enablers and Building Blocks	Family Responsibilities Commission Act 2008 Objects and Principles
<p>Set high expectations and positive norms</p>	<p>Socially responsible standards of behaviour</p> <p>s4(1)(a): A main object of the FRC Act is to support the restoration of socially responsible standards of behaviour and local authority in welfare reform community areas.</p> <p>s4(2)(b) The objects are to be achieved mainly by establishing the FRC... to deal with matters in a way that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) encourages community members to engage in socially responsible standards of behaviour; and (ii) promotes the interests, rights and wellbeing of children and other vulnerable persons living in a welfare reform community area.