

# GOVERNMENT OF QUEENSLAND

## YOUNG QUEENSLANDERS ACTIVITIES STATEMENT

Empowering young  
Queenslanders for  
a bright future

2024





## Young Queenslanders Activities Statement 2024

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# Acknowledgement

The First Nations Youth Strategy Engagement Group proudly acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and the traditional custodians of our lands, waters and seas. We honour and respect our Elders, past and present, for their teachings of our past. As their descendants, we will carry their learnings and stories with us throughout our individual journeys towards the future.

As young people, we acknowledge the significant roles played by our Elders and ancestors in ensuring our cultures are passed down to our generation and beyond. We accept our responsibilities to continue this caretakership for the benefit of future generations.

As we reflect on our past, and envision our future as young First Nations Queenslanders, we hope to ratify the Path to Treaty and actively seek reconciliation for our communities.

*This Acknowledgement was written by collaborative effort of the 2024 members of the First Nations Youth Strategy Engagement Group.*

# Young Queenslanders Strategy

**Vision:** Queensland's young people are empowered to actively participate, cultivate their futures, live their best lives, and thrive in our communities.

The *Young Queenslanders Strategy* is the Queensland Government's forward-focused plan to empower our emerging adults with the services, opportunities, and resources they need to confidently transition to autonomy and self-efficacy, generating a sense of purpose and overall life satisfaction that will enrich their futures.

Informed by the valuable contributions of young people and the sector, the *Young Queenslanders Strategy* is to be delivered over several action plans that will accelerate the Queensland Government towards making positive change for young people in the areas they have told us are the most important.

Life is a journey, and we acknowledge and respect every young person's right to choose their own path. No two journeys will be the same, and we are committed to ensuring all young people have access to opportunities and are empowered with the tools to move through life with confidence, regardless of their circumstance or culture.

## Government Activities Statement 2024

The 2024 Activities Statement outlines how the Queensland Government is already responding to many of the concerns raised by young people under the Young Queenslanders Strategy framework and empowering young people to:

**Participate** in the world around them through exploration and positive influence.

**Cultivate their futures** supported by access to tailored opportunities that nurture their unique needs and interests.

**Live their best lives** empowered and equipped with the information, resources and support they need to get there.

**Thrive in our communities** knowing they are connected, celebrated and resilient.

Empowering young people is a collective responsibility, and we are committed to continued collaboration and meaningful engagement with involved agencies, young people, and the sector to ensure genuine progress is made towards achieving our vision.

# Glossary

The following glossary identifies an agency name, statutory authority which falls under a specific Queensland Government department, or a distinct office. These acronyms are used to determine responsibility for specific actions. Where more than one agency is responsible for the delivery of an action, the lead agency is identified as such.

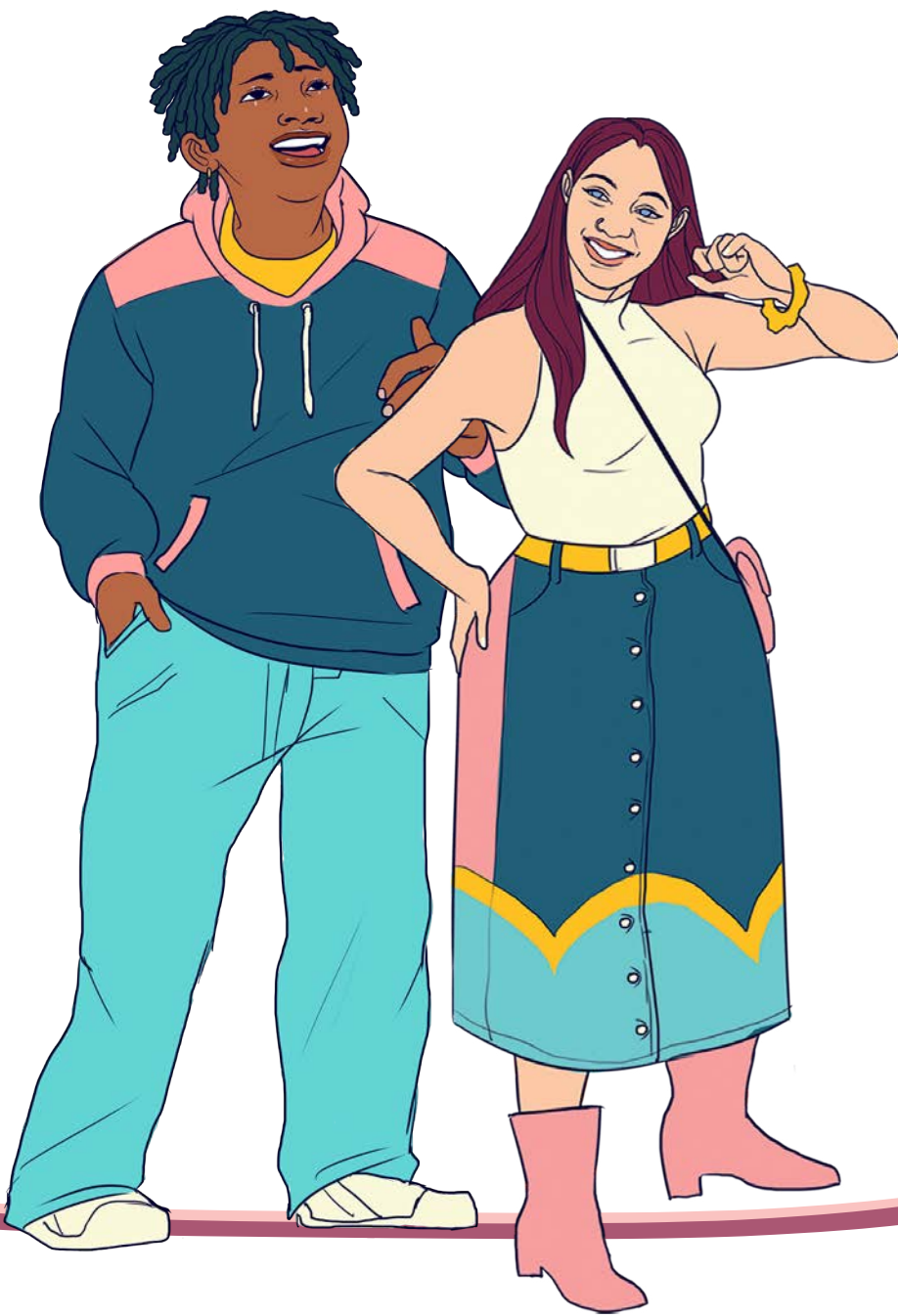
<b>AQ</b>	Arts Queensland, DTATSIPCA
<b>DCSSDS</b>	Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services
<b>DESBT</b>	Department of Employment, Small Business and Training
<b>DESI</b>	Department of Environment, Science and Innovation
<b>DHLGPPW</b>	Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works
<b>DJAG</b>	Department of Justice and Attorney-General
<b>DoE</b>	Department of Education
<b>DTATSIPCA</b>	Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts
<b>DTMR</b>	Department of Transport and Main Roads
<b>DTS</b>	Department of Tourism and Sport
<b>HWQld</b>	Health and Wellbeing Queensland
<b>OfY</b>	Office for Youth (Queensland)
<b>QAGOMA</b>	Queensland Art Gallery   Gallery of Modern Art, DTATSIPCA
<b>QFCC</b>	Queensland Family and Child Commission
<b>QFD</b>	Queensland Fire Department
<b>QH</b>	Queensland Health
<b>QPS</b>	Queensland Police Service
<b>QSA</b>	Queensland State Archives, DTATSIPCA
<b>QT</b>	Queensland Theatre
<b>SLQ</b>	State Library of Queensland, DTATSIPCA
<b>SQ</b>	Screen Queensland, DTATSIPCA

