



Local Thriving Communities Joint Coordinating Committee Communiqué – No.4

22 September 2021 – Brisbane and remotely via Teams

The Local Thriving Communities Joint Coordinating Committee met in Brisbane and online on 22 September 2021.

LTC Implementation

Ms Michelle Deshong co-chaired the meeting as Co-Chair Susan Sewter was unable to attend. Dr Chris Sarra provided an acknowledgement of Country and Traditional Custodians in Brisbane and other parts of Queensland where members and guests were joining from online.

The Committee noted Local Thriving Communities (LTC) community implementation updates, including progress of local decision-making in communities. The Committee noted progress in Napranum since the last meeting, with the formation of a Local Thriving Communities Advisory Committee to the Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council on 31 August 2021. The Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council Chief Executive Officer Janelle Menzies provided an update on the Advisory Committee, which has broad representation from across community and endorsed Terms of Reference.

The 'Wik Thonam' (Wik One Voice) leadership group in Aurukun met on 29 July 2021. Key community priorities identified by the group include education, health, employment, trauma counselling, alcohol management, domestic violence and development of a youth program. A meeting was held on 16 September 2021 during which Wik Thonam indicated an interest in meeting with the Ministerial and Government Champion in Aurukun when they visit in October 2021. This request is being supported and arrangements for this engagement are underway.

The Committee discussed opportunities to embrace community-led decision-making approaches in urban and regional locations. This aligns with the Statement of Commitment to a Reframed Relationship and reform initiatives such as the National Agreement on Closing the Gap to support strengthening and establishing formal partnerships and shared decision-making with First Nations peoples.

An update was provided on the Queensland Government's renewed approach to alcohol management. Community-specific and co-designed Community Safety Plans submitted to date include strategies to improve safety and wellbeing, reduce demand, address sly grog and homebrew and promote positive alcohol culture. Proposals for changes to carriage limits and/or for licensed premises identified in the Community Safety Plans are being considered by the Alcohol Management Interagency Working Group which includes agencies such as Queensland Police, Queensland Health and the Office of Liquor and Gaming.

The Committee noted that inter-agency working groups of subject matter experts are progressing work on draft actions to progress the key priority areas from the LTC Implementation Plan including investment mapping, mapping current legislative procurement and legislative frameworks, whole-of-government capacity building and standing up Local Decision Making Bodies. The working groups are

considering how to facilitate local decision-making through existing mechanisms and will focus on opportunities and challenges identified in each priority area. This work will drive the whole-of-government activity required to ensure government readiness and support for successful local decision-making and improved design and delivery of services.

The Department of Education presented to the Committee on the Local Community Engagement through Co-Design model that has been endorsed as the preferred approach to the design and delivery of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student engagement programs. A key feature of the Department of Education approach is the establishment of Local Community Education Bodies supported by Local Regional Community Education Boards. The Committee discussed opportunities presented by this work to facilitate whole-of-government coordination and enable self-determination at the local level as part of the LTC reform.

Local Community Education Bodies will assist in improving outcomes in a range of measures including the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students achieving a C or above in English and mathematics and increasing retention of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from Year 10 to 12. Collaboration between the Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and the Department of Education will continue to ensure the operation of local decision-making structures in the communities are complementary.

Community members presented on the development of Practice Guidelines which will assist communities in the establishment and operations of Local Decision Making Bodies. Practice Guidelines will include matters such as cultural governance, organisational governance, representation, accountability to community about decision-making and principles of engagement with government.

An update was provided on the New National Agreement on Closing the Gap and the release of *Queensland's 2021 Closing the Gap Implementation Plan* on 13 August 2021. The Plan documents how the Queensland Government is working to address the priority reforms and socio-economic targets in the National Agreement and how progress will be evaluated. The Plan also documents the ongoing significant structural reforms the Government is and will implement to share decision making with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Again, the Committee noted the opportunity to ensure the Queensland Government maintains a whole-of-government coordinated approach in its implementation of *Closing the Gap* in line with the LTC commitment.

This includes the opportunity presented to establish place-based partnerships, a decision-making structure that brings together multiple levels of government and communities. Place-based partnerships can leverage existing place-based approaches and there will be further engagement with the Committee to explore potential connections and linkages with LTC, including emerging leadership structures in regional and urban areas. The Plan also focuses on strengthening Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled services which aligns with the service delivery reform aspects of LTC. LTC and the Closing the Gap reform agenda will continue to work together to progress the priority reforms and report back to the Committee.

LTC Joint Coordinating Committee Meeting 22 September 2021 Attendance

Attendees	Dr Chris Sarra (Co-Chair)	Director-General, Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
	Ms Michelle Deshong (Acting Co-Chair)	Community representative
	Ms Kelly Barclay	Community representative
	Ms Joann Schmider	Community representative
	Ms Jennifer Lang	Deputy Director-General, Justice Services, Department of Justice and Attorney-General
	Mr Drew Ellem	Head, Policy and Performance, Queensland Treasury
	Ms Natalie Wilde	Deputy Director-General, Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning
	Mr Leon Proud	Assistant Director-General, State Schools – Indigenous Education, Department of Education (Proxy for Mr Peter Kelly)
	Mr Ron Weatherall	Executive Director, Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs (Proxy for Ms Kate Connors)
	Ms Sharon Kenyon	A/Executive Director, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing, Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy (Proxy for Ms Trish Woolley)
	Ms Kyla Hayden	Senior Director, Social Policy, Department of the Premier and Cabinet (Proxy for Mr Mark Cridland)
	Mr Chris Hodgman	Acting Chief Superintendent, Queensland Police Service (Proxy for Mr Paul Taylor)
	Ms Jessica Oostenbrook	Senior Director, Strategy Branch, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Division (Proxy for Ms Haylene Grogan)
	Ms Marnie Wettenhall	Regional Manager, North Qld Region, Eastern Group, National Indigenous Australians Agency (Proxy for Mr Robert Willmet)
	Apologies	Mayor Patricia Yusia
Mayor Janita Motton		Mayor, Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council
Mayor Mislam Sam		Mayor, Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council
Mayor Josh Weazel		Mayor, Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council
Mayor Kyle Yanner		Mayor, Mornington Shire Council
Mr Michael Bond		Community representative
Ms Susan Sewter (Co-Chair)		Community representative
Ms Zhanae Conway-Dodd		Youth representative nominee
Mr Robert Wilmet		National Indigenous Australians Agency, Commonwealth Government

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	Ms Haylene Grogan	Chief Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Officer and Deputy Director-General, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Division, Queensland Health
	Mr Paul Taylor	Deputy Commissioner, Queensland Police Service
	Mr Peter Kelly	Deputy Director-General, State Schools, Department of Education
	Mr Mark Cridland	Acting Director-General, Department of the Premier and Cabinet
	Ms Trish Woolley	Deputy Director-General, Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy
Guests	Ms Janelle Menzies	CEO, Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council
	Ms Priscilla Holborn	Manager, Engagement – State Schools – Indigenous Education, Department of Education
	Mr Bruce Visser	Director, Social Policy, Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
Other attendees	Ms Kathy Parton	Deputy Director-General, Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
	Mr Tim Fell	Executive Director, Local Thriving Communities, Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
	Ms Michelle Hoffman	Manager Governance and Policy, Local Thriving Communities, Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
	Ms Jaya Foley	Senior Project Officer, Local Thriving Communities, Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships