

04

PERFORMANCE AND OPERATIONS

Our highlights - key achievements of the 2021/2022 financial year

The Act commenced on 1 April 2021 initiating the establishment of a Commissioner and office, with the remaining provisions commencing on 1 July 2021. Following the implementation of the operational requirements of the Act, eligible Torres Strait Islander families are able to make applications to seek legal recognition of the traditional child rearing practice through a CRO.



12 July 2021

Appointed inaugural Commissioner Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa commences duties.



17 August 2021

Cairns office opening, a major milestone



7 September 2021

Queensland achieves nation-leading recognition of Torres Strait Islander traditional child rearing practice - Opening of applications to recognise Torres Strait Islander traditional child rearing practice -



22 November 2021

First CRO granted in Queensland and the world



8 March 2022

Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa Advisory Group formally established



6-27 May 2022

Zenadth Kes Communities welcome Commissioner Maza



16 June 2022

Minister Crawford, Minister for Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Commissioner Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa and members of the Advisory Group

Key Organisational Outcomes



Cultural Recognition Order (CRO) outcomes

Prior to the Act, Torres Strait Islander family relationships have never been fully recognised in law. On **7 September 2021**, the application process for CROs established by the Act, was officially opened.

This Act is so important, as it enables Torres Strait Islander families to enjoy the same basic rights and recognition as other Queensland families.

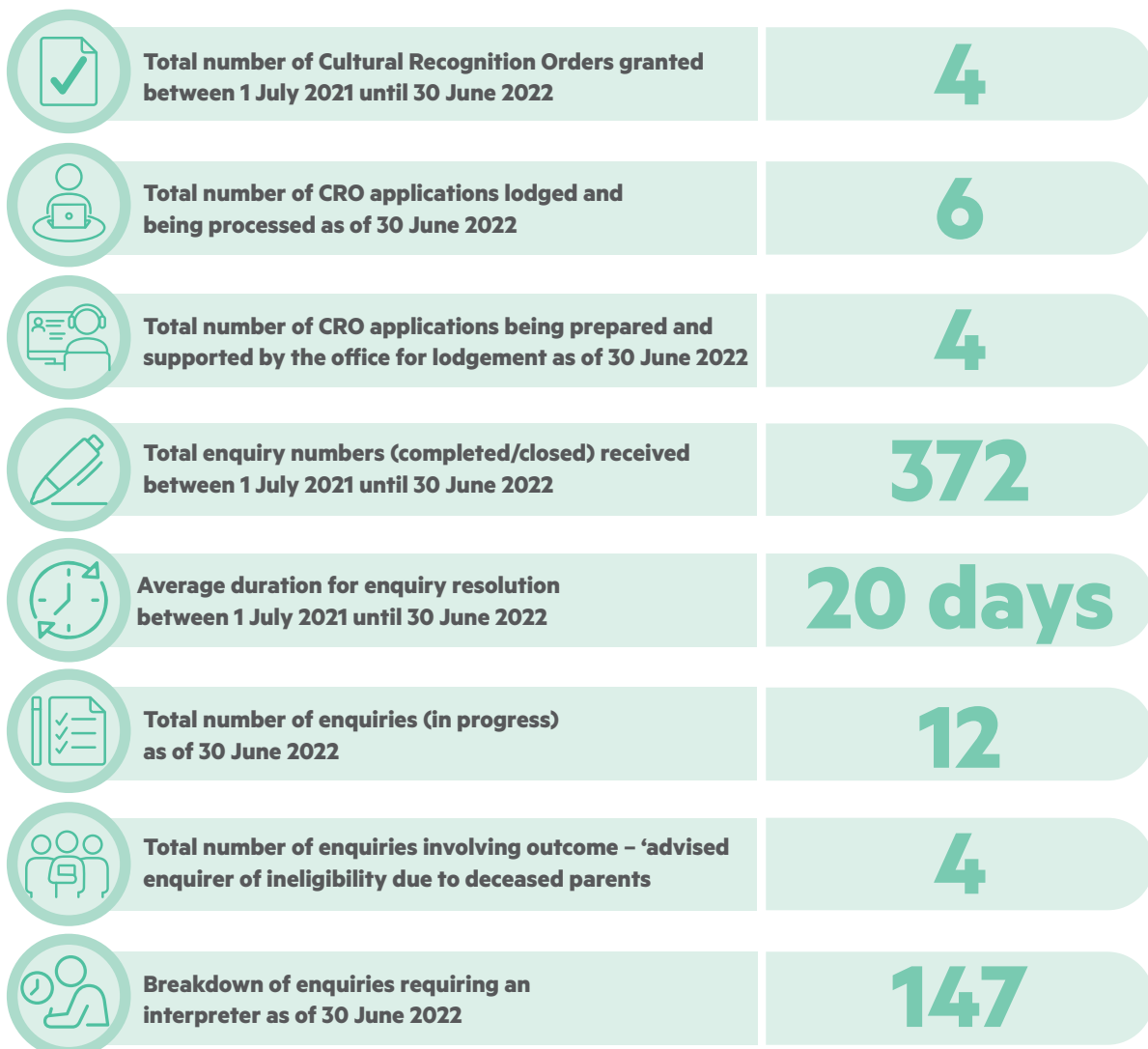
It means children and adults who were raised under Ailan Kastom child rearing practice will now finally have their identity match their cultural identity and their lived experience.