# PARTICIPATE

Young people participate in the world around them through exploration and positive influence.

Regardless of where they have come from or where they are going, young people should be provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in government decision making and to contribute to the development of their future through civic engagement.

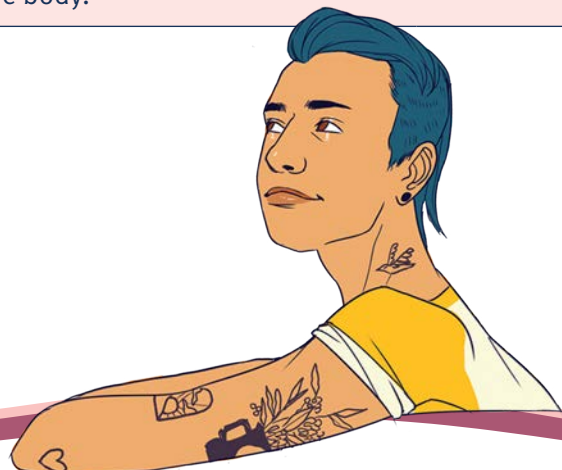
The below existing government programs and activities as well as those committed in the Action Plan 2024-2026 seek to provide multiple opportunities and mechanisms for young people to connect with government, contribute to civic life and learn about the formal systems which support them. These opportunities will be supported by building on the 2019 Youth Engagement Charter to co-design a best practice participation framework to ensure a consistent and responsive government approach.



## Responsive government

*Young people are meaningfully consulted - and their voices are heard, valued, and reflected in the design and implementation of our programs, policies, and services*

<p>OfY supports the continued engagement of young Queenslanders to inform government policies, programs, and services that impact them. Working collaboratively across government, OfY creates and facilitates opportunities for young people to have their voices heard, their experiences acknowledged, and their ideas implemented. One engagement mechanism is Speak OUTs.</p> <p>Speak OUTs are held across the state through a range of mediums, including activations at youth events such as Schoolies or University O-Weeks to gauge top issues generally, or can be more targeted in person or online discussions with involvement from other Queensland Government agencies, to inform the development of specific pieces of work.</p> <p>Since their inception, 49 Speak OUT events have occurred, engaging over 3,200 young people. The feedback received is analysed and shared with government agencies to inform government policies, programs, and services.</p>	OfY
<p>OfY has facilitated a range of opportunities for young people to be involved in the design and implementation of Queensland Government policies such as the <i>Queensland Women and Girls Health Strategy 2032</i>, the forthcoming <i>First Nations Economic Strategy</i>, the Australian Government’s youth engagement strategy <i>Engage!</i> and the draft <i>Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy</i>.</p>	OfY
<p>In October 2022, <i>Towards ending homelessness for young Queenslanders 2022-2027</i> was released. The policy and framework were informed through engagement with young people with lived experience and the housing and homelessness sector including with over 80 young Queenslanders from across the state – a diverse group including young people with a lived experience of homelessness, experience with the youth justice and child protection systems, First Nations young peoples and LGBTQIA+ young people.</p>	DHLGPPW
<p>The QFCC has undertaken engagements with First Nations children, young people, and families to inform the establishment of an independent community-led and managed consultative body (Queensland First Nations Early Childhood Education, Education and Training Consultative Body). The QFCC has captured the voices, perspectives and needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people, and their families through culturally appropriate and authentic conversations. This project has been a positive and empowering experience that has provided the opportunity to shape the scope, functions and potentially the forward agenda of the consultative body.</p>	QFCC & DoE





## Educational Programs

*Young people have opportunities to learn how the systems around them work in ways adaptive to their unique journey and lived experience*

