

## Queensland Plan Ambassadors Council 1 September Communique

The Queensland Plan Ambassadors Council held its second 2020 meeting on 1 September 2020 in Brisbane.

The Council embraced virtual meeting technology with several Ambassadors participating via Microsoft Teams. Due to the impacts of COVID-19, social distancing measures were in place throughout the meeting.

During the meeting, Ambassadors met with representatives from peak bodies, non-government organisations and the public sector on topics including inclusion, youth crime and place-based approaches to youth offending, as well as reviewing the available data collated against some of the Queensland Plan Priority Areas. These topics support four of the nine Queensland Plan foundational areas: Health and Wellbeing, Governance, People, and Community.

### Data

The Queensland Plan recognises that our population, climate, and way of life will be different in 30 years. The Queensland Plan also identifies that while there will be things we cannot predict, there are others we can foresee by identifying megatrends from current data.

An overview of the available data collated against some of the Queensland Priority areas was presented to the Council. Ambassadors recognised the significant change to the priorities and future vision for Queensland from the COVID-19 disruption and the significant financial and social impact from these circumstances on the available data. It was also acknowledged that how we measure achievement may have shifted in many sectors as a result of how society has changed during the pandemic and recovery.

The Council will continue to work with Government departments to examine data and explore how we are progressing towards the increased liveability and prosperity of Queensland.

### Inclusion

Queenslanders' vision for our state as outlined in the Queensland Plan is:

*'We will have a community spirit that embraces our diversity and unique culture and gives everyone the opportunity to shine. We will not leave anybody behind'*

The Queensland Plan recognises that our vibrant communities shape Queensland's unique character and contribute significantly to the liveability of our great state.

The Council heard from a panel of diverse representatives from the community around the topic of inclusion in the Queensland community with panel members sharing their knowledge and lived experiences of inclusion within their local and broader communities. The Ambassadors had robust discussions with the panel members on the challenges and experiences of people across Queensland in relation to inclusion, and it was agreed that Queensland would benefit from a better understanding of the challenges faced by all sectors of the Queensland community around inclusion.

The Council will continue to work with the Queensland Government to explore the challenges and the experiences or perceptions of inclusion faced by various sectors of the community including LGBTIQ+ persons, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons, persons with disability, older persons and persons from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds.

## Youth crime

The Queensland Plan recognises that crime rates (including perceptions of crime rates), and the related impacts on public safety, are directly related to the liveability of Queensland communities. It was noted by the Ambassadors as critical that we help to support our young Queenslanders to ensure they are embraced as a valuable part of the community, and that we help young people to develop greater social awareness and responsibility.

Ambassadors welcomed a Chief Superintendent from the Queensland Police Service to talk about his role in addressing youth offending and share with the Council on the work that local place-based programs are doing to address the issues of youth crime in the South Brisbane and Logan area. The Council also heard of the value of strong collaboration across the justice and human services sectors for those working on the ground to address youth offending and noted other related initiatives underway across the state to address youth crime.

Ambassadors engaged in discussions to further understand how children can be kept safe and in a secure environment that supports positive growth and development. The Council also discussed the referral process to organisations to ensure children have wrap around support. Specific programs targeted at young people were shared and it was also discussed on how these programs can be implemented in other rural and regional areas.