A CRO's legal effect is the permanent transfer of parentage to the cultural parents, which is reflected in the records of the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

Once a CRO has been granted, a new Birth Certificate can be issued and the transfer of parentage of the subject person to cultural parents is legally recognised in western law. This process is life changing for Torres Strait Islander families and their children.

This Act means children and adults who've grown up under Ailan Kastom with their cultural parents will finally have their legal identity match their cultural identity.

As community awareness and confidence in the scheme grows it is anticipated that applications will steadily increase.



Enquiry outcomes

With the Office of the Commissioner Meriba Omasker Kaiziw Kazipa only being fully staffed in January of this year and the impact of restrictions with the global COVID-19 pandemic, the office experienced an impaired start. COVID-19 restrictions fundamentally shifted the way the office could operate and engage with vulnerable communities. Community engagement activities were able to be undertaken after the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions. The office then began in earnest visiting vulnerable communities promoting and raising awareness of the service.

Much work has been undertaken by the Commissioner and the Office of the Commissioner staff establishing operational processes for the implementation of the Act, which was essential to ensure culturally appropriate, affordable, and accessible quality of service to Torres Strait Islander children and families.

To date, hundreds of Torres Strait Islander people have been assisted with their enquiries by the Office of the Commissioner Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa.

Breakdown of enquiry outcomes as of 30 June 2022

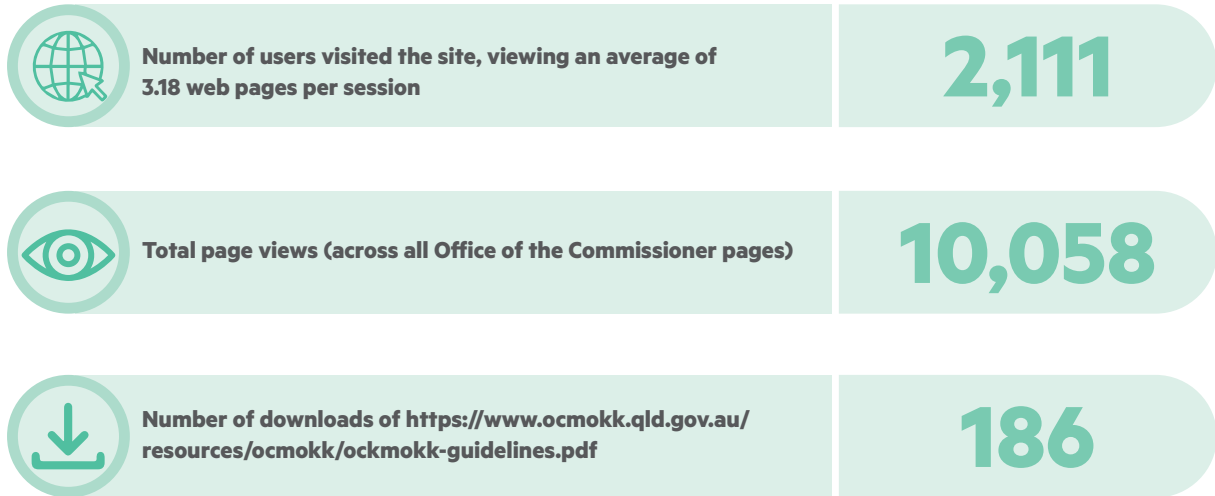
Enquiry outcome	Number of enquiries
Other	47
Advised enquirer of ineligibility for CRO due to deceased parents	6
Application materials emailed to enquirer	159
Application materials posted to enquirer	13
Enquirer advised that only a complete application can be submitted	1
Enquirer provided general information verbally	114
Enquirer referred to website for further information on traditional adoptions	6
Enquirer referred to website for general information on Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa	6
Procedure for accessing information explained	7
Process for accessing new Birth Certificate explained	4
Process for responding to a request for further information explained	1
Referral to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services made	2
Referral to Legal Aid Queensland made	4
Referral to Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Legal Service made	2
Grand total	372

Breakdown of enquiry types* as of 30 June 2022

Enquiry types	Number of enquiries
Application related	135
Application withdrawal	19
Births, Deaths and Marriages related	29
General	339
Internal review related	19
Legal advice related	48
Post decision information access related	19
Response to further information\response request	19
Submission of supporting documents without application	19
Grand total	646

*There may be more than one enquiry type related to each enquiry.

Google Analytics data for the Office of the Commissioner website from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022:

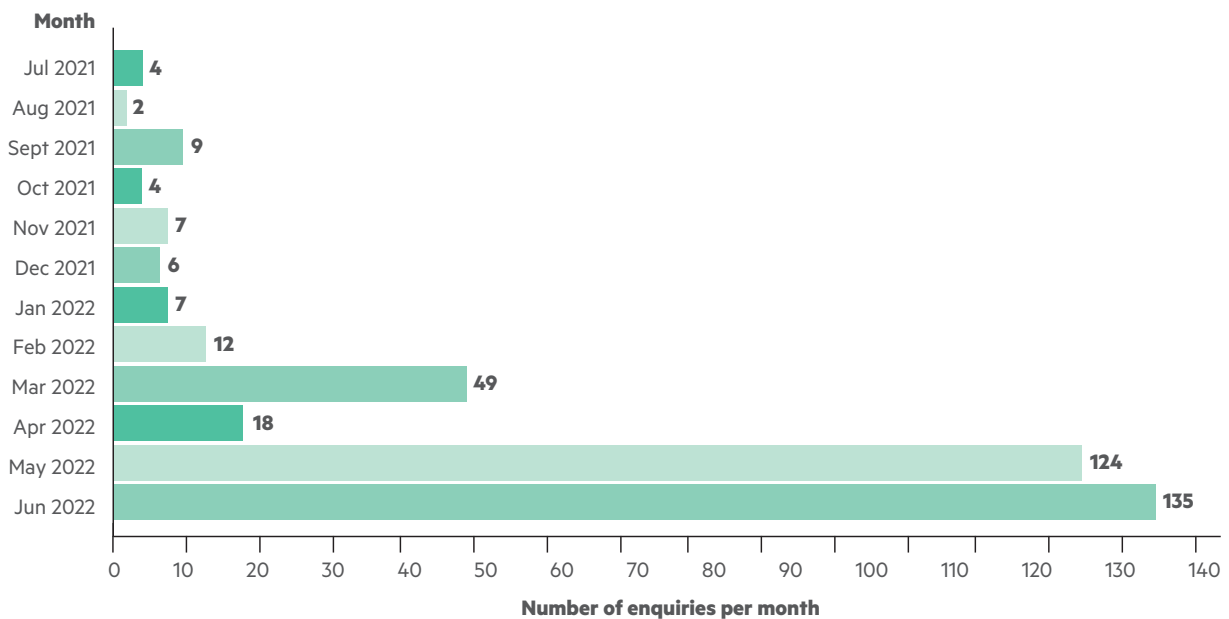


1800 number enquiries



Between November 2021 until the end of February 2022 the Office of the Commissioner staff were unable to visit remote communities due to COVID-19 restrictions. It wasn't until early March 2022 when COVID-19 restrictions relaxed, were the Office of the Commissioner staff able to ramp up the community engagement activities. This engagement has resulted in an 729% increase in enquiries from Torres Strait Islander families seeking to make life changing applications for CROs.

Total number of enquiry numbers (completed/closed) received between 1 July 2021 until 30 June 2022





Who can apply for a CRO?

- Torres Strait Islander families who are raising a child, and a Torres Strait Islander person over 18 year of age who has been raised under Ailan Kastom child rearing practice, can apply for a CRO, if:
 - the person's birth (the child or adult) was registered in Queensland, and
 - at least one birth parent is a Torres Strait Islander person, and
 - at least one cultural parent is a Torres Strait Islander person.
- Where the application is about a person who is a child, it can only be made:
 - by the child's birth parents and the cultural parents, (unless a dispensation of consent order is granted by the court), and
 - if both the birth and cultural parents are at least 18 years of age, and
 - 30 days, or more, after the child's birth is registered.
- For adult applications, the adult must make the application and the birth and cultural parents must consent.
- Consent must be provided by all living parents, unless a dispensation of consent order has been granted by the court.
- Nothing prevents an application from being made if a birth parent or cultural parent is deceased, however at least one birth parent and one cultural parent must be living at the time of the application.

The application process

Involves

- The appointed Commissioner to consider and decide application for a CRO.
- the main principle is to ensure the wellbeing and best interests of the person
- the Office of the Commissioner to help the Commissioner perform their functions.

Considers

- At least one birth and one cultural parent must be Torres Strait Islander
- practice must have occurred before applying
- applications can be received from persons living interstate as long as birth was registered in Queensland
- consent statements from birth and cultural parent/s are required to apply
- commissioner has discretion to seek criminal history for cultural parents
- order can be discharged if false and misleading information has been provided.