Support delivery of YMCA’s annual Queensland Youth Parliament, designed to give young people between the ages of 16-25 a chance to be heard at the highest levels of State Government on a wide range of issues relevant to young people’s lives through the opportunity to formulate, debate, and vote on bills which are then handed to relevant ministers.	OYF
Deliver the Fight Fire Fascination program to support parents and guardians with their efforts to educate children and young people (3 to 17 years) about fire safety.	QFD

## Genuine participation, co-design and influence

*Young people are provided opportunities to participate in the design and implementation of government processes and are supported to effect meaningful change on their terms*

<p>The QFCC Child and Youth Participation Framework outlines how QFCC gives children and young people genuine opportunities to participate in decision making, to give full effect to the realisation of their rights. It demonstrates the QFCC’s commitment to connecting with them, supporting them in sharing their views, amplifying what they tell us, and influencing decision makers with their ideas. It was co-designed with QFCC Youth Advocates who were instrumental in the establishment of the new child and youth participation approach, model, and elements.</p> <p>QFCC continues to work with Youth Advocates and young staff members to create additional resources to support QFCC and other organisations with their approach to youth participation.</p>	QFCC
<p>Through the Youth Advocate Program, QFCC employs Youth Advocates, aged 14 to 25, on a casual basis to support and inform QFCC projects, policies, and outcomes. QFCC also facilitates opportunities for Youth Advocates to provide advice to other government and non-government agencies.</p> <p>In 2023, the QFCC actively recruited to expand its Youth Advocate pool to 50 young people, with a focus on increasing membership and participation with specific cohorts of young people - First Nations, regional and remote, and young people with lived experiences of the child protection and youth justice systems.</p> <p>Examples of government and non-government policy and initiatives that Youth Advocates contributed to in 2023 include the <i>Queensland Women and Girls’ Health Strategy 2032</i>; National Framework for Respectful Relationships Education; <i>Education (General Provisions) Act 2006</i>; and the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill.</p>	QFCC

# CULTIVATE THEIR FUTURES

Young people cultivate their futures supported by access to tailored opportunities that nurture their unique needs and interests.

Supporting creativity and innovation are ways we can connect with each other that lead to positive social and civic engagement outcomes. Encouraging economic participation and providing opportunities for young people to elevate their skills and build interest in traditional and emerging industries will provide opportunities for young people to find careers they are passionate about.

Work that is meaningful and that makes young people feel valued, respected, and properly rewarded for their time and effort sets them up to succeed in and out of the workplace. Young Queenslanders will be supported to participate in the workforce and through school-to-work transitions and high-quality information about employment rights and diverse careers.

## Careers and Employment

*Young people are equipped with the tools and skills required to build the careers they want in the fields that interest them*

<p>In the 2023-24 Financial Year, over 27 young people were employed by the Office for Youth for a variety of co-design and contracting opportunities including writing, filming, and editing, creating real-world social and economic benefits with over \$26,000 paid directly to young people for their time which also further developed skills and experience in their fields of interest.</p>	<p>OfY</p>
<p>Queensland’s Clean Energy Workforce Roadmap, released in October 2023, includes a range of youth-focused actions to build the pipeline of skilled and capable clean energy workers across the State. Actions include the establishment of a Renewable Energy Gateway to Industry Schools Program (GISP) targeting over 30 schools and 2000 students across Queensland; development of online resources for Queensland teachers to deliver clean energy content with an emphasis on career pathways; energy Government Owned Corporations, Energex and Ergon Energy Network, increasing their apprentice intake by 10 percent each year out to 2030; connecting clean energy industry with schools to participate in activities under the Strategy for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) in Queensland State Schools; and strengthening of school to industry partnerships in the clean energy sector through Regional School Industry Partnership managers. These actions complement the Queensland Government’s Hydrogen Industry Workforce Roadmap 2022-2032, delivered in 2022, which also includes actions to deliver a Hydrogen GISP and to pilot a hydrogen-specific online learning program for high school students to build awareness of the industry and associated foundational skills. Developing the skill pathways for the growing clean energy economy is an action of the Queensland Workforce Strategy.</p>	<p>DESBT</p>

<p>The Queensland Government committed \$140 million over four years from 2021-22 for the revitalised Back to Work program. Back to Work has a range of financial and non-financial support available to businesses if they employ an eligible jobseeker through the program. Eligible jobseekers include young people aged 15-24 years who have been unemployed for a minimum of 8 weeks.</p>	<p>DESBT</p>
<p>The Skilling Queenslanders for Work (SQW) initiative represents a commitment to increasing workforce participation, driving job growth and strengthening the performance of the Queensland economy by improving skills development and work opportunities for disadvantaged Queenslanders. Since the reinstatement of SQW in 2015, 89,464 disadvantaged Queenslanders have been assisted under SQW and of these 51,607 have been young people aged 15-24 years. Across all programs under SQW, there is a 58% participation rate for youth. Eligible participants under SQW must be aged 15 years or older and have left school. Youth, including those in and transitioned from out-of-home care, are a key target group under SQW. There are several youth specific programs under SQW – Get Set for Work (targeted at disengaged youth aged 15-19 years), Youth Skills (targeted at youth aged 15-24 years and engaged with Youth Justice, Queensland Corrective Services or Queensland Police Service) and First Start (targeted at youth aged 15-24 years and disadvantaged Queenslanders, has over 70% youth participation rate).</p>	<p>DESBT</p>
<p>The Youth Employment Success (YES) project is an initiative of Regional Development Australia, Darling Downs and South West (RDADDSW) region. YES is an online platform with selected employers from a variety of industries offering free employment-based opportunities to 16-24-year-olds. It is a community-based initiative that offers our future workforce opportunities to upskill and gain confidence in their desired industry. RDADDSW successfully applied for funding for the YES project under DESBT's Workforce Connect Fund, which is a key action of the Queensland Workforce Strategy and which is designed to increase investment in industry and community-led projects that address attraction, retention and participation issues within the workforce.</p>	<p>DESBT</p>
<p>Deliver National Science Week events and activities highlighting the great science happening in Queensland and the career opportunities in STEM. In 2023, more than 60 Year 9 students and teachers attended displays around renewable energy, carbon farming and embedding carbon-neutral initiatives in schools and attended information sessions at QUT about science careers.</p>	<p>DESI</p>
<p>Deliver the Engaging Science Grants program to support STEM education activities, science events and citizen science projects. The Office of the Queensland Chief Scientist has allocated more than \$2.7 million in Engaging Science Grants to 230 grant recipients since 2016 with more than half of these events and activities located in regional areas. In 2023, 41 recipients shared in more than \$700,000 worth of funding.</p>	<p>DESI</p>
<p>Continued delivery of the Young Tourism Leaders program, which promotes role models who have built successful careers in tourism and are keen to share a wealth of knowledge and experience with young people, to encourage and inspire them to consider a career in the tourism industry.</p> <p>Young Tourism Leaders present at schools and engage with vocational and tertiary students, participating in careers events to share stories of their professional journey. Additionally, they promote the diversity of work in tourism and provide valuable insights and advice on how to kickstart a career in tourism.</p> <p>Leaders across the state play an important role in growing Queensland's tourism industry by helping to attract the workforce of the future.</p>	<p>DTS</p>

