

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC SECURITY STATEMENT



Queensland Budget 2026-27

Delivering opportunity, security and support for Queensland women

Queensland women are at the centre of our communities, our economy, and our future. They are raising families, building careers, running small businesses, volunteering in local organisations, caring for loved ones and helping keep communities strong, often while balancing increasing pressures at home and at work.

Across Queensland, women are contributing every day. They are the people families rely on and the people communities depend on.

The 2026-27 Women's Economic Security Statement outlines how the Government is delivering practical support for Queensland women at every stage of life. Rather than looking at programs in isolation, this statement outlines the conditions that give women the confidence and opportunity to participate fully in the Queensland economy and community.

This statement highlights investments that help women:

- participate in the workforce
- build skills and confidence
- access affordable and secure housing
- receive healthcare closer to home
- balance work and family responsibilities
- stay safe in their communities
- create greater financial independence.

The Queensland Government believes economic security is the foundation of opportunity. These investments are supporting women to build secure futures for themselves, their families and their communities.



SUPPORTING WOMEN INTO WORK AND CAREERS

The Queensland Government is empowering women with the tools, training, and financial knowledge to build careers, businesses, and leadership opportunities. By supporting women to balance work and family life, this strengthens financial independence and drives economic growth across the state.

Key initiatives

- Delivering further rounds of the Women's Career Grants to help more Queensland women with the costs of returning to work, including workwear, child care and technology with \$10 million remaining for future funding rounds.
- Helping women aged over 40 return to work or study through Jobs Academy with \$2 million in 2026-27.
- Addressing barriers to women's economic and financial security, with \$540,000 per year ongoing through the Empowering Queensland Women grant program to deliver grants of up to \$10,000 to community organisations.
- Helping more women return to the workforce and improve their work opportunities through the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program with \$80 million per year ongoing for the program.
- Boosting the number of women in the resources sector through ongoing delivery of the Women in Resources: Empowering Development (WIRED) pilot program with \$150,000 in 2026-27.
- Supporting female founders to build investment capability and connect with investors through the Backing Female Founders Program with \$2.8 million in 2026-27.
- Supporting women and girls to pursue careers in industries where women have been underrepresented, including through the Women in Manufacturing program which will attract and retain women in the manufacturing industry with \$200,000 in 2026-27 and the Women in Engineering initiative to encourage women to study STEM subjects and pursue engineering careers with \$52,000 in 2026-27.
- Delivering support for female students to participate in STEM education through the STEM Girl Power initiative providing access to world-class STEM learning with \$160,000 per year ongoing and Engaging Science Grants with \$500,000 in 2026-27.
- Delivering the Financing Growth Fund, which includes support for female-owned and led social enterprises and for-purpose organisations as part of Queensland's \$80 million Social Enterprise and Impact Investing Roadmap with up to \$12 million over three years from 2026-27.

DELIVERING REAL OUTCOMES FOR QUEENSLAND WOMEN



Rounds 1 and 2 of the **Women's Career Grants** supported more than **2,100** Queensland women with grants of up to \$4,999 to ease financial barriers to employment and help them rejoin the workforce with confidence.



Round 1 of the **Empowering Queensland Women grant program** supported more than **3,000** Queensland women to access events and programs that strengthen economic security, including financial literacy, business skills, networking and leadership development.



Skilling Queenslanders for Work has supported a further **12,840** women to develop job-ready skills and pathways into employment since 2024-25 with over **7,700** gaining jobs.

SUPPORTING FAMILIES AND EASING PRESSURES

The Queensland Government is delivering the largest ongoing cost of living relief package in Queensland's history, including lower power prices in 2026-27 through the Energy Roadmap Price Drop. This support eases financial pressures on families, enhances women's wellbeing, promotes workforce participation, and improves stability for children.

Key initiatives

- \$2.1 billion over four years to continue access to 15 hours per week of free kindy for all four-year-olds for up to 40 weeks per year, and programs that support access to quality services.
- Increasing the Back to School Boost by 50% to provide a \$150 annual credit to every primary school student enrolled in Queensland to help families with the cost of books, excursions, sports fees and uniforms with \$141.2 million over four years from 2026-27.
- Continuing the roll out of \$200 Play On! Sports Vouchers offering Queensland families discounted registration, participation and membership fees when enrolling their kids in the sports they love, with \$62.5 million per year ongoing.
- Supporting women and families experiencing financial vulnerability through the Financial Literacy and Resilience program delivering financial counselling and support with \$5.1 million per year ongoing.
- Expanding the Healthy Kindy Kids program to deliver free vision, hearing, speech and language checks for children in an approved kindergarten program with \$8.8 million in 2026-27.
- Delivering additional G'Day Little Queenslander events to support families with young children by connecting them to government programs and services with \$2.3 million in 2026-27.
- Supporting the Living Away from Home Allowance Scheme, helping eligible Queensland families whose children need to live away from home to attend a state school or an accredited non-state school with tuition fees, travel expenses and boarding costs with \$12.5 million per year ongoing.
- Supporting the First 5 Forever program by providing parents and caregivers with resources designed to develop learning in the early years by helping to build literacy skills with \$5 million per year.

