

Protecting the lives of children and their sexual safety

Review of the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004

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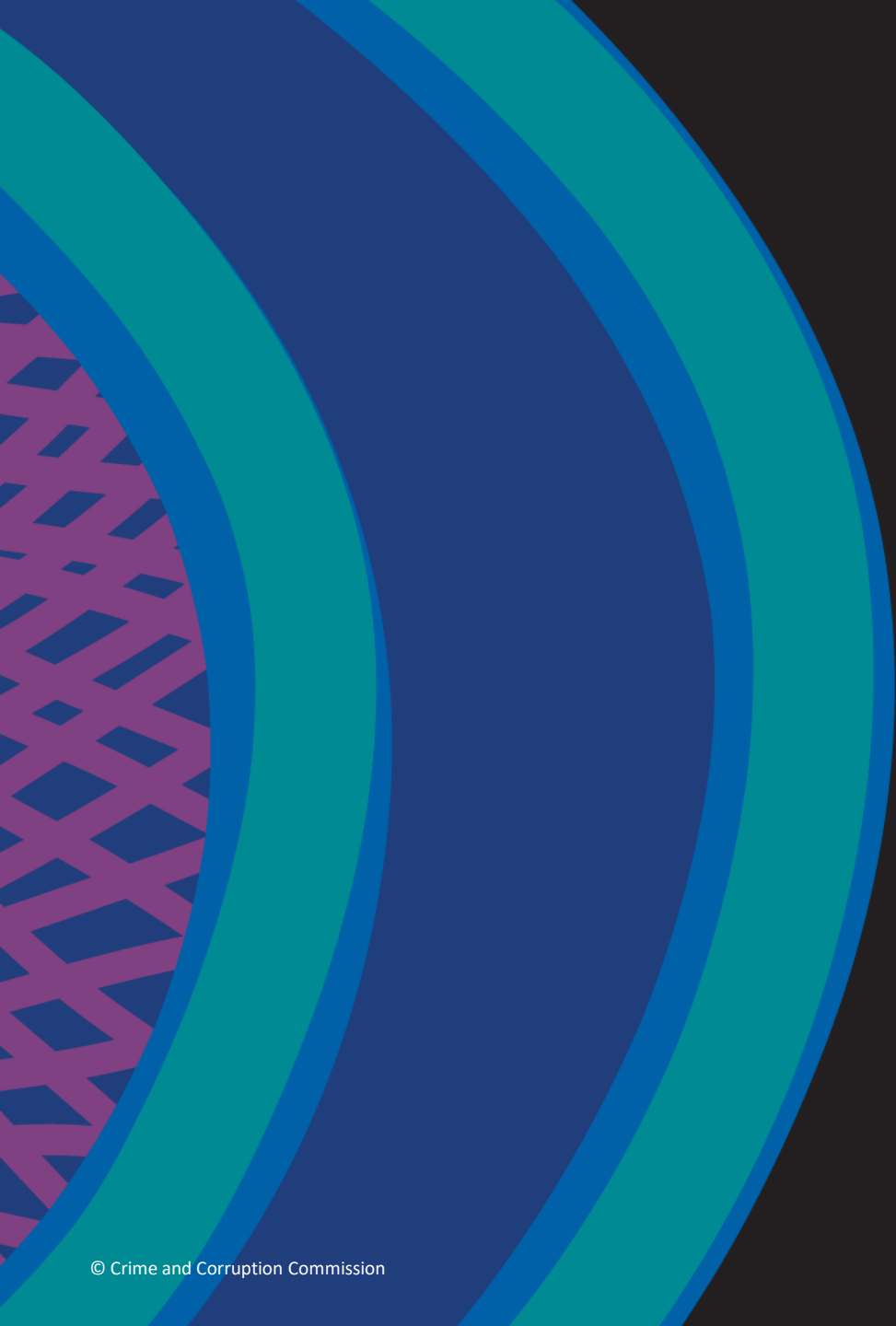
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Acknowledgement of Country

Background

- Queensland’s component of nationally-consistent legislation to protect children from convicted offenders living in the community
- The CCC was required to “review the operation of the Act” (s. 74C)
- We planned to examine:
 - » How the Act operates, including policies, training, and practices that give effect to the Act.
 - » How well the options provided in the Act protect children, by managing or mitigating the risks posed by offenders defined under the Act.