## Education and Training

*Young people are supported by inclusive and effective education and training systems that inspire learning and growth, and foster positive transitions from school to work*

<p>In July 2023, DCSSDS and DoE released a revised Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which aims to strengthen educational support and outcomes for children in care. DCSSDS and DoE are committed to co-designing culturally responsive Education Support Plan processes that support and promote positive educational outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in care. This includes partnering with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff from both agencies, communities, and relevant stakeholders.</p>	<p>DCSSDS &amp; DoE</p>
<p>The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Aspirations Program (ATSIAP) provides opportunities for high-performing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students attending Queensland state schools in years 7 to 12 to investigate solutions for real-world challenges.</p>	<p>DoE</p>
<p>The <i>Link and Launch</i> program supports young people who have completed year 12 but have not yet transitioned to further study, training or work to navigate a range of post-study, training, and work options in line with their individual goals, aspirations, skills and strengths.</p>	<p>DoE</p>
<p>Free apprenticeships for under 25s - the Queensland Government covers the cost of training with a training provider when someone under the age of 25 who meets eligibility requirements chooses a high priority apprenticeship or traineeship. There are more than 130 priority apprenticeship and traineeship qualifications offered under the program.</p>	<p>DESBT</p>
<p>The Fee-Free TAFE initiative makes vocational education and training more accessible and affordable for Queenslanders, providing opportunities for individuals to upskill, reskill or start their career in high-demand industries. In 2024, the Australian and Queensland Governments will provide around 14,500 fee-free places to Queenslanders, with a similar number of places planned for 2025 and 2026. Qualifications and skill sets funded through Fee-Free TAFE are aligned to national and state skills priorities, in-demand areas, and emerging industries to enable Queenslanders to be job-ready and meet current and future skills needs.</p>	<p>DESBT</p>
<p>The Gateway to Industry Schools Program (GISP) builds partnerships between schools and industry to enable young people to acquire the knowledge, skills, and attributes to participate effectively in the Queensland economy and provides opportunities for industry and the education sector to work together to deliver outcomes for students, local communities, and businesses. Each project is led by industry organisations which develop and implement tailored school engagement activities in line with their industry's key skills and workforce priorities. Industry organisations choose how the industry specific projects operate and the type and level of engagement with participating schools. There are currently 12 industry sectors involved in the GISP.</p>	<p>DESBT</p>

The School to Work Transitions (S2WT) Program has been established to improve school to work transitions for school students in priority groups. The S2WT Program supports school students who are at risk of not transitioning successfully from school to further education, training or employment by providing tailored solutions to improve post-school outcomes. The S2WT Program also supports projects to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students under the First Nations Training Strategy. The S2WT Program has been implemented as part of the school-to-work transitions focus area of the *Good people. Good jobs: Queensland Workforce Strategy 2022–2032*.

DESBT

Vocational Education and Training in Schools (VETiS) is a program that enables students to gain nationally recognised qualifications while at school. Students learn skills and knowledge required for specific industries. VETiS can be undertaken in years 10, 11 and 12, and can count towards the Queensland Certificate of Education. VETiS is funded by schools and by DESBT.

DESBT

Screen Queensland offers programs for emerging and entry-level people who are interested in careers in the screen, online and games development industries. Current initiatives targeted at youth (16-24 years) include: Youth Week Employment and Pathways Showcase (Cherbourg); Film Intensive Script to Screen Program (Cairns) co-funded with DESBT; Grow Your Own Regional Workforce Initiative with Jobs Queensland for emerging games and online practitioners (Sunshine Coast); the SQ Games Residency for early career games developers and Industry Internships for emerging practitioners in partnership with leading digital games developers.