In focus: supporting access to early childhood education and care

The 2026-27 Budget is investing \$20 million per year to deliver the *Queensland Early Childhood Workforce Strategy 2025-2028*, to help attract new early childhood educators, build career pathways, strengthen support, and improve access to professional learning.

In partnership with the Federal Government, the Queensland Government is delivering five new and expanded not-for-profit early learning services co-located with schools in Far North, Southern and Central Queensland through the Building Early Education Fund. The Queensland Government has secured up to \$50 million in federal government funding to support around 352 additional early childhood education and care places by 2028.

To deliver the strongest child protection system in the nation, the Queensland Government is strengthening child safety protections and fast-tracking child safety reforms including in early childhood education.

SAFE AND SECURE HOUSING

A safe and secure home is essential for women's independence, stability, and long-term financial security. Through the Securing our Housing Foundations Plan, the Queensland Government is delivering a place to call home for more Queenslanders, housing and support services, empowering women to rebuild their lives and achieve stability.

Key initiatives

- Delivering an additional 53,500 social and community homes with increased funding of \$1.024 billion over five years, as part of the Government's commitment to deliver one million new homes by 2044.
- Unlocking thousands of new homes across Queensland sooner, doubling Round 2 of the Residential Activation Fund to \$1 billion.
- Delivering 20 new purpose-built homes and integrated support services for young mothers and their children experiencing or at risk of homelessness through the \$30 million Housing for Families Program.
- Providing support for shelters, including counselling and support services for women and children experiencing domestic and family violence, in partnership with the Federal Government with \$240.9 million over four years and \$60.2 million per year ongoing.
- Delivering frontline housing and homelessness services to support vulnerable people including those experiencing domestic and family violence with increased funding of \$450.1 million over four years and \$165.5 million in 2026-27. This is in addition to the 20% uplift to specialist homelessness services provided in the 2025-26 Budget which totalled \$208.9 million over four years to 2028-29.
- Providing information and services that support older women seeking secure, affordable and appropriate housing through the Housing Older Women's Support Service with \$1.6 million in 2026-27.
- Supporting home ownership through the Queensland Government's flagship Boost to Buy scheme with \$330 million to support up to 2,000 first home buyers.
- Supporting Better Together Housing to deliver housing options for women aged over 55 by bringing together like-minded and compatible older women to explore affordable shared housing options with \$1.1 million over three years from 2026-27.

DELIVERING REAL OUTCOMES FOR QUEENSLAND WOMEN



Construction has started on **47 units for women aged over 55 in Mango Hill**, contributing to the pipeline of more than **670 social and affordable homes** underway in the Moreton Bay region as at 31 May 2026.



More than 50 women including single mothers have successfully received pre-approval to access **\$9.4 million in equity** through Boost to Buy, helping them progress to home ownership.



Commenced delivery of **ten new and replacement domestic and family violence shelters**, with the first completed in late 2025 and additional sites progressing through planning and design to expand access to safe accommodation for those in need.

Case study: Boost to Buy

32-year-old Chelsea, a registered nurse from Mackay, purchased her first home in February 2026 with help from the Boost to Buy scheme after five years of saving. The scheme allowed her to buy sooner than planned, providing financial stability and relief from the challenges of the rental market.

"I'm incredibly grateful to have received Queensland's Boost to Buy support to purchase my first home," Chelsea said. "As a single woman, I worked hard to save but felt priced out of the market. The scheme helped me buy sooner, giving me housing security and a more stable, confident future."



SAFER COMMUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

The Queensland Government is committed to ending all forms of violence against women and girls, ensuring they are safe and respected in every aspect of life. By prioritising safety, the Government enables women and girls to fully participate in education, employment, and community life.