About Queensland's scheme

- **To provide for the protection of the lives of children and their sexual safety**
- Establishes:
 - » a child protection register
 - » a definition of eligibility for 'reportable offenders'
 - » what information must be reported to police, and when (and offences)
 - » a mechanism to respond to increased risk (and offences)



The scheme's chronology



Person is convicted of a reportable offence

Based on the offence label



Person is given notice of their reporting obligations



Person reports to police, is monitored by police

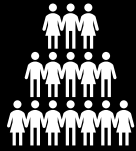
1 offence = 10 years
2 offences = 20 years
3 offences = life



Reporting period ends



Key figures about the offenders



3984 reportable offenders



3163 reportable offenders in the community



Risk rating 36% low -- 39% medium -- 16% high -- 10% very high (RM2000)



12 have an Offender Prohibition Order



98% are men, average age of 35 years



5 years is the most common reporting period



Key figures about policing the scheme

The QPS has operationalised the Act well.

- Structured risk assessment tools to inform their proactive policing targets
- Intelligence to help decide on daily priorities
- Internal forensic behavioural officers who provide support for the management of reportable offenders
- Specialised equipment to conduct digital device inspections

In the 21/22 financial year...



5041 people flagged by the QPS as a reportable offender



365 daily intelligence reports created



717 risk assessments conducted



4658 unannounced home visit target



628 device inspections conducted



9606 police CPOR taskings



We could not report on protective impact

- We planned to examine: how it operates + does it work
- Data limitations prevented us from exploring post-registration recidivism
- Administering and prosecuting non-compliance does not mean the scheme is protecting children



What is the state of the evidence?

- 19 relevant articles indicated:
 - » Limited support that registration has a deterrent effect
 - » May harm rehabilitation prospects
- 5 recent Australian reviews:
 - » None quantitatively analysed the impact of these schemes, whether due to data availability, quality, or scope of review



Why does this matter?

- Critical tool in Queensland's child protection framework
- Human rights are being limited, and may interfere with rehabilitation
- Responsible use of resources
- The concept is being considered for other safety issues



7 recommendations on protective impact

- Develop measure of recidivism and report on protective impact routinely (Recs 5 and 6)
- Establish the protective impact of the scheme, and trial new approaches (Recs 7 and 8)
- Conduct a data quality review and auditing mechanism (Recs 9 and 10)
- Schedule another review of the Act (Rec 11)



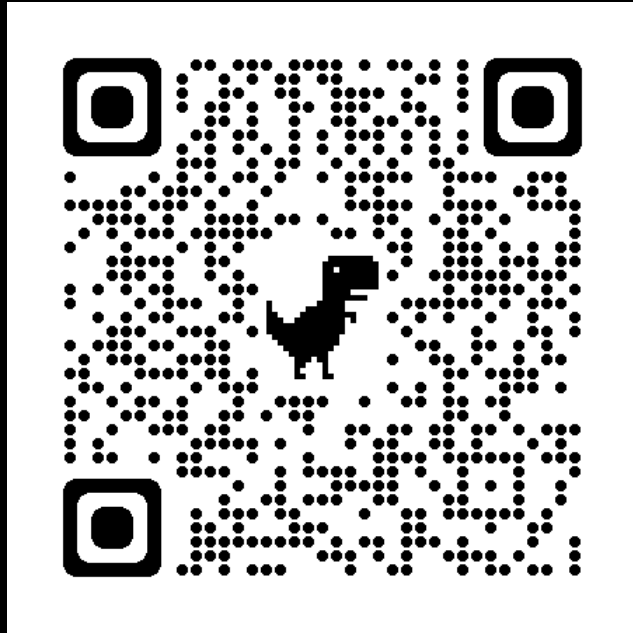
Recommendations in other areas

- Improving the targeting and capture of the scheme
- Improving the safeguards within the scheme
- Improving the clarity about risk and response within the scheme





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