

B. Audit scope and methods

Performance engagement

This audit has been performed in accordance with the *Auditor-General Auditing Standards*, and the Standard on Assurance Engagements ASAE 3500 *Performance Engagements*, issued by the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. This standard establishes mandatory requirements and provides explanatory guidance for undertaking and reporting on performance engagements.

The conclusions in our report provide reasonable assurance that the objectives of our audit have been achieved. Our objectives and criteria are set out below.

Audit objective and criteria

The entities subject to this audit were:

- Department of Justice and Attorney-General
- Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs
- Queensland Police Service
- Queensland Corrective Services
- Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

We also engaged with the following entities as stakeholders during the audit:

- Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy
- Department of Education
- Department of Health
- Queensland Family and Child Commission
- Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Council
- Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce
- Independent Commission of Inquiry into Queensland Police Service responses to domestic and family violence
- non-government organisations, including victim support groups.

The objective of the audit is to examine the governance arrangements for responding to and preventing domestic and family violence in Queensland. It will also examine how effectively public sector entities keep people safe from domestic and family violence and how effectively they rehabilitate perpetrators to reduce the recurrence of violence.

Sub-objective 1: How effectively and efficiently do entities act to keep people safe from domestic and family violence?

Criteria

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| 1.1 | Is the government effectively coordinating, managing, and monitoring Queensland's domestic and family violence programs and services? |
| 1.2 | Do entities work together to ensure timely and effective whole-of-government responses to reports of domestic and family violence? |
| 1.3 | Do entities work together to proactively assess risk and implement appropriate controls and treatments to manage risk? |
| 1.4 | Do entities provide adequate support to victims and children of domestic violence, including connecting them to appropriate support services? |
| 1.5 | Do entities share information about reports of domestic and family violence, and about actions taken to support victims? |
| 1.6 | Do entities ensure there is adequate provision of shelters for victims and perpetrators? |

Sub-objective 2: How effectively do entities rehabilitate perpetrators to reduce the recurrence of domestic and family violence?

Criteria

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| 2.1 | Do entities ensure there is adequate provision of programs within the community and Queensland prisons to rehabilitate domestic and family violence perpetrators? |
| 2.2 | Do entities regularly monitor the support services provided to perpetrators, including the attendance and completion rates, the outcome of services, and whether there is reoccurrence? |
| 2.3 | Do entities ensure staff are adequately trained and qualified to deliver rehabilitation programs to perpetrators? |
| 2.4 | Do entities inform victims in a timely manner when perpetrators are released from prison to ensure adequate protection? |
| 2.5 | Do entities track and monitor the behaviour of high-risk perpetrators to ensure there is adequate protection of victims (including the use of electronic monitoring devices)? |

Scope exclusions and limitations

This audit scope includes all police call outs for domestic and family violence incidents, domestic violence orders, and reported breaches of domestic violence orders between 2015–16 and 2021–22. We did not examine police call outs, domestic violence orders, or breaches outside of this period.

We did not examine rehabilitation programs and support services that the Queensland Government does not fund.



Method

Field interviews

We conducted interviews with key people, staff and stakeholders from across the domestic and family violence sector including regional areas of Queensland. This included but was not limited to:

- Department of Justice and Attorney-General
- Queensland Police Service
- Queensland Corrective Services
- Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs
- Queensland Health
- Department of Education
- Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy
- non-government organisations
- service providers in other states.

Document review

We obtained and reviewed relevant documents from the entities involved in the audit. We reviewed relevant legislation, organisation reviews and evaluations, strategic plans, budget submissions, performance reports and indicators, guidelines, and correspondence.

We assessed previous and recent reviews and inquests conducted and considered their recommendations and findings. We did not perform an independent assessment to validate the status of these recommendations.

We considered research from other jurisdictions and academia.

Data analysis

We analysed data from the Department of Justice and Attorney-General; Queensland Police Service; Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs; and Queensland Courts. The data we analysed covered the period of:

- 2015–16 to 2021–22 for Queensland Police Service and Queensland Courts data
- 2015–16 to 2020–21 for Department of Justice and Attorney-General, and Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs.

Our data methods and data analysis outputs were progressively validated with the relevant entities.

Subject matter experts

We engaged and sought advice from subject matter experts from the Australian Institute of Criminology, as its expertise is within the domestic and family violence sector.



Person or parties with a special interest in this report

During the conduct of our audit, the Queensland Government established the Independent Commission of Inquiry into Queensland Police Service responses to domestic and family violence (the Commission). We have liaised with the Commission as well as various other reviewers during the conduct of our audit. In forming our recommendations, we have incorporated the results of our consultation, and considered existing recommendations from these various other reviews and inquiries into domestic and family violence.

In accordance with Section 54 of the *Auditor-General Act 2009*, we assessed that the following entities had a special interest in the report, and provided them with our proposed report (or relevant sections), and the opportunity to comment on it:

- Queensland Family and Child Commission
- Independent Commission of Inquiry into Queensland Police Service responses to domestic and family violence.

