



ChildProtectionPeak

QATSICPP Membership Charter

Introduction

The Queensland Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Child Protection peak accepts membership from Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Services as outlined in the Constitution. In so doing the member agrees to be bound by the 'Charter of Conditions of QATSICPP Membership'. This Charter shall set out:

- member's rights in relation to access to and governance of the QATSICPP pooled resources; and
- member's responsibilities in relation to regional solidarity and the QATSICPP role in quality enhancement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child and family services, service administration and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community control.

Charter of Conditions for Member Organisations

1. Recitals

- 1.1. The Queensland Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak functions as a unified professional entity providing services and mechanisms for cooperation and partnership among Member organisations
- 1.2. QATSICPP is committed to full and formal Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation in decision making and determining priorities.
- 1.3. Members of QATSICPP accept a broad definition of Child and Family support services, which includes life issues such as care and protection, access to quality care, freedom from racism and discrimination, preservation of culture and identity, intervention and prevention services including the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Child Placement principle as well as the rights to self determining practices and service delivery for our communities
- 1.4. Members of QATSICPP recognise the importance of collective strength in improving the protection needs of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander children and young people and their right to a quality service by their own people and are committed to regional solidarity.
- 1.5. Monitoring and evaluation of member organisations/ services should aim to enhance the quality of services and should be owned and driven by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities not governments.
- 1.6. Member organisations/services are committed to an ongoing process of Continuous Quality Enhancement and peer review supported by QATSICPP in relation to Child and Family support services administration, Child and family support service programs and governance by elected Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander committees.

2. Definitions

'ACT' means *'The Corporations Act 2001 (Cth)'*

'AICCA' means 'Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Child Care Agency'.

'QATSICPP' means 'Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak'.

'Member' means any organisation/person whose name appears in the register as a member of the Company and any organisation/person thereafter accepted as a member of the Company

3. Rights of membership

3.1 Governance

Under the QATSICPP Constitution, Members of QATSICPP form a Governing Executive Board with powers to set policy, determine programs and to obtain and apply funds in accordance with the Objects of QATSICPP.

3.2 Access to QATSICPP services

3.2.1 Membership of QATSICPP gives right of access to the shared resources directly controlled by QATSICPP Inc. These include:

3.2.2 Political advocacy and representation;

3.2.3 Administrative and financial management support services;

3.2.4 Accounting and payroll services;

3.2.5 Programs development, support and evaluation;

3.2.6 Promotion programs;

3.2.7 Human resources management support services;

3.2.8 Information technology support services.

These pooled resources are shared among the members in accordance with need as determined by the Governing Executive Board.

3.3 Members shall be entitled to receive visits by QATSICPP staff:

3.3.1 Upon request by the member to assist in training and development for employees, to advocate to government, to mediate between government and member, to assist in the strengthening of capacity for the member.

4. Responsibilities of membership

4.1 Solidarity

Members have a collective responsibility to assist in the development and implementation of policy on child protection, early intervention and prevention, planning or resource issues at a state or national level.

4.1.1 Representation

Members agree to support solidarity in representing the interests of their region to external agencies and funding bodies.

Members have the right to advocate for and represent the interests of their local community to external agencies, provided that it does not conflict with positions agreed to by Members at the state level.

4.1.2 Participation

Members have an obligation to ensure that they provide considered input for the development of a state-wide response within the agreed timeframes.

Lack of feedback will constitute an affirmative response.

4.1.3 Planning and priority setting

Members agree to participate in planning undertaken by the Governing Executive Board including identification of priorities for funding and development of child protection and family support services.

Members, both individually and through QATSICPP, will provide assistance to

emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled Child and family support services or communities interested in developing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled child and family support services.

4.1.4 Policy

Members agree to assist in the development and implementation of policies that aim to standardise significant administrative practices among members.

While Member Organisation/ services autonomy in local policy determination is to be preserved, standardised policies will ensure a high quality administrative practice.

4.2 Continuous Quality Enhancement

Member services commit to an ongoing process of Continuous Quality Enhancement and peer review supported by QATSICPP in relation to service administration, child and family support service programs and governance by elected Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander committees.

4.2.1 Members Administration and Governance

Upon request, QATSICPP will undertake to provide regular assistance to member services in relation to administrative, financial management and governance support. Such assistance will be determined and conducted in full consultation with the Member service.

4.2.2 Child and Family Support Service programs

Upon request, QATSICPP will undertake to provide regular assistance to member services in relation to the delivery of child and family support programs. Such assistance will be conducted in full consultation with the member service.

5. Reserve powers

5.1 Administrative authority

The QATSICPP has an obligation and responsibility to ensure that services to children are maintained and operational and in times of difficulty for members the company will provide strategic and administrative support.

5.2 Special State Meetings

Member organisations/services vest QATSICPP with the authority to call meetings in order to address matters that may have state-wide implication. The general principle will be that consensus on the need for meetings will be preferred.

6. Changes to the 'QATSICPP Ltd Membership Charter'

6.1 The Executive Director's may, from time to time in consultation with members, modify the terms of the Membership Charter at a duly constituted meeting provided that there is a quorum as per the Constitution.

7. Disputes

7.1 If a question, difference or dispute arises at any time among Member organisations/services concerning any provision of this Charter, the Member that

has the dispute will notify the Chairperson of QATSICPP. Members shall attempt to settle the matter by negotiation at a meeting of the Executive

- 7.2 Where a dispute exists, all parties shall continue to perform their obligations under the Charter until an outcome is obtained.
- 7.3 In the event that a dispute remains unresolved after twenty business days of notification, the QATSICPP Chairperson shall activate a Dispute Resolution process through mediation.
- 7.4 Recommendations will be presented to the Executive for discussion and decision at a board meeting
- 7.5 In the event that the decision of the Board is not satisfactory, the recommendation of the Mediator will be tabled at a general meeting of members for a decision. (*QATSICPP Constitution clause 8.8.9*)

SIGNED

For and behalf of the Queensland Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak Limited by

QATSICPP Ltd Chairperson

Date

Member Organisation

Authorised Signatory

Date