

State Budget 2009–10

Department of Communities

Agency Budget Highlights



Queensland Government

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The Honourable
Desley Boyle MP
Minister for Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander
Partnerships

Messages from the Ministers

Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships

Working in partnership with the Australian Government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander shire councils, the Queensland Government has reaffirmed its commitment to addressing the disadvantages faced by Indigenous Queenslanders.

The injection of funding in this Budget will make significant inroads to improving the life experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders and drive reforms in social services, improve infrastructure and increase service delivery capacity in some of the most remote areas in the State.

This Budget funds a new cross-agency approach to land use planning and administration in Indigenous communities, heralding one of the most significant changes to Indigenous land tenure in Queensland.

It also provides for continuing the Cape York Welfare Reform trial and improving child safety, economic opportunity, social responsibility and housing in all Indigenous communities.

Underscoring this commitment, \$196.1 million is allocated to build or acquire 264 new rental units, improve 1300 houses and conduct maintenance on 4300 units for Indigenous Queenslanders.

We are also entering a new era of shared understanding with Indigenous communities and working with governments at all levels to coordinate improved services and deliver meaningful long-term change where it counts the most.

In partnership with other agencies, we will continue to roll out the \$66.4 million Alcohol Reform Initiative and establish Wellbeing Centres to deliver support services including drug, alcohol and general counselling services.

This is a sound Budget that delivers jobs, housing and significant social reforms for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Queensland.

The Honourable Desley Boyle MP
Minister for Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander Partnerships

Minister for Disability Services and Multicultural Affairs

The Bligh Government, working with the Australian Government, has delivered a substantially increased Budget of \$1.4 billion in recurrent funding and \$75 million in capital funding, so that with our non-government partners, we can support people with a disability and their families and carers.

Through our Q2 ambition to create fairer and more caring communities, recurrent funding across the sector will increase by:

- 12 per cent to \$926.2 million for disability services
- 16 per cent to \$446.8 million for home and community care
- 13 per cent to \$26.1 million for mental health services.

The Budget delivers on priority areas of early intervention, particularly for children with a disability, and assisting younger people with a disability to move out of aged care facilities.

Families will have more choice, with an extra \$1.1 million over two years to pilot self-managed funding, under the auspices of non-government organisations, for families with children and young people with a disability.

Our \$47.8 million commitment over five years with the Australian Government will continue to assist younger people with a disability to access more appropriate accommodation.

This year \$15.3 million will be directed to redesigning our specialist disability service system to make it fairer and more responsive.

Our multicultural sector will continue to be supported with funding of \$5.9 million over three years so councils and community organisations can assist people from culturally diverse backgrounds to access local services.

This Budget works towards a better quality of life and more vibrant and inclusive communities for all Queenslanders.

The Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk MP
Minister for Disability Services
and Multicultural Affairs



The Honourable
Phil Reeves MP
Minister for Child Safety
and Minister for Sport

Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Sport

Queensland's children deserve to grow up in a healthy, safe and happy environment. I am delighted the Bligh Government will again deliver a strong Budget for my portfolio.

In 2009–10, the Government will deliver another record operating Budget of \$638 million to protect our children.

This is a Budget that focuses on support and early intervention to provide support to families whose children risk being taken into care. In particular, we aim to address the rate of Indigenous children being taken into care.

This Budget provides for:

- \$25.3 million to improve the diversity and stability of placements for children with complex and extreme needs, as a strategy to increase the quality of placement options
- continued career progression opportunities for front-line child safety staff as part of a four-year, \$15.1 million initiative
- capital funding of \$9.9 million in 2009–10 to continue the establishment of safe houses in 11 Indigenous communities
- \$2 million increase to more than \$15.5 million for family intervention services to provide practical advice and support to 1700 families.

In addition to the safety and wellbeing of our children, we are committed to making Queenslanders Australia's healthiest people.

This Budget will help Queenslanders to get active and address obesity levels. This year, more than \$142 million has been allocated for sport and recreation infrastructure, programs, activities and services to enable Queenslanders to lead active, healthy lifestyles.

From the local sporting club, right through to supporting elite athletes, this is a Budget that will maintain Queensland's position as a leader in sport and recreation.

