

Answers to supplementary questions

Budget Estimates 2025–2026

Portfolio of Premier – independent agencies panel

1. **At the last estimates hearing the Ombudsman confirmed that it hadn't completed any standalone research reports since 2022. What was the reason for this, notwithstanding the existence of any other informal pieces of research?**

Under section 34D of the *Community Services (Complaints, Reviews and Monitoring) Act 1993* (**CS CRAMA**), the Child Death Review Team (**CDRT**) functions include to undertake, alone or with others, research that aims to help prevent or reduce the likelihood of child deaths.¹ The CDRT can make reports containing the results of research undertaken under section 34H of CS CRAMA. If the CDRT has not made such a report within the previous 3 years, the CDRT annual report must include the reasons why a report under section 34H has not been made.

The CDRT's most recent [Annual Report](#) (2023-24) outlines the latest research report tabled under section 34H of CS CRAMA on *Infant deaths from severe perinatal brain injury in NSW, 2016-2019* in November 2023.² The CDRT Annual Report also outlines 3 research projects planned or underway:

- Review of the suicide deaths of Aboriginal children and young people
- Follow-up review of perinatal deaths from severe brain injury in NSW, 2020-2023
- Preliminary review of suicide-related deaths among LGBTIQ+ young people

An update on the CDRT's research projects will be included in the CDRT's 2024-25 Annual Report, which is expected to be tabled on 30 October 2025. A report on *Review of the suicide deaths of Aboriginal children and young people* accompanied by a community report is expected to be tabled later this year.

The CDRT released a [Research Framework](#) in September 2024 that is intended to guide how it prioritises, delivers and communicates its research projects.

¹ The NSW Ombudsman has a related function for Part 6 reviewable deaths: section 36(1)(d) CS CRAMA: to undertake, alone or with others, research or other projects for the purpose of formulating strategies to reduce or remove risk factors associated with reviewable deaths that are preventable.

² <https://www.ombo.nsw.gov.au/reports/reports-into-the-deaths-of-children/biennial-report-of-the-deaths-of-children-in-new-south-wales-2020-and-2021> (See Annexure B, pp 219-227)