Under the Act, the Commissioner

- Must make decisions for the wellbeing and best interests of the person who is the subject of an application for a CRO
- will consider that information about the practice is sacred and secret according to Ailan Kastom
- will ensure appropriate recognition and preservation of Ailan Kastom in general and Ailan Kastom child rearing practice in particular
- must maintain confidentiality and will make decisions in a fair, timely and consistent manner
- will have regard to the legal and cultural benefits for the person if the CRO is made recognising Ailan Kastom child rearing practice
- must act in a way that is fair and reasonable.

In making decisions under the Act, the Commissioner does not

- Mediate family matters
- determine whether the cultural practice should or should not have occurred
- arrange for a new birth certificate to be sent to applicants
- make decisions about where a child is being raised
- negotiate between birth parents and cultural parents.

How to Apply for a CRO

A CRO is an order made by the Commissioner that transfers a child's parentage from their birth parents to their cultural parents. You must [apply for a CRO](#) to have Ailan Kastom child rearing practice legally recognised.

Applying for a CRO is voluntary and consent based. Choosing not to apply for a CRO will not affect what has happened at a cultural level.

How to apply

There are two types of applications – an application for a child, and an application for an adult.

In order to apply for a CRO, there are a number of eligibility criteria and other items that applicants must consider.

[Find out more about eligibility criteria and how to apply.](#)

Applicant support

Support is available if applicants need more information about CROs or help submitting an application.

Interpreter Services

The Queensland Government is committed to providing accessible services to Queenslanders from all culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. If applicants have difficulty in understanding the application, they can contact the Office of the Commissioner or 13 QGOV (13 74 68) and arrange an interpreter to effectively communicate the application.

Office of the Commissioner Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa

The [Office of the Commissioner](#) is available to provide information and culturally appropriate support to applicants about the application process and make referrals for optional legal advice and community-based counselling services.

Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Regional Service Centres

[Regional Service Centre](#) staff are available to provide information and support to applicants about the application process and make referrals for optional legal advice and community-based counselling services.

Legal services

The Office of the Commissioner recommends all applicants considering a CRO should seek legal advice – given the permanent nature of a CRO. This advice can be sought from any legal practitioner; however, the following legal service providers have received funding to provide free advice to clients regarding CROs:

- [Legal Aid Queensland](#)
- [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services \(ATSILS\)](#)
- [Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Legal Services \(QIFVLS\)](#).

These legal services can also provide advice about dispensation of consent and help applicants apply for a dispensation order if required.

Counselling and support services

There are counselling and support services available to applicants if they require additional support, including: [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Wellbeing Services](#).

Addendum Form

- Applicants are encouraged to fill out an addendum form to an application for a CRO and provide this when submitting both child and adult applications.
- The information collected on this form will only be shared by the Commissioner to the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages if a CRO is made.
- The completion of this form will allow for the Registrar to make a complete birth entry and new birth certificate.

The addendum form will not result in a new birth certificate being issued to the applicant; it does however ensure that if a new birth certificate is requested all information is available.

What happens after a CRO is made?

- The Commissioner writes to all parties to the application, provides a statement of reasons for the decision and provides all parties with a CRO where applicable.
- The Commissioner provides the CRO to the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages (BDM.CRO@justice.qld.gov.au).
- The Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages registers the transfer of parentage as stated by the CRO and closes the previous birth entry of the person.
- For a new birth certificate to be issued to the cultural parent or adult applicant, an application will need to be submitted to the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

Queensland BIRTH CERTIFICATE

REGISTRATION NUMBER: []

CHILD
Name and Surname: []
Sex: []
Date of Birth: []
Place of Birth: []

MOTHER
Name and Surname: []
Maiden Name: []
Age and Birthplace: []

FATHER
Name and Surname: []
Age and Birthplace: []

PREVIOUS CHILDREN OF RELATIONSHIP
Name and age: []

REGISTRAR
Name, designation or relationship, and residence: []

REGISTRAR
Name: []
Date of registration: []
Place of registration: []

NOTES of any: []

I, Registrar-General, certify that the above is a true copy of particulars recorded in a Register kept in the General Registry of Births.

Dated: [] rego: []

N.B. Not Valid Unless Bearing the Archival Seal and Signature of the Registrar-General

Queensland Courts Guide to Meriba Omasker Kazwi Kazipa (Torres Strait Islander Traditional Child Rearing Practice) Act 2020 Applications

The *Meriba Omasker Kazwi Kazipa (Torres Strait Islander Traditional Child Rearing Practice) Act 2020* provides for the legal recognition of Alan Kaslon (Torres Strait Islander) child rearing practice. A Cultural Recognition Order permanently transfers the parentage from the biological (birth) parents to the cultural parents and allows the child's legal identity to align with their cultural identity. Applications for a Cultural Recognition Order are received and decided by the Commissioner (Meriba Omasker Kazwi Kazipa).