Key initiatives

- Delivering stronger laws, more police, court upgrades and early intervention and rehabilitation programs, enhancing protections for women and children, including through the provision of Daniel's Law and domestic and family violence prevention and protection measures.
- Doubling the capacity of Womensline and Mensline domestic and family violence services and delivering a new North Queensland Hub, supporting improved performance of the Statewide Crisis Intake and Referral Service with \$31.3 million over four years from 2025-26.
- Delivering three HOPE Hub recovery centres to enhance protections for victims of domestic and family violence with \$1.2 million in 2026-27 as part of a \$7.8 million commitment.
- Delivering electronic monitoring to hold high risk domestic and family violence offenders to account with \$4.8 million in 2026-27 and \$6.8 million per year ongoing.
- Strengthening forensic services by delivering a modernised Forensic Science Queensland with greater leadership, accountability, governance and quality with \$37.1 million over four years and \$6.9 million per year ongoing.
- Delivering three Women's Legal Services with \$108 million over five years co-funded with the Federal Government through the National Access to Justice Partnership (NAJP), and two Family Violence Prevention and Legal Services with just over \$79 million over five years through the NAJP.
- Establishing peak bodies in Queensland to strengthen support for victim-survivors and enhance advocacy with \$5.2 million over five years and \$1.2 million per year ongoing for a sexual violence peak body and \$1.3 million in 2026-27 for a domestic and family violence peak body.
- Supporting My Community Legal to improve domestic and family violence support on the southern Gold Coast with \$800,000 over four years as part of a \$1 million commitment.
- Completing the delivery of domestic and family violence courthouse improvements in Cairns, Brisbane, Rockhampton, Maroochydore and Mackay with \$24.9 million in 2026-27.
- Supporting Legal Aid Queensland to deliver domestic and family violence duty lawyer services in 22 courts across the state with \$2.1 million per year ongoing.
- Helping collect, repair and distribute free mobile phones to victims of domestic violence through the DV Safe Phone initiative with \$650,000 over three years from 2026-27 as part of a \$1 million commitment.
- Embedding domestic and family violence specialist practitioners in police stations to strengthen integrated approaches to domestic and family violence with \$44.8 million over four years from 2026-27 and \$11.2 million per year ongoing.
- Delivering advice, assistance and representation to protect the counselling records of victims or alleged victims of sexual assault from being used in some courts through the Counselling Notes Protect Service with \$669,000 per year ongoing.
- Enabling court support workers to deliver support to women with domestic violence mentions, Domestic Violence Order breaches and hearings with \$623,000 in 2026-27 as part of \$2.5 million over four years.
- Continuing to implement key recommendations from the *Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce – Hear Her Voice* report including \$4.4 million per year ongoing to train police prosecutors and liaison officers and other legal staff on the nature and impact of domestic and family violence.

DELIVERING REAL OUTCOMES FOR QUEENSLAND WOMEN



Fully cleared the backlog of more than 600 untested rape kits and cleared 70% of major crime DNA samples, restoring confidence in the forensic system and delivering justice to victims.



Doubling the capacity of Womensline and Mensline domestic and family violence services, with almost 55,000 calls made to the service from 1 July 2025 to 30 March 2026.



Opened the first of three new HOPE Hubs at Orion Springfield Central in Ipswich to deliver wrap-around supports for women and children experiencing domestic and family violence.

In focus: ending violence against women and girls

While safety is a priority for every Queenslander, women and girls remain overrepresented as victims of serious offences, including sexual assault and domestic and family violence.

The new *Safer Families, Safer Communities: A domestic and family violence reform strategy for Queensland* will reset and reform the Government's approach to domestic and family violence, prioritising prevention and early intervention, responding to those using violence and supporting prevention through recovery and healing.

Additional measures being progressed include:

- introducing new laws to criminalise the creation of non-consensual intimate images generated or altered using digital technology, criminalising the creation of 'deepfake' sexually explicit images of a person without their consent using digital technology
- strengthening the *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992* to limit the use of 'good character' evidence for sexual offences and requiring courts to treat sexual offences against children as more serious
- delivering major domestic and family violence reforms, including 12-month on-the-spot police protection orders, GPS trackers for high-risk offenders and the use of video recorded evidence in court
- expanding restricted prisoner laws to apply to all prisoners serving a life sentence, meaning dangerous offenders who commit the most heinous crimes, including murder, could remain behind bars for up to ten more years.

WOMEN'S HEALTH AND WELLBEING

With a \$31.486 billion health budget, the Queensland Government is restoring access to essential services and improving health outcomes for women. The *Hospital Rescue Plan* delivers three new and 10 expanded hospitals, boosts workforce capacity, and restores critical maternity services in regional and remote areas for health services when you need them.

