

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC SECURITY STATEMENT

Queensland Budget 2025–26

A brighter future for women and girls in Queensland

The Crisafulli Government is building a future where women and girls can thrive. We believe in creating opportunities for every woman and girl to succeed, ensuring they have the freedom to grow up, live and work in ways that suit them best. By breaking down barriers to women's economic participation, prioritising safety and supporting women's advancement, we're working towards a stronger, fairer and more prosperous Queensland.

We are committed to addressing barriers in health, housing, safety, justice, education, employment and training, while considering the experience of women with diverse backgrounds.

Building on the Budget that is laying the foundations for a fresh start, the Women's Economic Security Statement outlines key new initiatives and ongoing commitments designed to empower women and girls. These initiatives focus on economic participation, secure housing, safer communities and better health services for women.

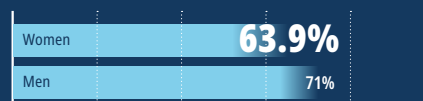
ECONOMIC SECURITY

We're committed to helping women achieve their career goals and thrive in the workforce. This means creating opportunities in industries they're passionate about, supporting flexible work options for all caregivers and ensuring fair pay. With Queensland's gender pay gap at 10.8 per cent, we're determined to close the gap and ensure women achieve pay parity. By empowering women in the workplace, we're building a stronger economy and a brighter future for all.

Key actions and commitments

- \$20 million for the *Returning to Work* Package to support Queensland women returning to the workforce after having children, caring for family, or illness.
- \$333 million (over 4 years) and \$80 million (ongoing) for the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program to increase workforce participation and improve work opportunities for disadvantaged Queenslanders. As at 31 May 2025, 33,703 women have secured a job as a direct result of this program.
- Contributions of superannuation payments for the 52-week period of parental leave for Queensland public sector employees.
- Further support for the Future Women Jobs Academy program to enable more women to gain access to a suite of resources, workshops and development opportunities to support their return to work.
- \$400,000 for the Female Founders Investment Readiness pilot initiative to improve investment literacy and readiness for female entrepreneurs through mentorship and access to resources.
- \$540,000 for the Empowering Queensland Women grants program for community group initiatives that enhance the economic security of women and girls across the state.
- \$12 million for the Community Action for a Multicultural Society program to build opportunities for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.
- \$640,000 for the STEM Girl Power Initiative providing female students with access to world-class STEM learning opportunities.
- \$500,000 for a program, designed in partnership with industry, to boost and support women in operating and technical roles in the resources sector.

Labour force participation¹



Proportion of workers employed part-time¹

41.7% Women
20.3% Men

Queensland gender pay gap²

10.8%



Unemployment rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women³



13.1%

3x higher than the rate for all Queensland women

Source:

1. ABS Labour Force (May 2025), Queensland, Trend

2. ABS, Average Weekly Earnings (November 2024), Queensland, seasonally adjusted.

3. ABS, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey 2022–23.

SECURE HOUSING

Safe, secure and affordable housing is the foundation of a stable life. For many women, especially those escaping domestic and family violence or from marginalised communities, finding a home can be a challenge. We're tackling housing pressures and providing the support women and families need to build strong, connected lives.

The Securing our Housing Foundations Plan will deliver one million new homes by 2044, including additional social and community housing dwellings. Key elements supporting housing supply and affordability will provide safe, secure housing for Queensland women.

Key actions and commitments

- \$1.967 billion (over 4 years) and \$500 million (ongoing):
 - 53,500 social and community housing dwellings by 2044
 - 10 new or replacement domestic and family violence shelters for women and children
 - Social homes in remote and discrete Indigenous communities.
- \$380.1 million for crisis accommodation and a range of housing and homelessness services.
- \$1.3 million for the Housing Older Women's Support Service, providing information and services that support older women seeking to secure affordable and appropriate housing options.
- \$1.6 million for the NRL Cowboys House – Girls Campus, providing wrap-around support and accommodation during the school term for young Indigenous women to attend high schools throughout Townsville and/or participate in training and employment opportunities.
- A 20 per cent uplift in funding for specialist homelessness services to ensure support to vulnerable people, including women and those experiencing domestic and family violence.
- Bringing home ownership within reach for more Queenslanders with Boost to Buy, a new nation-leading home ownership scheme with \$165 million over 2 years to help reduce the deposit gap.

SAFER COMMUNITIES

Every woman and girl deserves to live free from violence, fear and coercion. We're taking action to prevent violence, support victims and hold perpetrators accountable. By creating safer communities, we're not only protecting women's wellbeing but also empowering them to fully participate in education, work and community life. Together, we can build a Queensland where everyone feels safe and supported.

In the Australian Bureau of Statistics' latest recorded crime victim data, 85 per cent of sexual assault victims in Queensland were women. The DNA Lab is key to getting justice for victims in our most serious cases and we must have it functioning at its full potential. Unfortunately, it has not had the attention needed and thousands of cases have been called into question.

The Crisafulli Government is committed to justice for victims. We are investing in the testing of rape kits so we can find offenders faster, and bring more cases to trial. \$50 million will be spent in outsourcing rape kits and other samples over the next 2 years. An independent review is currently underway to expedite the reform needed and the Crisafulli Government will do the work necessary to bring this lab up to a world-class standard to ensure we give every victim the best chance of justice.