Under the Act there are certain decisions which can only be made by the Court and cannot be made by the Commissioner. Legal advice is available to individuals who apply for a Cultural Recognition Order and this includes advice about whether an application should be made to the Court. Anyone who needs to make an application to the Court should get legal advice first, which includes assistance completing the forms required. There are fees associated with making an application to court. You may apply for a reduced fee and should speak to a legal advisor about this.

Application	Court	Starting Document	Filing Fee Payable?
Application to dispense with parental consent (s.52)	Childrens Court of Queensland (CCQ)	USPR Form 6	Yes
Application to discharge dispensation of parental consent (s.55)	CCQ	USPR Form 9	No
Application to discharge cultural recognition order (s.77)	CCQ	USPR Form 5	Yes
Application to access court records (s.98)	CCQ	USPR Form 9	No
Application for judicial review of Commissioner's decision under <i>Judicial Review Act 1991</i>	Supreme Court	USPR Form 54	Yes
Appeals from Childrens Court (Judge) and Supreme Court decisions (s.92)	Court of Appeal	USPR Form 54	Yes
Application for reduction of fees by an individual	All	USPR Form 131	No

When filing an application with the courthouse registry, please bring the original and at least **two** copies of each document. The Registry will keep one copy and return a sealed copy to you. There may also be filing fees payable when you file an application with the Court. Please speak to your lawyer about how you can apply for reduced fees.

Need Help?
The following services provide legal advice and assistance with the Cultural Recognition Order process:

Legal Aid Queensland - Alan Kaslon Information ☎ 1800 650 143 (Indigenous Helpline) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (ATILS) ☎ 1800 012 255 (Toll free 24hrs 7 days)	Commissioner (Meriba Omasker Kazwi Kazipa) ☎ 1800 911 102 Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Legal Service (QIFVLS) ☎ 1800 88 77 00
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QUEENSLAND CULTURAL RECOGNITION ORDER
Meriba Omasker Kazwi Kazipa (Torres Strait Islander Traditional Child Rearing Practice) Act 2020

Order No: []

This Cultural Recognition Order is made under section 69 of the *Meriba Omasker Kazwi Kazipa (Torres Strait Islander Traditional Child Rearing Practice) Act 2020* in recognition of Alan Kaslon and to the best interest and wellbeing of the Subject Person.

This order recognises and confirms that [] parentage is transferred from the named Birth Parents to the Cultural Parents in accordance with Alan Kaslon child rearing practice.

This order will continue in force indefinitely unless it is discharged by a court.

Existing birth entry	New birth entry
Registered name of Subject Person this order makes for: []	Name to be registered for the Subject Person upon the making of the Cultural Recognition Order: []
Date of Birth: []	Date of Birth: []
Birth Mother: []	Cultural Mother: []
Birth Father: []	Cultural Father: []

I, [] Commissioner (Meriba Omasker Kazwi Kazipa), certify that the above is a true copy of particulars recorded in a Register kept in the General Registry of Births.

Dated: [] rego: []

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
www.commissioner.qld.gov.au



Key communications and engagement

Promoting community awareness and education of the process outcomes

In total, from early 2022, once COVID-19 restrictions lifted, the Commissioner has been involved in **60** community meetings, public forums and information sessions.

The Commissioner and Office of the Commissioner staff held sessions for two weeks across the Torres Strait Islands; and also participated and delivered sessions in Mackay, Rockhampton, Townsville, Zillmere (greater Brisbane) and Cairns.

Information sessions have also been delivered on-line and in-person with staff from Department of Education, Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs, Queensland Health workers and various Indigenous Liaison Officers.

The Commissioner and Office of the Commissioner staff have also been actively involved in promoting the Act at significant events recently run across Queensland such as 30th Mabo Day celebrations. The Office of the Commissioner was represented in four separate locations on Mabo Day.

Engagement type	Number of engagements	Number of attendees
Community event presentation	10	1291
Meriba Omasker specific presentation	50	439
Grand total	60	1730

Breakdown of enquiry numbers by region as of 30 June 2022

Region	Number of enquiries
Brisbane	10
Burdekin	1
Cairns	108
Cassowary Coast	1
Fraser Coast	1
Hinchinbrook	1
Kowanyama	1
Mackay	3
Northern Peninsula Area	71
Outside Queensland (within Australia)	4
Rockhampton	2
Torres	13
Torres Strait Island	134
Townsville	16
Weipa	1
Other	5
Grand total	372

Over **1700** people have been directly engaged with and the word is steadily spreading amongst the Torres Strait Islander community that the Queensland Government is now able to support families in traditional child rearing practices to ensure they fully enjoy the same rights as other Queensland families.

