

Many Voices

Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages Policy Action Plan Traffic Light Report 2020-2022



Queensland
Government



Traffic Light Report

Many Voices: Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages Policy

The Queensland Government worked in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language experts to co-design and develop the *Many Voices: Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages Policy* (the Languages Policy).

It delivers on the action in the *Queensland Government Reconciliation Action Plan 2018–2022* for a co-designed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages policy to be developed with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

The Languages Policy outlines four priority areas for government action to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages in Queensland are strong, acknowledged, maintained and accessible.

These include:

1. **PATHWAYS:** strategies aimed at developing physical, cultural and social infrastructure that provides strong foundations to support language growth and maintenance.
2. **ACTION AND ACTIVATION:** development of language resources and expertise to grow community capacity to share and encourage the use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages across all Queensland communities.
3. **RESTORATION AND TRANSMISSION:** strategies to increase the number of people speaking Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages regularly including information storage, expertise and local access to learning.
4. **RECOGNITION AND PROMOTION:** strategies to grow community awareness and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages to encourage reconciliation and pride in Queensland’s unique cultural heritage.

About the Traffic Light Report

This Traffic Light Report provides an implementation update on the *Many Voices: Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages Policy Action Plan 2020–2022* and provides an update on the outcomes achieved under the four priority areas for government action, from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2022.

Legend

Traffic Light	Description
Completed	Fully implemented, or now part of business as usual
On track	On track to be completed by due date
Minor delays or complications	Some issues or delays in delivery requiring close monitoring. The impact should not affect the overall success of the program when managed
Discontinued	Not implemented and ceased



PRIORITY 01: PATHWAYS

Pathways is about building the physical, cultural and social infrastructure foundations to support the growth and maintenance of Aboriginal languages and Torres Strait Islander languages in Queensland.

Building a solid foundation of support will enable future actions under the Action Plan to be progressed in future iterations of the Action Plan.

Action	July 2020 – June 2022	
	Responsibility	Status
1.1 Investigate the creation of training packages to support the professional development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language educators.	DoE	On track
1.2 Pilot the delivery of certificate courses and professional development for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language educators.	DoE	Minor delays or complications Procurement of a service provider to deliver the certificate courses and professional development is in progress.
1.3 Engage with local community groups to promote certification opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who are First Nations Language experts.	DSDSATSIP	Discontinued Promotion of certification opportunities for language experts is not feasible for the agencies.
1.4 Development of Family Led Decision-Making to increase the cultural authority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities in the youth justice system with the following Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations: Kurbingui, Wuchopperan, Goolburri and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service (ATSICHS).	DCYJMA	On track
1.5 Support communities through the Stronger Places, Stronger People collective impact initiatives in Logan, Gladstone and Rockhampton to continue to address local issues, including cultural issues and cultural identity.	DCHDE	Discontinued Stronger Places, Stronger People supports community-led responses to local issues, which may include cultural issues, however this depends on the interests and direction of local communities.
1.6 Continue to create economic opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists through cultural expression such as the promotion of traditional language and story sharing through the Backing Indigenous Art initiative.	DCHDE (AQ)	On track
1.7 Continue ongoing management of state-wide whole-of-government language services Standing Offer Arrangement including interpreting and translation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.	QH	On track
1.8 Initiate, develop and establish Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language maintenance and revival through a range of activities across Queensland, through the Indigenous Languages Grants Program.	DoE DSDSATSIP	On track



PRIORITY 02: ACTION + ACTIVATION

Action and activation focuses on sharing and encouraging the development of language expertise and resources to grow capacity.

Nurturing relationships, developing skills, building capacity, and influencing people, agencies, and organisations, to encourage the ongoing development and increased use of Aboriginal languages and Torres Strait Islander languages over time.

Action	July 2020 – June 2022	
	Responsibility	Status
2.1 Continue the employment and contracting of accredited Magistrate Court interpreters, such as the Wik Mungkan interpreters at the Aurukun Magistrates Court.	DJAG	Minor delays or complications Based on availability of Wik interpreters.
2.2 Continue to provide funding to the Aurukun Community Indigenous Corporation as part of the Aurukun Restorative Justice Program to Thaa' Pant to deliver peacekeeping and meditation services, including meditations conducted in Wik Mungkan language.	DJAG	On track
2.3 Increase the use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages in and across all aspects of cultural tourism.	DTIS	On track
2.4 Support the Murridhagun Cultural Centre to provide cultural support, including language speakers, and advice to Queensland Corrective Services staff to support the relationship Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners have with their cultural identity.	QCS	On track
2.5 Implement the Australian Curriculum Framework for Aboriginal Languages and Torres Strait Islander Languages in Queensland State Schools.	DoE	On track
2.6 Optimise the translation of Bushfire Awareness and Preparedness materials into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages statewide.	QFES	Discontinued Following preliminary project scope, it was determined not feasible to translate all Bushfire Awareness and Preparedness materials across the state due to high-cost, numerous languages versus low demand.



PRIORITY 03: RESTORATION + TRANSMISSION

Restoration and transmission will focus on strategies that encourage an increase in the number of people regularly speaking Aboriginal languages and Torres Strait Islander languages, including information storage, expertise and access to learning.

The outcome of this priority is to see an increased number of peoples speaking, sharing and storing Aboriginal languages and Torres Strait Islander languages, resulting in an easier transmission of languages in future.