SQ



## Building Creative and Innovative Generational Futures

*Young people are enabled to unleash their creative potential to contribute to the continuous evolution and innovation necessary for building a better Queensland*

Investment in projects and organisations through Arts Queensland funding programs is supporting young Queenslanders to engage in the arts as artists, audiences, and participants.	AQ
The Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services has funded Queensland Program of Assistance to Survivors of Torture and Trauma (QPASTT) and their subsidiary organisation HEAL to deliver a Social Cohesion in Times of Crisis project, with a focus on young people and their families. The project uses a co-design and co-delivery approach to explore opportunities for evidence-based school-based programs with students and cultural communities through expressive arts therapies. The program promotes connection, belonging and social cohesion, and is focused on human rights education, non-discrimination, and peaceful conflict resolution. Expected outcomes include: young people having increased confidence in expressing self, managing trauma, and addressing conflict; increased connections between schools, parents and cultural community supports; and reduced youth disengagement.	DCSSDS
There is always something for young people to see and do at the Queensland Art Gallery   Gallery of Modern Art. The Gallery also provides specific programs for young people to share creative skills and career pathways, and connect with art, artists, and each other. Programs include regular tours for school groups, special events for teens linked to major exhibitions, online resources connecting QAGOMA's Collection and exhibitions to the curriculum, hosting the central exhibition of the 'Creative Generation Excellence Awards in Visual Art' in partnership with the Department of Education, and the 'Design Tracks: Creative Pathways program' for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander high school students.	QAGOMA
Continued delivery of Queensland Theatre's drama education and youth programs that attract drama students and young people across Queensland, igniting their creativity and creative skills development. The programs deliver a range of impactful drama education, performance and playwriting programs featuring enriching and accessible arts experiences through in-school and extracurricular programs designed by Queensland Theatre such as Young Artist Ensembles, Young Writers Ensemble, Theatre Residency Week, the Scene Project, and Student Pathways Program, fostering valuable opportunities for young people to actively engage in the arts and the joy of theatre. The programs champion and inspire the talent of the next generation of arts makers and play a crucial role in enhancing essential work and life skills, generating positive effects on the wellbeing of young people that are evident year after year.	QT
The Young Writers Award recognises and celebrates a diversity of young Queensland storytellers, showcasing works of short fiction and generating industry connections for young writers.	SLQ
Launch the Channel Lab: YouTube Accelerator, a dedicated online / digital content initiative in partnership with Changer Studios. This program has been designed to support emerging Queensland creators who use online platforms to share their screen stories, with in-depth training to enhance their production skills, better understand their audience and build their YouTube presence.	SQ

# LIVE THEIR BEST LIVES

Young people are enabled to live their best lives empowered and equipped with the information, resources and support they need to get there.

Strengthening connections to the physical environments of young people and our communities provides consistency and stability, laying the foundation for them to explore and interact with the world around them as they grow and change.

Having access to safe and affordable housing, appropriate mental and physical healthcare, trusted information and being equipped with relevant life skills are fundamental requirements for positive whole-of-life outcomes for young Queenslanders.

Young people have told us they want to feel safe and valued in their communities, for their identities and histories to be respected and their needs understood and addressed. The Queensland Government takes the safety of young people seriously and is putting in place a framework to ensure all young people can thrive.

## Access to information

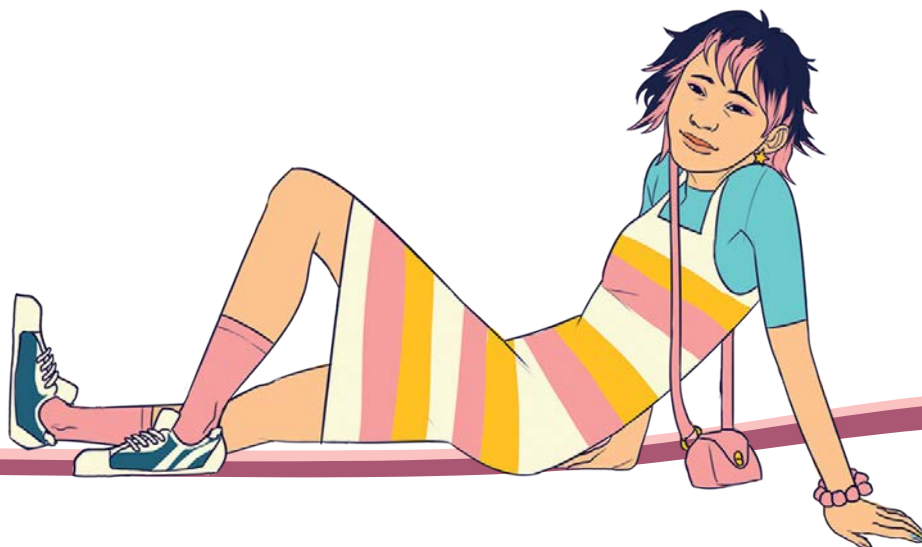
*Young people have access to trusted information and to the supports and services they need, when they need them*

DCSSDS, in collaboration with other agencies, is developing accessible and culturally safe materials that are informed by the Respectful Relationships Education Program to target young people not engaged in formal education.

DCSSDS

*We the Differents* website is a collective of information, tips, ideas, and experience to empower young people to learn what is on offer and to find the right support and options for their education.