Communications/Operations Strategy 2021-2022

Communications and Operations Objectives

- To raise awareness of the Act and increase understanding about its implementation
- To inform a high proportion of Torres Strait Islander people born in Queensland about the legal recognition of Torres Strait Islander child rearing practice and promote applications under the Act.
- To raise awareness about the establishment of the Act 2020 with all Queenslanders, and importantly with Torres Strait Islander peoples born in Queensland.
- To inform and deepen understanding with relevant stakeholders about the legal recognition of Torres Strait Islander traditional child rearing practice and the process for making applications under the Act.
- To encourage CRO applications from eligible Torres Strait Islander peoples under the Act.

Key messaging

- The Queensland Government is committed to reframing the relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- The *Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa (Torres Strait Islander Traditional Child Rearing Practice) Act 2020* provides the legislative framework for Torres Strait Islander people to apply for legal recognition of traditional child rearing practice, assisting better access to support and services.
- The Act acknowledges the strength and diversity of Torres Strait Islander families by formally recognising in law traditional Torres Strait Islander child rearing practises.
- Torres Strait Islander families can now enjoy the same rights and recognition as other Queensland families.
- This historic, world-first legislation realises more than 30 years of community advocacy by the Kupai Omasker Working Party and successive governments, to provide legal recognition of the traditional practice for Torres Strait Islander families and communities.

Target audiences

Primary target audience:

- Prospective Torres Strait Islander applicants, born in Queensland, seeking legal recognition of Ailan Kastom child rearing practice.

Secondary audience:

- Torres Strait Islander individuals, families, communities and their networks – no matter where they live.

Stakeholders

- All government agencies providing services to Torres Strait Islander people and their families.
- The legal sector including the Queensland Courts, Family Court of Australia, legal representatives and officers, and advocates.
- Australian Government Attorney-General's Department; National Indigenous Australians Agency.
- Legal service and social support providers.
- Religious organisations.

Communication Strategies

Communication about Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa will be consistent and extensive to ensure all Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders are aware of the legislation and its benefits. Importantly communication strategies will seek to encourage prospective/eligible individuals to make an application.

Communications strategies to promote Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa will include:

Engage Champions and advocates as ambassadors:

- Engage Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders, community members and key stakeholders to raise the visibility of key initiatives.
- Engage prominent Torres Strait Islander peoples as well as the Advisory Group as advocates and champions to expand the reach into new audiences and other jurisdictions.
- Enhance information being communicated more broadly about Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa and the importance of Ailan Kastom through trusted third parties.
- Develop resources to facilitate engagement and to ensure consistency of messages and approach.

Activate stakeholder engagement

- Establish a visual identity and positioning for the Office of the Commissioner and build recognition with audiences and stakeholders.
- Establish a website as a channel for information and resources for the community.
- Directly engage with communities and individuals at key celebrations and events and through planned visits to locations within the Torres Strait Islands, Cairns and other areas of Queensland.
- Undertake research into other key population groupings outside Queensland and develop targeted consultation and engagement approaches.

Maximise media exposure

- Develop a strategic media plan for each implementation stage.
- Facilitate proactive media opportunities including interviews and print media.
- Work with First Nations and general media outlets to raise awareness, increase engagement, reach new audiences and encourage applications.

Leverage digital and social media

- Develop promotional materials suitable for social and other media channels.
- Monitor social media channels and respond to issues using approved key messages, as required.

Activate government communications

- Maximise information sharing and engagement opportunities within DSDSATSIP and more broadly within the Queensland Government.
- Facilitate relationships and information sharing with key partner agencies such as Queensland Health, the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, and Federal and Local Government agencies

Media and publicity achieved

Torres Strait child rearing practices to be enshrined in law

Published Friday, 12 October, 2018 at 12:53 PM

Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships

The Honourable Jackie Trad

Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders will help to develop new legislation that officially recognises traditional Torres Strait Islander child rearing practices. Deputy Premier and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Jackie Trad said that this was history-making.

"Developing legislation to recognise traditional child rearing practices will be a historic step, not only for the Torres Strait but for Queensland and Australia," Ms Trad said. "This is a true step towards bridging the gap between Torres Strait Islander culture and Queensland law."

Member for Cook Cynthia Lui today announced the start of community consultation and release of the public discussion paper, *'Akuar Thaeridhaz Kazi - For our children's children'*.

"Generations of Torres Strait Islander children have been raised in supportive and loving extended family environments.

"Legal recognition of this ancient and enduring cultural practice will acknowledge the importance of Torres Strait Islander culture and cultural decision-making processes in Torres Strait Islander community and family life.

"Queensland families are wonderfully diverse and it's important our legal system evolves to recognise this. It makes common tasks such as enrolling in school and opening a bank account much easier for families.