The Honourable Phil Reeves MP
Minister for Child Safety and
Minister for Sport



The Honourable
Karen Struthers MP
Minister for Community
Services and Housing
and Minister for Women

Minister for Community Services and Housing and Minister for Women

This Budget will deliver a housing and jobs boost to Queensland. A record \$1.4 billion will be spent on new housing projects right across the State in the biggest ever investment in housing infrastructure since the Chifley era.

This billion-dollar-plus Budget will lead to 4000 new homes being built throughout Queensland over the next three years and thousands of jobs across the State.

It's a win for people who need a roof over their heads and a win for workers in the building industry, and it couldn't have come at a better time. Even in the face of the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, the government will never give up the fight for jobs.

With these funds we will be able to fast-track building projects. Our commitment to Queenslanders is to have most of the new homes built in the next three years. It is an important target because we believe nothing should stand in the way of jobs and homes for Queenslanders who need them most.

This Budget also addresses Queensland's most critical social problems. We are delivering key early intervention services to address youth justice, homelessness and families in crisis, as well as supporting community and non-government organisations.

These organisations are working at the very core of their communities. They understand local needs and are able to come up with local solutions and harness local resources to help people when they need it most.

This Budget also recognises volunteers who contribute to a fairer, more caring Queensland. Their work is now more important than ever. That's why we will deliver a range of programs to boost their numbers, so that they can continue to make a real difference to people's lives.

This is a Budget that will strengthen our communities and steer them through the difficult times ahead.

The Honourable Karen Struthers MP
Minister for Community Services and
Housing and Minister for Women

This Budget provides the new Department of Communities with the resources to help reach the Queensland Government's Q2 vision of a healthier and fairer State. It builds on past achievements, addresses a wide range of service priorities and social issues, and offers a forward-looking vision of fair, cohesive and vibrant communities throughout Queensland.

Government's commitment to sector sustainability

Government is aware of the recent decision to increase award wages for workers in the community services sector. As part of the Government's commitment to jobs – and services that support Queensland's most vulnerable citizens, the Government will provide significant additional funds of \$65 million in 2009–10 increasing to \$125 million recurrently in 2012–13 for allocation, on a prioritised basis, to State-funded services.

This is in recognition of the vital role these services play in realising the Government's vision of a safe and caring community for many dependent and vulnerable Queenslanders.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services

- The Queensland Government will continue to implement the national Indigenous reform agenda to 'close the gap' on Indigenous disadvantage to meet targets for improvements in health, education, economic participation, housing and early childhood development.
- The Government's \$55.4 million commitment to making reparations for lost Indigenous wages and savings will be finalised in 2009–10 ensuring all eligible claimants have been recognised and compensated.

Child Safety Services

- Support to improve the quality, diversity and stability of placements for children in care, who have complex and extreme needs, will be increased by \$25.3 million in recurrent funding.
- Work will continue to reduce the rate of child abuse in Queensland in accordance with the National Child Protection Framework. The provision of child safety facilities, such as safe houses for Indigenous children in remote communities and therapeutic residential care for young people with challenging behaviours, is designed to help reduce the rate at which Indigenous children are taken into care.



- Child protection in 11 Indigenous communities will be strengthened with a focus on providing an immediate 'safe place' within the community. Capital funding of \$9.9 million in 2009–10 will continue the establishment of facilities to ensure children who require out-of-home care are provided the opportunity to remain connected to their family, community and culture.
- Family intervention services that provide practical advice and support to 1700 families will receive a \$2 million boost in 2009–10.
- Front-line staff will benefit from continuing career progression opportunities with \$15.1 million allocated over four years to improve staff retention and development.
- An innovative Indigenous youth mentoring services program in south-west Queensland, focused on reducing the number of children and youths entering the child protection and youth justice systems, will receive \$2.3 million over three years.

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Sport and Recreation Services

- The Budget will deliver more than \$53 million in grants to local governments, clubs and organisations for sport and recreation infrastructure, facilities and programs.
- The successful Find Your 30 campaign will continue to encourage more Queenslanders to find that all-important 30 minutes of activity every day.
- Queensland's reputation as a major sporting destination will be enhanced, with \$2.5 million in 2009–10 to assist with staging the Dunlop Townsville 400, plus \$11.6 million to host the Gold Coast Nitro SuperGP.
- \$60 million will be provided to support the \$130 million redevelopment of the Gold Coast Stadium at Carrara, which will generate more than 350 jobs during construction and contribute \$340 million to the economy over the next 10 years.