DoE



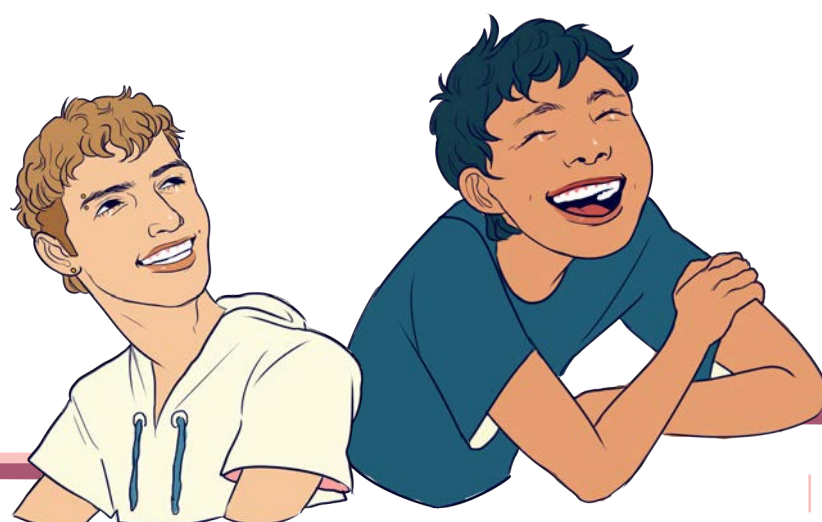
## Health and wellbeing

### *Young people are supported to achieve optimum levels of mental, physical, and spiritual health and wellbeing*

DCSSDS is working to embed all five elements of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle (ATSICPP) to the standard of active efforts across the child protection system. The Queensland Family and Child Commission oversees implementation of the ATSICPP through the annual Principle Focus Report.	DCSSDS
In June 2022, the Queensland Government announced Extended Post Care Support (EPCS) for young adults leaving care to ensure they are supported when transitioning into adulthood. Three EPCS initiatives came into effect on 1 July 2023: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. New culturally appropriate, proactive, and practical services rolled out across Queensland to support young adults leaving care from their 18th to 21st birthday.</li> <li>2. Extension of the care allowance for young adults who continue living with their former carer or guardian from 19 up until their 21st birthday.</li> <li>3. Financial support of up to \$16,000 per year being available to young adults leaving care to live in their own housing arrangements as independent adults from their 18th to 21st birthday.</li> </ol>	DCSSDS
In October 2022, <i>Towards ending homelessness for young Queenslanders 2022-2027</i> (Towards ending homelessness) was released. Towards ending homelessness is a policy and integrated framework of housing with support and the Queensland Government's commitment to improving housing outcomes for young people. Towards ending homelessness is backed by a \$29.8 million investment across four years, which includes \$27 million in new funding from 2023-24. \$10 million per annum has been committed ongoing from 2026-27.	DHLGPPW
A \$4.6 million package to help young people transitioning from living in care, the youth justice system, corrections, temporary supported accommodation, and youth foyers, to help them set-up or keep a home. Under the scheme, young people can get help with costs up to \$5,000 per household to help them transition to live independently.	DHLGPPW
<i>Active Women and Girls</i> is a funding program dedicated to encouraging greater participation across all facets of sport and active recreation, from playing to coaching and volunteering to umpiring and team management, for women and girls in Queensland.	DTS
Support community-identified physical activity and sport and recreation opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across Queensland, to increase physical activity participation through the funding programs <i>Deadly Active Sport and Recreation</i> , <i>Torres Strait Community Sport and Recreation</i> and <i>First Nations Sport and Recreation</i> .	DTS
Support young people to participate in physical activity and sport and recreation opportunities through funding programs such as <i>FairPlay</i> and <i>Emerging Athlete Pathways</i> under the <i>Accelerate 2022 – 2025</i> Action Plan.	DTS



The Youth Development Partnership Fund, a joint DTS and QPS initiative, supports ‘at risk’ youth through the power of sport and active recreation. The Fund supports the delivery and expansion of youth programs that enhance the physical and mental well-being of at-risk youth or those already in conflict with the law across various locations in Queensland.	DTS & QPS
The Deadly Choices DC Fit program is designed to engage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 16 to 25 years to increase their participation in physical activity in a culturally safe and supportive environment.	HWQld
The Deadly Choices Education Program (Junior and Senior) provides a structured eight-session program in both primary and secondary schools across Queensland facilitated by trained First Nations Program Officers.	HWQld
The Deadly Choices Good Quick Tukka program (Junior and Senior) delivers a cooking education program with a focus on basic, healthy cooking skills to encourage knowledge transfer beyond participants and greater social opportunities and interactions in both primary and secondary schools across Queensland.	HWQld
The Healthier Tuckshops Program supports all Queensland school tuckshops to offer and promote healthy food and drinks.	HWQld
The Periods, Pain and Endometriosis Program (PPEP Talk®) delivers PPEP Talk® pain management sessions to students in years 10, 11 and 12 in Queensland state schools with secondary students.	QH
Deliver the QFCC Growing Up in Queensland Report as a measure of children and young people’s wellbeing in Queensland against the ARACY Wellbeing indicators.	QFCC
In June 2023, and in partnership with the Queensland Mental Health Commission, the QFCC released a series of animated videos entitled ‘Let’s have this convo, together’, designed in collaboration with young people to support better understanding about the various youth mental health support services available, and how to access them. The videos were promoted to a wide audience of both young people and sector stakeholders and have since been reshared and used by several departments, including being featured on the Department of Education’s <i>We the Differents</i> website.	QFCC



Queensland Health delivers a continuum of mental health, alcohol and other drugs (MHAOD) services for children and young people experiencing mental health issues or crisis and problematic alcohol and other drug use. *Under Better Care Together – A plan for Queensland’s state-funded mental health, alcohol, and other drug services to 2027* (Better Care Together) more than \$305 million has been committed to bolster community and bed-based initiatives for children, adolescents and young people. These include enhanced community treatment, new child and youth acute response teams, dedicated clinical in-reach and consultation liaison to headspace centres, and enhancements and expansion of existing specialist service elements including youth AOD treatment, early psychosis services, forensic services, eating disorder services, adolescent day programs and digital mental health offerings.

QH

The Queensland Child and Youth Clinical Network (QCYCN) has been executing the Optimising Adolescent and Young Adult Care in Queensland project (OPAYAC) since 2021. This project has investigated the gaps and defined and designed solutions with stakeholders to optimise the health system for young Queenslanders.

