



Backing Jobs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to partnering with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to reframe the relationship between communities and the Government, and improve health, housing, education and employment outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders.

Since 2015 the Palaszczuk Government has delivered programs to close the gap in life outcomes including:

Back to Work

\$383M*

to assist employers to hire job seekers including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander job seekers.

*Applications open to 30 June 2020.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work

\$420M

to provide skills development, training and job opportunities for Queenslanders, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders. Since 2015, 6,382 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders have participated in the program.

Indigenous Councils Critical Infrastructure Program

\$120M

to support Indigenous councils to implement projects and infrastructure works relating to critical water, wastewater and solid waste assets, and provide a basis for the long-term strategic management of essential assets.

The 2019–20 Budget continues to focus on improving life outcomes with programs including:

Reframing the relationship

\$9.1M

to reform participation and decision-making and improve life outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders through co-designed local, regional and statewide initiatives (over three years). The 2019–20 Budget also continues the commitment to funding the Family Responsibilities Commission.

Remote Indigenous Housing

\$228.3M

to improve housing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders in remote and discrete communities including the Remote Home Ownership Program.

Indigenous youth mental health and wellbeing

\$6.9M

for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth mental health and suicide prevention program.



Image courtesy of Cowboys Community Foundation

A home away from home for young women from remote Queensland

NRL Cowboys House in Townsville provides supported accommodation for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from some of Queensland's most remote communities.

The Queensland Government has invested \$12 million to construct the Girls Campus of NRL Cowboys House, along with \$2.5 million over four years for operational costs. The new campus will join the pre-existing Boys Campus.

Supported accommodation and wrap-around support provides Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young women from remote communities with the best opportunity to complete their high school education and enable their future participation in higher education, training and employment.

The Campus will be fully occupied by 50 young women from Term 1 2020.

NRL Cowboys House is a joint initiative between the National Rugby League, North Queensland Cowboys, the Queensland Government, and the Australian Government.

The Palaszczuk Government's commitment to closing the gap

Closing the gap in life outcomes between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders and non-Indigenous Queenslanders is a key priority for the Palaszczuk Government. The 2019–20 Budget continues to provide funding for initiatives, including finalising the refreshed targets, that enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to participate in Queensland's vibrant economic, social and cultural life.

Creating jobs and economic opportunities

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' engagement in Queensland's growing economy is vital for improved employment and training outcomes that not just benefit individuals, but also communities. The Government supports initiatives that focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders getting access to skills training, supporting growing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses and providing jobs for school leavers.

Cape York Tenure Resolution Program

The Cape York Peninsula Tenure Resolution Program returns ownership and management of identified lands on Cape York Peninsula to local Aboriginal Traditional Owners, while ensuring the protection of Cape York Peninsula's iconic natural areas and significant natural and cultural values. The Government is providing \$15.6 million over four years to 2022–23 to progress the program, including to conclude current land dealings, support Traditional Owners through tenure negotiations, and secure new properties to return to Aboriginal ownership and management.

Deadly Innovation

The Deadly Innovation Program seeks to create pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander innovators to turn their ideas into reality and grow their businesses through participation in Advance Queensland and other small business development programs.

Queensland Indigenous (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Procurement Policy (QIPP)

The QIPP provides a whole-of-government framework to increase the State's spend with Indigenous-owned businesses. In 2017-18, the Palaszczuk Government procured goods and services worth approximately \$305 million from 427 Indigenous businesses, with both the procurement value and number of businesses growing since the previous financial year.

Giving all our children a great start

Ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children get a positive start in life requires a good home, good health and a good education.

Former Origin Greats

The Government is providing additional funding of \$4.5 million over three years to Former Origin Greats Queensland to support an expansion of the Achieving Results Through Indigenous Education Program into an additional 20 state primary schools. The program aims to close the gap in educational outcomes between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and their non-Indigenous peers, by encouraging and rewarding improvement in school attendance, behaviour and academic achievement.