Action	July 2020 – June 2022	
	Responsibility	Status
3.1 Explore the viability of small grant funding for artists to provide community-based art activities that promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.	DCHDE (AQ) DSDSATSIP	On track
3.2 Provide community access to the recording facilities at the Bulmba-ja Arts Centre (Cairns) to preserve, maintain and promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.	DCHDE (AQ)	On track
3.3 Embed active efforts to implement and give full effect to all five elements of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle across the five system elements of the family support system (legislation, policy, programs, processes and practice). In particular, the Connection principle reinforces a child's right to be supported to develop and maintain a connection with the child's family, community, culture, traditions and language, particularly when the child is in the care of a person who is not an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person.	DCYJMA	On track
3.4 Provide tools and professional development to public libraries and Indigenous Knowledge Centres so they can support communities to record and document languages.	DCHDE (SLQ)	On track
3.5 Support Queensland State Schools and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to work together to increase the growth of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language through use in the classroom.	DoE	On track
3.6 Provide guidance on the Copyright and Intellectual Property rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language speakers to protect the cultural property created during the development of teaching materials in schools.	DoE	On track



PRIORITY 04: RECOGNITION + PROMOTION

Recognition and promotion seeks to increase awareness and understanding of Aboriginal languages and Torres Strait Islander languages at a wider community level.

This will encourage reconciliation and pride in Queensland's unique cultural heritage and embed Aboriginal languages and Torres Strait Islander languages as an integral part of Queensland's future growth and development.

Action	July 2020 – June 2022	
	Responsibility	Status
4.1 Provide professional development opportunities for teachers to enable them to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students whose first language is a language or dialect other than English.	DoE	On track
4.2 Explore strategies for the recognition and promotion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages through place names.	DoR	Minor delays or complications The minor delay is due to an administrative delay in signing the contract.
4.3 Explore the impact of history on Aboriginal peoples' and Torres Strait Islander peoples' languages as part of truth telling and healing and the Path to Treaty.	DSDSATSIP	On track
4.4 Provide early childhood education and care services with information on including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages in their early childhood programs, through capability development, newsletters and websites such as Foundation for Success.	DoE	On track
4.5 Work in partnership across government to support and promote the value of recognising, reinvigorating and promoting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, including traditional languages.	DSDSATSIP	Completed
4.6 Ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language is incorporated into work across the Queensland Government as part of Acknowledgement of Country.	DSDSATSIP	On track



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Action	July 2020 – June 2022	
	Responsibility	Status
4.7 Explore strategies to support all schools to recognise and acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Country and languages of their school location on signage and school websites.	DoE	Minor delays or complications A strategy to support schools to recognise and acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Country and languages of their school location on signage and school websites through a co-design process with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members is yet to commence. Initial scoping identified that due to the size and complexity of the action, an extended planning period is required to design a strategy that supports all schools to appropriately recognise and acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Countries and languages of their location on school signage and websites.
4.8 Continue to use the 'Look to the Stars' artwork to encourage conversations, across all languages, and work towards reconciliation, understanding and respect.	QPS	On track
4.9 Support and guide non-Indigenous organisations/operators to engage and promote traditional languages in a respectful way by linking with Traditional Owners and key Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language stakeholders.	DSDSATSIP	On track
4.10 Develop a 'Culturally Respectful Language Guide' to inform preparation of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet's internal and external documents and communications.	DPC	Completed



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Action	July 2020 – June 2022	
	Responsibility	Status
4.11 Increase the naming of shared meeting spaces in 1 William Street using Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages to grow awareness and understanding.	DPC DSDSATSIP	Minor delays or complications Acknowledging the inherent connection between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages, and Country is imperative to ensuring the appropriate and authorised language is used for naming purposes. Identifying the First Nations parties in Brisbane with cultural authority is complex. Department of the Premier and Cabinet and Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships will continue to engage with First Nations peoples in Brisbane to guide consultation on the naming of shared spaces in 1 William Street.
4.12 Areas within Queensland Corrective Service facilities continue to acknowledge Traditional language through the naming of areas.	QCS	On track
4.13 Increase the recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages and build stronger relationships with First Nations peoples through the implementation of a National Parks First Nations Naming Project sprint.	DES	Completed The original project was a sprint project that ended in December 2020 and reverted to business as usual. All project outcomes and milestones were reported through the Department of Environment and Sciences Delivery Office.
4.14 Encourage the revitalisation of language in alignment with the Gurra Gurra Framework 2020–2026 through appropriate and authorised use of language.	DES	On track
4.15 Continue the use of Indigenous interpretive signage and physical activities across Queensland Recreation Centres to promote awareness and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages and culture.	DTIS	On track
4.16 Increase the recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages and build stronger relationships with First Nations peoples through the implementation of the Department of Transport and Main Road's Naming of Infrastructure Policy.	DTMR	On track

Glossary of Acronyms

Department	Abbreviation
Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy	DCHDE
Arts Queensland	AQ
State Library of Queensland	SLQ
Queensland State Archives	QSA
Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs	DCYJMA
Department of Environment and Science	DES
Department of Justice and Attorney-General	DJAG
Department of Education	DoE
Department of the Premier and Cabinet	DPC
Department of Resources	DoR
Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships	DSDSATSIP
Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport	DTIS
Department of Transport and Main Roads	DTMR
Queensland Corrective Services	QCS
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services	QFES
Queensland Health	QH
Queensland Police Service	QPS

Acknowledgement

We pay our respects to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ancestors of this land, their spirits and their legacy. The foundations laid by these ancestors—our First Australians—give strength, inspiration and courage to current and future generations, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, towards creating a better Queensland.

We recognise it is our collective efforts and responsibility as individuals, communities and governments to ensure equality, recognition and advancement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders across all aspects of society and everyday life.

On behalf of the Queensland Government, we offer a genuine commitment to fearlessly represent, advocate for and promote the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders with unwavering determination, passion and persistence.

As we reflect on the past and give hope for the future, we walk together on our shared journey to reconciliation where all Queenslanders are equal.

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