"The Palaszczuk Government has invested \$1 million over three years to support the community to shape new laws with the help of legal and cultural experts, including Ms Ivy Trevallion, Mr Charles Passi and the Honourable Alastair Nicholson AO RFD QC.

"We recognise there are many legal complexities to explore, but the aim of any new legislation will be for Torres Strait Islander children and their families' cultural practices to be recognised, particularly around cultural and legal identity, so these families are able to enjoy the same rights as other Queensland families.

"This includes giving consideration to rights enshrined in the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and with the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*.

"Since the 1990s, Torres Strait Islanders and in particular the Kupai Omasker Working Party have lobbied the Queensland Government for legal recognition of this common traditional practice.

"We are continuing the legacy of many passionate advocates past and present to ensure these practices are recognised and strengthened for Torres Strait Islander families raising the leaders of tomorrow."

Ministerial Champion for Torres Strait Islander parenting approaches.

"These practices have not only shaped family relationships but also Western Adoption," Ms Trad said.

"This has meant Torres Strait Islander parents have been unable to have their own name.

"This historic piece of legislation has been part of their birth certificate, their name and their identity."

The Queensland Government

Ms Ivy Trevallion

Former Chief Justice

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

1986 and current Chair of the

Honourable Alastair Nicholson

Former Chief Justice

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

1986 and current Chair of the

Mr Charles Passi

Torres Strait Islander

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

Community meeting on 12 October to discuss the

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Thirty years on from Mabo, truth telling recognises Torres Strait Islander traditions

Published Friday, 03 June, 2022 at 07:17 AM

Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships

The Honourable Craig Crawford



The late Eddie Koiki Mabo - his High Court win "dispelled a myth, acknowledged the truth of the nation's history, gave us native title laws and inspires us all to embrace reconciliation".

Today (3 June 2022) marks the 30th anniversary of the Mabo decision - a key milestone in the reconciliation journey of our nation.

Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Craig Crawford said truth-telling was fundamental to progressing a Path to Treaty in Queensland.

"Today marks 30 years since the fiction of Terra Nullius was overturned, when the law recognised the truth that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' connection to Country and Culture is continuous and enduring.

"For ten years, Eddie Koiki Mabo pursued a case in the High Court of Australia to establish legal recognition of his family's ownership of their lands on the island of Mer in the Torres Strait.

"Ultimately, his claim was successful when on 3 June 1992, the High Court ruled in his favour, though sadly he did not live to see the result of his advocacy.

"Significantly it dispelled a myth, acknowledged the truth of the nation's history, gave us native title laws, and inspires us all to embrace reconciliation.

"But his case almost didn't reach that point.

"In 1990, a judge determined that Mabo had no claim of inheritance on the land he had grown up on, as he hadn't been formally adopted under Queensland law by his Uncle Benny."

Eddie Koiki Mabo was born Eddie Koiki Sambō to parents Robert Zesou Sambō and Poipe Mabo.

His mother died shortly after he was born, and he was raised by his uncle Benny Mabo under Ailan Kastom (Torres Strait Island custom) child rearing practice.

Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa Commissioner CZarke Maza said while these family relationships have always been recognised within Torres Strait Islander communities, under Queensland laws these children's legal identities did not align with their cultural and family identities.

"The ideal start to life for any child is to be nurtured in a loving family, and for generations, Torres Strait Islander children have been cared for in strong, loving families under traditional child-raising practice," Mr Maza said.

"Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa, which means 'for our children's children', became law in Queensland last year, and this historic milestone is thanks to the passion and continued advocacy of Torres Strait Islander families.

"Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa means that children and adults who have grown up under Ailan Kastom will finally have their legal identity match their cultural identity, which supports and strengthens connections to community and culture."

Member for Cook Cynthia Lui said legal recognition of customary practices in non-Indigenous peoples walk together as equals.

"Milestones like Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa and the Mabo decision are important markers of our progress as a nation," Ms Lui said.

"I am so proud to have introduced the Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa legislation to Parliament, to bring together traditional lore and Queensland law, while we celebrate these milestones, we must also recognise there is still more to do.

"The Queensland Government is committed to walking the journey of reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples."

For more information on Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa visit <https://www.ormokq.qld.gov.au/>

ENDS

Media contact: Peter Michael 0477 948 091

NEWS 05
TORRES NEWS THURSDAY 12 OCTOBER 2018

Change to adoption laws 'momentous' - Commissioner CZarke Maza

2022 ENROLMENT NOW OPEN
ENROLMENT IN CLASS YEAR 7-10
More and more kids
All enrolment and credit provision
Get your spots and give a helping of
Enrolment and NCT program available.