Early Years Places (EYPs)

EYPs bring together early childhood education and care, family support, and child and maternal health services. An additional \$11.1 million funding in 2019–20 for EYPs aims to increase parents/carers' awareness of and engagement with their child's development and increase connection and access to early childhood education and care. Between July and December 2018, 2,855 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and 2,219 parents/carers participated in activities delivered by the EYPs.

Housing services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders

The 2019-20 Budget allocates \$271.8 million to improve housing outcomes across Queensland for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, including to:

- + improve social rental housing and deliver housing services
- + improve State-owned and managed Indigenous housing across Queensland
- + fund the first year of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Action Plan 2019–2023*
- + support private home ownership for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- + deliver homelessness responses including the construction of two crisis shelters in Pormpuraaw and Woorabinda.

Torres Strait Islander traditional child rearing practices

The Government will continue to work with Torres Strait Islander stakeholders to develop new laws that recognise traditional Torres Strait Islander child rearing practices. Increased funding of \$368,000 in 2019–20 will enable the finalisation of the consultation process and the development of legislation.

Transition 2 Success

The Palaszczuk Government's Transition 2 Success (T2S) service supports young people aged 15 and over who are involved with or are at risk of entering the youth justice system. By partnering with a range of organisations, the service helps young people gain practical and social skills that prepare them for participation in the workforce.

In 2017, 'Emily' (name changed) started with T2S and completed a Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways as well as a Certificate II in Automotive Vocational Preparation. She has now secured part-time employment with a local business and has become a core member of the T2S Youth Council.

Changing Tracks Action Plan 2020–22

The 2019–20 Budget includes \$14.6 million for the Action Plan, which aims to set the foundations for the transformational change needed to ensure all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in Queensland grow up safe and cared for in family, community and culture. This includes a focus on community co-design, early intervention and prevention initiatives.

Enhanced Youth and Family Wellbeing Services

The 2019–20 Budget includes \$13.8 million to enhance Family Wellbeing Services to build Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families' resilience and capacity to safely care for and protect their children. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations lead the design and delivery of these services to ensure support and responses are culturally safe and responsive, reflect community and family strengths, local needs and aspirations, leadership and cultural knowledge.

Healthy Queenslanders

All Queenslanders deserve safe and timely access to health services that are responsive to their needs and focus on preventative care and health promotion alongside acute and chronic hospital-based services.

Birthing in Our Community (BiOC)

The Government has provided \$9 million over five years for the BiOC program, which integrates the midwifery services and expertise of the Mater Mothers' Hospital with the cultural knowledge and expertise of the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service Brisbane. BiOC has seen a significant reduction in preterm birth, as well as more women accessing antenatal care early and more frequently in pregnancy and reporting greater levels of satisfaction. The Palaszczuk Government has identified BiOC as a priority initiative for extension in 2019–20.

Indigenous youth mental health and wellbeing

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are significantly more likely than other young people to experience mental health challenges and to die by suicide.

The 2019-20 Budget allocates an additional \$6.9 million over four years for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth mental health and suicide prevention program, to be led by the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. This program will be delivered as part of the Shifting Minds suicide prevention flagship program, and is in addition to the \$9.6 million four-year Suicide Prevention in Health Services Initiative.



Image courtesy of Lime Photography

North Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sexually Transmissible Infections Action Plan

In 2016, the Palaszczuk Government released the *North Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sexually Transmissible Infections Action Plan 2016–2021*. As part of the plan, the Palaszczuk Government committed more than \$15 million over three years. In 2019-20, a further \$10 million has been allocated towards the remaining two years.

Reducing Demand Service Palm Island

The Reducing Demand Service on Palm Island helps men get together to support each other and talk about issues relevant to them. The support is provided entirely through group work and is described as a 'Men's Gathering' for the purpose of allowing men to support each other, share information and provide input into community issues and the diversionary program.

Safe communities

The Palaszczuk Government knows how important it is for our communities to feel and be safe and will continue funding initiatives in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to achieve this goal.