Community and Youth Justice Services

- The Cleveland Youth Detention Centre in Townsville will be expanded with a capital funding investment of \$70.2 million in 2009–10 (\$170.7 million over four years). Due for final completion in 2012, the project will provide an increased capacity of 48 beds by 2011 and will generate significant employment opportunities in building and construction.
- The Youth Justice Conferencing program will be boosted with an additional \$0.61 million in recurrent funding to address increased demand for this successful diversionary program.
- A new initiative to improve economic and social outcomes for young people who have recently entered the youth justice system and are at risk of further offending or homelessness will receive an additional funding of \$0.5 million in 2009–10 (\$1.8 million over three years).
- A trial program in Rockhampton that provides an integrated approach to preventing domestic and family violence through case management of service delivery and support will receive an additional \$1.1 million in 2009–10 (\$2.7 million over two years).
- Lifeline will receive an additional \$2 million in 2009–10 to extend its capacity to respond to the financial counselling needs of individuals and families.
- The Seniors Legal and Support Service will also receive \$1.8 million from this year's departmental budget.



Housing and Homelessness Services

- A record \$1.447 billion capital works program will build 1601 rental units, commence construction on 1742 rental units and upgrade existing social housing in Queensland. This will help alleviate shortages in social housing and provide significant employment opportunities in the building and construction industry across the State.
- The standard and supply of housing in Indigenous communities will be improved with a \$196.1 million investment to add 194 rental units in Indigenous communities, replace two units, upgrade 1311 rental units and conduct maintenance on 4336 rental units. The Government will also acquire 70 rental units in non-Indigenous communities.
- The Homelessness National Partnership Agreement is expected to result in additional investment from the Australian Government of \$24.5 million in 2009–10, inclusive of the previously announced A Place to Call Home initiative. This will be matched by the Queensland Government to implement a range of initiatives for people who are chronically homeless or people who are at risk of becoming homeless.

Women's Services

- The Office for Women will provide ongoing policy advice, coordination and implementation across a range of issues affecting women.
- The agenda for 2009–10 includes developing a new strategic direction based on the outcomes of the 2008 review, supporting implementation of the Queensland Domestic and Family Violence Strategy, and facilitating women's leadership and engagement activities throughout Queensland.

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Disability Services

- The Growing Stronger suite of reforms will receive \$15.3 million in 2009–10 to redesign the current specialist disability service system to deliver a fairer, more sustainable system.
- A pilot project to provide a system of self-managed funding, auspiced through a non-government organisation, geared towards families with children and young people with a disability will receive \$0.52 million additional funding in 2009–10 (\$1.1 million over two years).
- Youngcare will receive \$1 million in 2009–10 (\$3 million over three years) for accommodation and support for young people with a disability at a new residential complex on the Gold Coast.
- Purpose-built accommodation in Brisbane for adults with an intellectual or cognitive disability will be upgraded with a \$3.4 million capital investment in 2009–10 (\$16 million over three years) and \$0.8 million recurrent in 2009–10 (\$2.2 million over five years).
- The Home and Community Care Program (HACC) will receive \$44 million in increased funding, including \$28.5 million from the Australian Government, for additional services across Queensland to support the needs of the frail aged, people with disability and their carers.

- Support will be provided for the establishment of community-based businesses that employ people with mental illness. \$1 million will be allocated in 2009–10 (\$2 million over three years).
- Early intervention for young people showing early signs of mental illness will receive a boost with an additional \$2.2 million allocated in 2009–10 (\$6.5 million over three years) to trial two community residential programs.
- \$5 million has been allocated to develop sustainable service responses to support vulnerable people.

Multicultural Services

- The Local Area Multicultural Partnerships (LAMP) and Community Action for a Multicultural Society (CAMS) will provide \$2 million in 2009–10 (\$5.9 million over three years) to support local government and community organisation projects that promote multiculturalism, improve community relations, and increase the capacity of people from culturally diverse backgrounds to access services.
- Multicultural Assistance Program grants, designed to strengthen multiculturalism and foster harmonious community relations and participation, will provide approximately \$0.7 million in funding for community projects and events across the State in 2009–10.



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