

The Queensland Plan

A 30-year vision for Queensland



Queensland Plan Ambassadors Council meeting communiqué

13 December 2023

The Queensland Plan Ambassadors Council (the Council) held its fourth and final meeting of 2024 in Brisbane on 13 December 2023. The Council welcomed Ambassadors who had travelled from across Queensland and those participating virtually. The focus of this meeting was the *Queensland Plan's* foundation areas of 'Health and wellbeing' and 'Community', with particular emphasis on Youth.

The Queensland Plan foundation area – Health and wellbeing

Dr Robyn Littlewood, Chief Executive Officer, Health and Wellbeing Queensland presented on the work of her area.

Dr Littlewood spoke about how Health and Wellbeing Queensland is working on creating a generational shift to improve health and wellbeing for all Queenslanders. Working across sector, community and government. Members were given an overview of Health and Wellbeing Queensland's current key projects and programs of work including Making Healthy: Happen A draft strategy for preventing obesity in Queensland, Gather and Grow, Pick of the Crop and Podsquad.

The Queensland Plan foundation area – Community

Sarah Mitchell, Director, Department of Environment and Science provided Ambassadors with an overview of how the Office for Youth was working to re-frame engagement with young people to ensure it is genuine youth led co-design. The Office for Youth created two Youth Strategy Engagement Groups, consisting of a diverse group of people aged 12 to 25 including representation from CALD communities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, people with disability, LGBTQI+ communities, young people who have experienced homelessness and young people who have experienced domestic and family violence. The Office for Youth have undertaken extensive consultation, in collaboration with the Youth Strategy Engagement Groups, which will be used by the department to inform the Youth Strategy which is expected to be released next year.

Hayes Butler-Dupuy and Kaira Kapur, Youth Strategy Engagement Group Representatives, spoke about experiences as members of the group. They highlighted the importance of civic education and engagement with young, especially as many young people are systematically disengaged from government and policy development.

Kaira and Hayes discussed with Ambassadors the need for government to reach out and approach young people in places which are appropriate and culturally safe. They noted the opportunities to more broadly provide opportunities for young people, including for example those who apply but are not engaged in the opportunities provided through youth parliament.

Joe Mikaele Ah-Kuoi, Co-founder and Director, Strive Lane provided a presentation on his organisation Strive Lane which he co-founded with his wife. As an educator and youth worker with over 20 years of experience, his business aims to fill a gap within the education system, focusing on leadership skills.

Mr Ah-Kuoi also spoke about his proposal to help respond to the pressing issue of escalating youth incarceration and reoffending rates in Queensland by providing safe, nonjudgmental educational, employment, and leadership training opportunities for young people.

Next steps and outcomes

The Council used this meeting to reflect on the past year and plan for 2024.

They noted the value of being able to attend meetings in the regions, with the opportunity to hear about each community and learn about local and place-based initiatives allowing members to better understand and appreciate the diversity of our state.

A forward work plan for the next year will be developed to help guide meeting agendas for 2024.

Next meeting

The Council will hold its next meeting in Brisbane on 26 March 2024.