Key initiatives

- Delivering an additional 46,000 health workers by 2032 including 34,200 clinicians and 18,700 nurses and midwives as part of Queensland's largest health workforce expansion.
- Implementing legislated but previously unfunded midwife-to-postnatal-patient ratios within Queensland's most advanced maternity services with \$13.3 million in 2026-27 and \$48.7 million over four years.
- Delivering 30 new perinatal mental health mother and baby beds in Townsville, Cairns, Sunshine Coast, Ipswich, Logan and Brisbane with \$25.7 million in 2026-27 and \$42.8 million per year ongoing.
- Supporting reproductive leave entitlements for Queensland public sector employees to support employees manage a range of reproductive health needs.
- Delivering the Endometriosis and Persistent Pelvic Pain Interdisciplinary Clinical Service to provide services including medical, nursing and allied health services in the one location and allow another 200 patients to be seen annually with \$1.2 million in 2026-27 and \$1.3 million per year ongoing from 2027-28.
- Delivering free breast screening to women over 40 through BreastScreen Queensland in partnership with the Federal Government with more than \$69 million per year.
- Providing greater access to free period products through Dignity Vending Machines available to all Queensland state primary, secondary and special schools, outdoor and environmental education centres and student residential facilities that register to receive one with \$7.9 million in 2026-27.
- Delivering nation-leading wages and conditions for nurses and midwives to attract, recruit and retain the best nurses and midwives in Queensland.
- Axing the Patients' Tax to stop Queenslanders paying more when they visit their general practitioner, protecting local health services and easing pressure on hospital emergency departments.

DELIVERING REAL OUTCOMES FOR QUEENSLAND WOMEN



Restoring maternity services with a **new birthing suite for Biloela Hospital** and the **new Women and Family Health Centre in Gladstone Hospital**.



Enabling **up to 56 additional graduate midwives to be trained and recruited into regional and rural hospitals** through the Midwifery Clinical Facilitator Program.



Almost **260,000 women received a breast screen from BreastScreen Queensland in 2025**, with increased access to breast screening services provided through a **new health hub in Maroochydore** and a **mobile breast screening service in Townsville**.

SUPPORTING REGIONAL AND ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER WOMEN

The 2026-27 Budget invests in essential services for women in regional Queensland and supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women with locally-led programs. By improving access to healthcare, education, and employment closer to home, the Government reduces pressures and fosters better long-term outcomes.

Key initiatives

- Enabling women living in rural, remote and regional Queensland to access health care by increasing the fuel subsidy under the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme from 34 cents per kilometre to 45 cents per kilometre for eligible patients travelling for specialist medical services not available locally.
- Delivering Free Kindy of up to 30 hours per week for up to 40 weeks per year for four-year-old children for select discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, dependent on community needs.
- Creating around 352 early childhood education and care places by the end of 2028 across Far North, Southern and Central Queensland through new and expanded not-for-profit early learning services, delivered in partnership with the Federal Government under the Building Early Education Fund.
- Increasing access to training and skilling pathways in regional and remote areas across Queensland through the *Right Skills Strategy 2025-2028*, delivering world-class training facilities and training solutions that can help women in regional Queensland pursue new career opportunities and work closer to home.
- Delivering the new Women and Family Health Centre in Gladstone Hospital, providing 13 single maternity rooms with ensuites, two new birthing rooms, two early-labour or induction suites, a newborn nursery, and eight single paediatric rooms with ensuites.
- Establishing an advanced, comprehensive and multidisciplinary pelvic pain and endometriosis service in North Queensland, with outreach services to Cairns, Mackay and Mount Isa, with \$3.2 million in 2026-27 and \$3.5 million per year ongoing.
- Supporting access to high-quality maternity services for women in Queensland who are giving birth to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander babies with \$3 million in 2026-27.
- Supporting the NRL Cowboys House – Girls Campus to deliver wrap-around support and accommodation for young First Nations women to attend high schools in Townsville or participate in training and employment opportunities during the school term with \$1.6 million in 2026-27.
- Reinstating birthing in remote locations in Weipa and Cooktown to provide access to maternity services closer to home, allowing regional women and children to stay connected to their families and First Nations women and children connected to Country and cultural supports with \$12 million per year ongoing. Maternity services are also being restored at Biloela to support the return of birthing services to the region.
- Delivering continuity of midwifery care across pregnancy, birth and community postnatal care for women with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander babies through the Waijungbah Jarjums Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Maternity and Child Health Services with \$4.3 million per year ongoing.
- Delivering services through Safe Havens to respond to the safety needs of children, young people and their families experiencing or witnessing domestic and family violence in Mornington Island, Cherbourg and Palm Island with \$16 million over four years and \$4 million per year ongoing.
- Supporting the Kowanyama Women's Meeting Place to work with women in Kowanyama to deliver social, cultural and emotional support and empower them to improve their lives with \$740,000 over two years.