Queensland achieves nation-leading recognition of Torres Strait Islander traditional child rearing practice

Published Tuesday, 07 September, 2021 at 05:00 AM

Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships

The Honourable Craig Crawford

Queensland today (Tuesday, September 7) marks the historic milestone of the opening of applications to recognise Torres Strait Islander traditional child rearing practice under new law that translates as "for our children's children". It follows more than 30 years of advocacy by Kupai Omasker Elders to allow Torres Strait Islanders raised by extended family to transfer their legal identity from birth parents to cultural parents.

Minister for Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Craig Crawford will today officially open applications for *Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa* CROs at a ceremony in Cairns.

"This is a living act of reconciliation," Mr Crawford said.

"It will enable more Torres Strait Islander people to experience and access the same basic rights to identity as every other Queensland."

In September last year, The *Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa (Torres Strait Islander Traditional Child Rearing Practice) Act 2020* became the first piece of legislation to use traditional Islander languages in Queensland.

It was introduced by Member for Cook Cynthia Lui, the first Torres Strait Island person elected to any Australian parliament.

"This is a symbolic milestone on our path to re-writing the narrative of reconciliation in Queensland," Ms Lui said.

Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa Commissioner C'Zarke Maza will oversee the application process with powers to make a CRO, which if granted, will enable a new birth certificate to be issued, and will transfer parentage of a child or adult to cultural parents.

"No longer will our Allan Kastom be a reason for us, as Torres Strait Islander people to be marginalised in society," Mr Maza said.

"Torres Strait Islander families will now have an application process that will remove the many legal barriers and allow their cultural identity to reflect their legal identity and lived experience.

"Our priority now is to help individuals and families navigate the application process, so Torres Strait Islanders of all ages raised in extended families can access the same opportunities to enrol in school, access government support, pursue new opportunities and thrive."

The Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa program support offices are located at:

- Level 3 CitiCentral Building, 46-48 Sheridan Street, Cairns Old
- Level 1 Torres Haus, 46 Victoria Parade, Thursday Island Old

For more information, free call 1800 571 102, email office@ocmolk.qld.gov.au or visit www.ocmolk.qld.gov.au

Strait TALKIN'

News from the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area
1800-4111 | Tuesday, August 24, 2021

MILESTONE FOR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS

Open for business



SeaSwift logo and other small text at the bottom of the newspaper clipping.

Applications open: Aunty Ivy overwhelmed with joy



Applications for the Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa program are now open. Aunty Ivy, who was raised by her extended family, is one of the many Islanders who are excited to apply. She is overwhelmed with joy at the prospect of being able to transfer her legal identity to her cultural parents.

Telstra in spotlight at Selsia

Telstra is in the spotlight at Selsia, a community event where local businesses and organizations are showcasing their services. The event is a great opportunity for the community to connect and support local initiatives.

THURSDAY ISLAND TIDE TIMES

Time	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
06:00	1.8	0.2	1.8	0.2	1.8	0.2	1.8	0.2
07:00	1.5	0.5	1.5	0.5	1.5	0.5	1.5	0.5
08:00	1.2	0.8	1.2	0.8	1.2	0.8	1.2	0.8
09:00	0.9	1.1	0.9	1.1	0.9	1.1	0.9	1.1
10:00	0.6	1.4	0.6	1.4	0.6	1.4	0.6	1.4
11:00	0.3	1.7	0.3	1.7	0.3	1.7	0.3	1.7
12:00	0.0	2.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	2.0
13:00	0.3	1.7	0.3	1.7	0.3	1.7	0.3	1.7
14:00	0.6	1.4	0.6	1.4	0.6	1.4	0.6	1.4
15:00	0.9	1.1	0.9	1.1	0.9	1.1	0.9	1.1
16:00	1.2	0.8	1.2	0.8	1.2	0.8	1.2	0.8
17:00	1.5	0.5	1.5	0.5	1.5	0.5	1.5	0.5
18:00	1.8	0.2	1.8	0.2	1.8	0.2	1.8	0.2

04 NEWS

Group to provide advice on Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa

Group to provide advice on Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa

The Office of the Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa Commissioner C'Zarke Maza has officially opened 7 September 2021 and Commissioner C'Zarke Maza has also been accepting applications for Cultural Recognition Orders (CROs). These applications will help Islanders who have been raised by extended family to transfer their legal identity to their cultural parents.

ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERS: L.B. Julia Lewis, Paul Ben, Francis Taylor & Harold Robinson.

LEADING THE WAY: Co-lead by Evelyn & Commissioner C'Zarke Maza. Part by Aunty Smith.

"All regional ENHACTIP offices across Queensland will also work with auntyivy.org.au."

"All enquiries about the application process can be made in person, or by email: office@ocmolk.qld.gov.au or by calling 1800 571 102 (free calls only between 9am-5pm Monday to Friday)."

Local information and support services can also be found at www.ocmolk.qld.gov.au.