QH

This system-level initiative has to date:

- Published the Optimising Adolescent and Young Adult Care in Queensland: A statewide strategy 2022 – 2027 that provides recommendations and a roadmap to create a health system that meets the needs of young Queenslanders accessing Queensland Health.
- Published professional education assets to improve the safety, quality and standard of healthcare provision to young people, including:
  - » Foundations of Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) health care course, authored by QCYCN, designed in partnership with QUT and hosted by QUTeX
  - » Providing safe and quality care to young people – A practice guide to adolescent and young adult (AYA) care.
- Published two position statements to promote statewide evidence-based collaborative standards:
  - » Position Statement: Adolescent and Young Adult Care (2021)
  - » Position Statement: Adolescent and Young Adult Transition of Care (2023).



## Home and community

*Young people are safe and secure in their physical locations, and feel empowered to thrive independently no matter where they are or where they're heading*

In February 2024, DCSSDS released A Roadmap for Residential Care in Queensland (the Roadmap), following a comprehensive review of Queensland's Residential Care System, overseen by the Principal Commissioner of the Queensland Family and Child Commission. The review included consultations with various stakeholders, including young people with lived experience, system partners, Child Safety managers and staff and residential care service providers. The Roadmap addresses systemic issues identified through consultation and provides a number of actions to improve and strengthen the delivery of residential care services for Queensland's children and young people.

DCSSDS

The annual Queensland Child Rights Report details the state of children's rights in Queensland. The report analyses how Queensland upholds children's rights, and it identifies the changes needed to embed a child rights approach across government policy, legislation, and systems to deliver better, more equitable outcomes for Queensland children.

QFCC

The inaugural 2023 report explores child rights issues the QFCC has observed in its statutory role, including a special chapter that focuses on Queensland's youth justice system and assesses Queensland's compliance with its obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

The report also analyses issues relating to children's civil rights and freedoms; violence against children; the child protection system; disability, health, and welfare; and education and play.

## Life skills

*Young people are equipped with real-world life skills that help them to succeed as they transition into adulthood and onwards*

The Let's start yarning about gambling campaign featured advertising and resources to raise awareness of gambling harm and reduce stigma around help-seeking for First Nations young people aged 15-24. An evaluation survey indicated the target audience aged 24 and under agreed the campaign was culturally safe and appropriate, made them think about their own gambling or someone else's, raised awareness of the free help services available, and broke down stigma. The campaign will be re-run in early 2024, targeting First Nations young people via YouTube ads.

DJAG

The Office of Fair Trading's Buy Smart Program engages young Queenslanders with consumer and financial literacy and information, empowering them to make smart consumer decisions both now and in the future.

DJAG

# THRIVE IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Young people thrive in our communities knowing they are connected, celebrated and resilient.

The Queensland Government is committed to acting consistently and transparently with what the science indicates around climate change and building systems which consider the long-term impacts on community and Country to ensure a liveable future for current and future generations.

Community spaces provide a place for young people to hang out with their mates, learn new skills, complete homework, or even speak with a trusted adult.

## Science, climate change and world issues

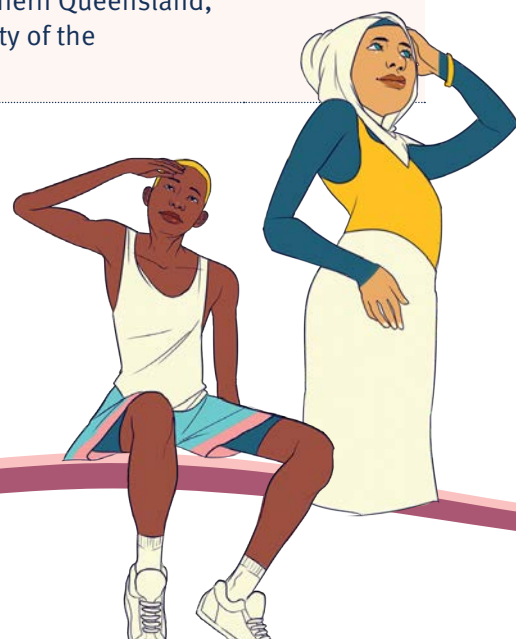
*Young people drive innovative and positive change in their communities and feel equipped to thrive in an ever-changing world*

The \$1.4M Youth Research Grants Program delivered in partnership with Queensland universities, aimed to stimulate interest in research that reflects the needs and views of young people and support them to directly influence research priorities and projects.

DESI &  
OFY

In 2021-2022, \$200,000 in grant funding was provided to seven Queensland universities to lead their own research initiatives with young people under the age of 25 from across a diverse range of backgrounds and study areas. The research projects focus on current and emerging issues, covering four overarching topics: climate action and the environment, future foods, sustainable communities and wellbeing and health.

Over 80 research projects have been delivered across Queensland, involving over 700 young Queenslanders. The seven Queensland universities were The University of Queensland, Griffith University, University of Southern Queensland, Central Queensland University, James Cook University, University of the Sunshine Coast and Queensland University of Technology.



## Connection

*Young people have meaningful opportunities to drive change in the community, share learnings and strengthen relationships*

The annual Queensland Indigenous Youth Leadership Program (QIYLP) strengthens leadership skills of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders, 18–25 years of age, and builds their capacity to drive change. To date, over 720 young people have participated in the program, many going on to successful careers and to become pioneers in their communities. QIYLP provides post-program opportunities for participants, including professional and community action grants. Over \$16,500 in post-program grants was awarded to alumni of QIYLP 2023 to fund community change projects in their local community or their professional development.	OfY
Provide on the ground support services in partnership with other government agencies to ensure the schoolies period is as safe as possible for school leavers, residents, businesses, and the community.	DTATSIPCA
Encourage youth within the Rural Fire Service to participate in the Rural Fire Service Youth Volunteer of the Year Award initiative.	QFD

## Transport

*Young people are educated about road safety, feel confident on our roads, and have improved access to affordable, reliable, and safe public transport options*

