



# Director-General's UPDATE

**Deidre Mulkerin** | Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women

Hello everyone

I hope you've all enjoyed a lovely school holiday break and are ready to face the final school term for 2020! I still can't believe it's now October — where has this crazy year gone?

As you all know, 2020 has been like no previous year with the challenges that have been presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. Although Queensland has had some success in containing the transmission of the virus, we must continue applying due diligence to ensure you and your families, the children you care for, their parents and families, and our workforce remain healthy and well.

With no community transmission currently, [Queensland's Roadmap to Easing COVID-19 restrictions](#) has been updated with details on what to expect as we move to stages 4, 5 and 6, which, if all goes to plan, will see us reach stage 6 by 1 December 2020. Understandably, moving through these stages will be subject to there being no unnecessary risks present, and that testing is widespread and there is no community transmission.

## **2020 Kids in Care Christmas Gift Donation Drive**

After much consideration, and given the impacts of COVID-19 for all of us, the formal annual Kids in Care Christmas Gift Donation Drive will not proceed this year.

As I'm sure you can appreciate, the collection and handling of gifts from multiple sources could pose unnecessary health risks to everyone involved. With the need for social distancing and personal hygiene compliance from community members donating gifts to our service centres, and the requirement for our staff to surface clean every one of the thousands of gifts donated before presenting them to the children, the Donative Drive would raise a number of challenges that would be very difficult to manage.

However, we will still continue to encourage community members who would like to donate gifts to get in touch with their local foster and kinship care agencies, who may be running their own Christmas appeals for children and young people in care.

## **2020 QFKC Conference postponed**

As you may already know, COVID-19 has also impacted Queensland Foster and Kinship Care's (QFKC) conference, which has been postponed for 2020.

I was looking forward to attending the conference this year to meet many of you personally and thank you for the wonderful work you do in caring for children and young people.

If you have any questions about the changes to the conference, please email QFKC [conference@qfkc.com.au](mailto:conference@qfkc.com.au).

## **Enrol for prep 2021**

Children who turn 5 years old by 30 June 2021 will be eligible to enrol in Prep for 2021. Prep is the first year of school and compulsory for Queensland children. For further information and advice about enrolling a child in Prep, please talk to your child safety officer.

You'll also find more information on the [Queensland Government website](#).



Thank you again for your tireless work in supporting the children in your care. I hope that you enjoy the long weekend!

Take care.

Warm regards

**Deidre Mulkerin**

Director-General

Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women