Community safety in Aurukun

The 2019–20 Budget provides \$3.4 million over four years and \$840,000 ongoing to continue the Aurukun Restorative Justice Program. It also provides \$2.5 million over four years and \$646,000 ongoing to continue the Aurukun Prisoner Reintegration Program. These programs support community safety and positive community outcomes by building community conflict resolution capacity, and facilitating the re-entry of offenders into the Aurukun community and reducing the likelihood of their return to custody.

Alcohol Management Plans

The 2019–20 Budget provides \$2.4 million over four years to continue to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to improve community safety and reduce alcohol misuse and harm. Following the co-design of community safety plans, this increased funding will support the enhancement, establishment and operation of supply, demand and harm reduction services in each community. Funding of \$3.7 million over three years from 2019–20 has also been allocated by the department for the implementation of alcohol management plans.

Youth Diversion Services

In 2017–18, 70 per cent of young people on remand were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander. The 2019–20 Budget investment of \$10.3 million in diversion services will deliver additional after-hours resourcing, referral options and transport assistance.

Community Justice Group (CJG) Enhancement Initiative

The 2019–20 Budget provides \$19.4 million over four years to support the development of a grants management system and increase funding provided to 39 Community Justice Groups so they can continue to support Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples in the criminal justice system.

Addressing Domestic and Family Violence

The Government is supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to tackle domestic and family violence through the newly-released *Framework for Action – Reshaping our Approach to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Domestic and Family Violence*. Over the period 2019–20 and 2020–21, six communities will be supported to develop their own community-led action plans to address domestic and family violence. The 2019–20 Budget provides \$1.9 million over four years and \$480,000 ongoing for two new specialist Indigenous Liaison Officers to support Family Violence High Risk Teams in Caboolture and Mackay.

Being a responsive Government

The Palaszczuk Government understands that recognising, respecting and valuing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures is fundamental to improving services, and is therefore committed to building cultural capability across Government to support community priorities that improve outcomes for all Queenslanders.

Supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages

In the International Year of Indigenous Languages, the 2019–20 Budget provides \$674,000 to develop a Queensland Government Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages Policy to nurture and protect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages and dialects, promoting Queensland as a thriving, vibrant cultural State that values and embraces Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and languages.

Reduce Queensland's contribution to climate change

The Palaszczuk Government continues to deliver major programs to reduce Queensland's contribution to climate change, and is committed to supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to engage in a low-carbon economy.



Upgrade for Cherbourg recycling facility

The production capacity of the Cherbourg Material Recovery Facility, the first of its kind in a remote Indigenous community in Australia, is set to more than treble thanks to ongoing investment from the Palaszczuk Government.

Operated by the Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council, the recycling facility helps to manage waste as a resource while reducing landfill waste.

The Government has invested \$2.5 million into the ongoing development and upgrade of the facility through the Building our Regions funding rounds. The Shire Council has contributed almost \$47,000.

Once complete, the latest upgrade will increase annual production capacity to 10,000 tonnes, reducing the load on overburdened regional landfills while also creating jobs.

The upgrade will also provide opportunities for workers to attain forklift and front-end loader licenses, workplace health and safety certification, and to learn the technical skills required to operate the advanced sorting machinery.

Land Restoration Fund

Under the Land Restoration Fund, \$582,979 was awarded in 2018–19 to projects that will involve Aboriginal communities in building knowledge and skills for delivering high-value carbon farming projects in a low-carbon economy. Projects are working with First Nations Peoples across Cape York and Wet Tropics regions Queensland to deliver economic, environmental, social and cultural benefits to the region.

CarbonPlus Fund

The Government has allocated \$3.3 million from the CarbonPlus Fund to the Aboriginal Carbon Foundation.

With this funding, the Foundation has:

- + established an office in Cairns
- + developed training and associated workshops for Aboriginal communities
- + established a carbon farming fund called Reducing Carbon Building Communities
- + developed a Core Benefit Verification Standard as a process for certifying Aboriginal Carbon Farming core-benefits
- + developed a marketing strategy for the carbon credits and co-benefits.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that this document may contain images or names of people who have since passed away.