\$600,000 per financial year to support communities with road safety education and initiatives through the Community Road Safety Education Grants.	DTMR
\$12.7 million over 4.5 years to help disadvantaged young people get their provisional driver licence, including by providing access to safe, supervised driving experience through volunteer mentors and vehicles through the Learner Driver Mentor Program.	DTMR
\$40 million over 4 years from 2022-23 for the School Transport Infrastructure Program to improve the safety and operation of schools through new or improved infrastructure at the school or on the surrounding road network.	DTMR
As an outcome of the Road Safety Roundtable in 2023, the PrepL Supervisor course is now free. PrepL Supervisor provides interactive scenarios as well as lesson plans to help supervisors teach learner drivers to become safer drivers.	DTMR
Assisting young First Nations community members to obtain a driver's licence through a targeted Indigenous Driver Licensing Program, including a mobile driver licensing unit visiting remote communities.	DTMR
Delivering high priority cycle routes and walking network plans around public transport hubs, schools and town centres through the <i>Queensland Cycling Strategy 2017-2027</i> and <i>Queensland Walking Strategy 2019-2029</i> .	DTMR

Ensuring public transport is reliable, safe, and accessible, up to date with emerging technology and delivers the outcomes the community needs including investment in 2022-23 of \$27.2 million over 4 years to provide an uplift in bus services for growth areas across the state, such as in the Northern Gold Coast and Townsville, to support passenger transport and creating better connections for Queenslanders.	DTMR
Over \$18 million over 4 years and \$4.3 million per annum ongoing from 2026–27 to expand the School Transport Assistance Scheme eligibility to include students living in shared care arrangements travelling from a second address.	DTMR
Reducing the cost of a learner licence from \$186.55 to \$75 from 1 March 2023.	DTMR
Supporting young people in regional areas and those who are financially disadvantaged to get to school, with financial assistance for school transport, through annual funding of \$186 million under the School Transport Assistance Scheme.	DTMR
Deliver the Road Attitudes and Action Planning program to assist young people to make informed decisions about road safety to mitigate risks and consequences.	QFD

## Celebrating culture and diversity

*Young people from diverse backgrounds are celebrated and encouraged to thrive, with their unique stories and perspectives recognised and embraced*

<p>Queensland Youth Week (QYW) is the annual celebration and recognition of young people and their talents and achievements as well as the contributions they make to their communities, our state, and the world around them. QYW is delivered in partnership with organisations across the state, with over 85 community events held in 2024.</p> <p>In 2024 one of OfY’s headline events took place in Cherbourg and was delivered in partnership with Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council across two days. The event was designed to respond to local needs and aimed to empower local young people, featuring training, activities, workshops, and employment opportunities with over 15 partner agencies and businesses in attendance.</p> <p>OfY also announced the launch of a Digital Art Competition which aimed to celebrate the creativity and talent of young Queensland artists. The winning artwork was judged by a panel of young people. After sifting through many incredible submissions that showcased the talent, creativity, and spirit of young Queenslanders, one artwork truly stood above the rest to the panel of young judges. “Here, have a popsicle!” was crowned the winner of the 2024 competition and the young artist, Sophie van Essen, not only won an Apple iPad and Apple Pencil to support her continued artistic development and professional growth, but also the honour of having her artwork featured in promoting Queensland Youth Week 2025.</p>	OfY
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<p>The Celebrating Multicultural Queensland program provides funding under the Youth and Community Connection category to multicultural projects led and driven by young people that assist with breaking down the barriers facing young people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds that can result in feelings of disengagement or disconnection with community.</p>	DCSSDS
<p>DCSSDS provides funding to the Queensland African Communities Council to support the African Youth Support Council’s African Villages in Moorooka, Geebung and Redbank Plains. These villages build a sense of belonging, identity, establish strategic partnerships, engage with the system, and build positive relationships in safe spaces for African young people and community members.</p>	DCSSDS
<p>In 2022–23, QFCC celebrated the achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (under the age of 25) by sponsoring Young, Black and Proud scholarships in partnership with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service Brisbane. Among the 16 scholarship recipients were young people with diverse talents and passions, with aspirations in music and theatre, science, visual arts, technology, dancing, public health, filmmaking, history, and sport.</p> <p>Young people aged 25 or younger can apply for scholarships of up to \$2,000. QFCC are continuing supporting the sponsorships in 2023–24 to help the next recipients of the Young, Black and Proud scholarships to pursue their aspirations.</p>	QFCC
<p>The First Nations Children’s Report centres on the sovereignty and voice of First Nations children and young people. First Nations children and young people’s experience in Queensland has two sides. The first is the overwhelming injustice and harms of overpolicing, overincarceration, family separation and withholding education, health, and legal services. These injustices are the result of ongoing structural racism and colonialism by the state, which shapes much of First Nations children and young people’s experiences of everyday services, such as going to school, visiting the doctor, or playing at the local park. This violence is deep and ongoing but does not determine First Nations children’s lives, or their experience of the strength, sovereignty, and care that their communities embody every day.</p> <p>It is common for reports to focus on only one side of this experience. By focusing only on the violence of colonisation and racism, we erase the agency, care, and knowledge of First Nations communities, who fight constantly for and with their children.</p> <p>By only centring on this agency without acknowledging what these communities are fighting against, we deny the pain of being torn away from family, targeted by police or incarcerated as a child. At the same time, erasing the violence of colonisation and racism allows the state to hide from its responsibilities and accountability. In response, this report holds both sides of the experience in the same frame. Grounded in the voice of children and young people and their families and community, this report reflects the depth of the harms, while showing how these harms are counteracted through the leadership, knowledge and love of sovereign First Nations’ children and their communities.</p>	QFCC

