

Queensland Plan Ambassadors Council 18 December Communique

The Ambassadors Council held its final 2020 meeting in Brisbane on 18 December 2020.

During the meeting, Ambassadors met with representatives from a non-government organisation and the public sector, receiving briefings from experts in the fields of children's health and wellbeing, youth justice and the resources sector. The Council also discussed inclusion and Queensland's economic recovery from COVID-19 as well as the Government's objectives for the community. These topics support five of the nine Queensland Plan foundational areas: Health and Wellbeing, People, Regions, Community and Economy.

Inclusion

Ambassadors were disappointed by the recent discriminatory behaviour of a popular theme park toward a notable disability advocate and resolved to write to the Honourable Craig Crawford MP, Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships to call out the behaviour and request the incident inform the Queensland Government's continued efforts to build a more inclusive Queensland.

Council has spent significant time hearing from diverse representatives from the community around the topic of inclusion and lived experiences to gain an understanding of the terrible impact of discrimination on people: with disability, from different cultural backgrounds, who identify as LGBTIQ; and on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Ambassador Shelley Argent had prepared an informative report on the nature of discrimination in Queensland after talking to many Queenslanders on their lived experiences. Ambassadors will continue this work in 2021 with a priority focus of building an inclusive society.

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'

Children's Health Outcomes

Mr Frank Tracey, Health Service Chief Executive, Children's Health Queensland, presented to Council on a data dashboard used to map out health and wellbeing outcomes for Queensland's children. The Ambassadors were interested to hear how the use of data can help promote children's wellbeing and reduce health inequities.

Children's Health Queensland are working with the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs and the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors, and have piloted a program in the south-east corner called 'Navigate Your Health', which focuses on 900 children in central Brisbane living in out of home care. The program has now been expanded throughout the state.

The Council are excited by the opportunities this dashboard presents for coordinated service delivery for children, particularly those from challenging and disadvantaged backgrounds.

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

'We will take personal responsibility for our health and wellbeing, supported by a healthcare system that provides the best possible care and attention for those in need. Our children will learn how to live healthily and develop habits that last a lifetime.'

CopperString 2.0 project and the resource sector

CopperString 2.0 Director, Mr Joseph O'Brien, provided Council with an overview of the importance of Queensland's resource sector to the regions. The CopperString 2.0 project will unlock development and economic growth in North Queensland. Northern Queensland is recognised as having the best co-existence of wind and solar in Australia and the ecosystem across North-Western Queensland combines both minerals and energy. Queensland has an abundance of minerals and energy but lacks infrastructure. The aim of the project is to provide transmission infrastructure to those in the North-West Minerals Providence. It is an exciting collaboration between State and Federal Governments. The repowering of CopperString will provide employment opportunities for 3500 employees across Queensland for 30 years.

The economic importance of the resources sector generally, its relationship with First Nations peoples and its positive contributions to social outcomes such as domestic and family violence prevention and employees' mental health were also discussed.

The Ambassadors are keen to increase their understanding of the role of the resources sector in Queensland's recovery from COVID-19.

Youth Justice

Ambassadors welcomed a representative from the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs, and heard about the role of non-government service providers in delivering the Queensland Youth Justice Strategy. Council was interested to hear about the processes for procuring, contract managing and performance auditing of services.

The Ambassadors acknowledge the importance of wrap around services and working with welfare services to keep new offenders out of detention, and therefore changing their trajectory. Council heard about the following new initiatives:

- Co-responder model
- Navigate your Health
- Integrated intensive case management
- Specialist multi agency response teams
- Transition to Success
- Place based community and diversion
- Trial of on country
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family-Led Decision Making

Ambassadors look forward to continuing to learn more about the complex and challenging issues associated with youth crime and youth justice in the new year.

Queensland Government Community Objectives

Ambassadors discussed the Queensland Government's objectives for the Community and the budget highlights. The government's objectives for the community are built around Unite and Recover – Queensland's Economic Recovery Plan. The objectives are long-term and can be achieved by everyone involved working together. The objectives are:

- **Safeguarding our health:** Safeguard people's health and jobs by keeping Queensland pandemic-ready.
- **Supporting jobs:** Support increased jobs in more industries to diversify the Queensland economy and build on existing strengths in agriculture, resources and tourism.
- **Backing small business:** Help small business, the backbone of the state's economy, thrive in a changing environment.

- **Making it for Queensland:** Grow manufacturing across traditional and new industries, making new products in new ways and creating new jobs.
- **Building Queensland:** Drive investment in the infrastructure that supports our recovery, resilience and future prosperity.
- **Growing our regions:** Help Queensland's regions grow by attracting people, talent and investment, and driving sustainable economic prosperity.
- **Investing in skills:** Ensure Queenslanders have the skills they need to find meaningful jobs and set up pathways for the future.
- **Backing our frontline services:** Deliver world-class frontline services in key areas such as health, education and community safety.
- **Protecting the environment:** Protect and enhance our natural environment and heritage for future generations and achieve a 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030.

Looking forward to 2021

The Ambassadors Council noted the strong links between the Government's objectives for the community and the Queensland Plan.

Ambassadors acknowledged the COVID-19 pandemic has taken a significant toll on Queensland's people, communities and economy and are keen to support Queensland's economic recovery. The Ambassadors Council will focus on the following elements in 2021:

- Building an inclusive society
- Health and wellbeing of Queensland's young people
- Using collective impact and placed based solutions to improve community service delivery and economic development
- Promoting innovation in our regions to create new businesses and employment opportunities.

The Ambassadors Council will actively engage with communities on these priorities as well as using networks and contacts to distribute appropriate information about programs and investment to the community. Ambassadors are also keen to learn more about Government and community programs within these priority focus areas as well as programs and investment that further Government's objectives.

Council looks forward to holding at least one meeting next year in a regional centre and meeting and engaging with local businesses, government services and community in the agenda items of the day.

Ambassadors are committed to engaging with representatives from across the Queensland community and welcome ongoing interest in their work.