Key actions and commitments

- \$31.3 million to double the capacity of Womensline and Mensline domestic and family violence services and deliver a new North Queensland Hub.
- \$22.6 million (over 4 years) and \$6.8 million (ongoing) to pilot a new electronic monitoring program for high-risk domestic violence offenders on Domestic Violence Orders.
- \$37 million (over 4 years) and \$9.6 million (ongoing) to the Queensland Police Service for enhanced responses to domestic and family violence.
- \$3.5 million (over 4 years) and \$1 million (ongoing) for the expansion of Hope Hub recovery centres.
- \$1 million for the DV Safe Phone initiative, which collects, repairs and distributes free mobile phones to victims of domestic violence.
- \$112.9 million (over 4 years) and \$29.9 million (ongoing) for the legal assistance sector, to provide legal assistance to vulnerable and disadvantaged Queenslanders, including victims of domestic and family violence, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and rural communities.
- \$2.5 million for Protea Place Women's Support Centre in Toowoomba and \$1 million for WillowTree37 in Warwick to support vulnerable women on the Darling Downs.
- \$18.8 million to uplift the Domestic and Family Violence Courthouse Improvement Program.
- Helping victims of the DNA Debacle to receive justice with \$50 million to outsource DNA testing and analysis for rape kits and major crime cases.

Strengthening laws to protect Queensland women

The Crisafulli Government is taking decisive action to enhance women's safety and wellbeing through legislative reforms and initiatives targeting domestic, family and sexual violence.

The expanded *Making Queensland Safer* laws cover rape, attempted rape and other sexual assault offences, prioritising victims' rights and reinforcing trust in the justice system. New coercive control laws criminalise a course of conduct of domestic violence (which can include both physical and non-physical domestic violence) that is intended to coerce or control, and would be reasonably likely to cause harm, with a maximum penalty of 14 years' imprisonment.

A working group with victims of domestic, family and sexual violence and an independent advisory panel of experts in policing, law and victim support, are addressing systemic gaps and guiding reforms. By focusing on prevention, intervention and victim support, the government is fostering accountability and respect, while leading efforts to protect women.

Legislation currently before Parliament would see, from 1 January 2026, police officers responding to domestic and family violence incidents empowered to give on the spot 12-month Police Protection Directions, providing immediate safety for victims and consequences for offenders, while supporting officers' ability to attend to the growing list of calls for help. The Crisafulli Government is also supporting victims of sexual assault by publicly releasing information about current capacity levels for forensic medical examination kits. Improved availability of examination kits and dedicated training for clinicians will help ensure victims of sexual assault have better access to timely and high-quality health care across Queensland.

SUPPORT FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER WOMEN AND GIRLS

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and girls are vital to the strength and resilience of Queensland's communities, yet they continue to face unique and complex challenges that impact their economic and social wellbeing. By addressing those challenges, we can create a more inclusive and equitable future, empowering them to thrive in all aspects of life.

Key actions and commitments

- Deliver a Rent-to-Buy model under the new Palm Island Home Ownership Scheme which will help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to own their own home.
- \$2 million to improve the social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through First Nations Social and Emotional Wellbeing grants to 6 community organisations.
- \$19 million for 3 critical infrastructure projects to support health and education outcomes in the first tranche of Closing the Gap Priorities Fund initiatives.
- \$418,000 for 8 Indigenous businesses under the First Nations Fashion and Textiles Accelerator Fund to boost growth, enhance production capacity and support economic outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and designers.
- Delivery of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Wellbeing Services at locations across Queensland offering support for vulnerable children and families.
- \$1.9 million to establish a Women's Meeting Place and deliver programs for the women of Kowanyama focusing on self-determination and social and emotional wellbeing.
- \$15.5 million (over 4 years) for the Safe Havens program to reduce the impact of domestic and family violence in 3 remote communities.
- \$2.8 million in 2025–26 for the Growing Deadly Families program to ensure every woman in Queensland giving birth to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander babies has access to high-quality clinical and culturally capable maternity services.
- \$11.5 million (over 4 years from 2024–25) to establish and deliver the Jalbu Women and Girls' Health Hub in Cairns South, offering an Indigenous-led model of medical, nursing, counselling and social services.
- \$11 million for the Birthing in Our Communities program (over 3 years from 2025–26) which provides culturally safe and tailored support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their parent/carers/families through education and health activities.
- \$300,000 for the Queensland Indigenous Women's Ranger Network.

RESTORING WOMEN'S HEALTH SERVICES

Women and girls' access to quality healthcare has lifelong benefits on their overall wellbeing and participation in work and community life. We're improving access to quality, affordable healthcare for women and girls, addressing unique challenges like chronic conditions, mental health and barriers to care. By focusing on equity and inclusion, we're ensuring better health outcomes for all women, no matter their background or circumstances.

An uplift of 10.2 per cent to Queensland Health's operating budget will meet the increasing demand and costs for public health services and ensure sustainability of the health system. Queensland Health is implementing a range of initiatives to reinstate essential health services for women and girls across Queensland.

Key actions and commitments

- 30 new perinatal mental health beds to provide specialised care for mothers and their families.
- Reinstating maternity services at Cooktown and Biloela hospitals.
- The largest expansion of Queensland Health's workforce by working towards 46,000 additional health workers by 2032 which includes 34,200 extra clinicians (including additional paramedics and 18,700 nurses and midwives).
- \$11.4 million (over 4 years from 2024–25) for the new Women's Wellbeing Line to provide support to women who are geographically or socially isolated from health services.
- \$48.7 million (over 4 years from 2025–26) to deliver safer midwife-to-patient ratios of one midwife to 6 patients (including babies), which has previously been legislated but unfunded.
- Delivery of reproductive health leave entitlements for Queensland public sector employees, providing time off to manage a range of reproductive health needs including endometriosis, menopause treatment and fertility treatment.
- \$7 million (over 4 years from 2025–26) and \$1.8 million (ongoing) for the Queensland Women and Girls' Health Promotion Program to optimise health equity, health literacy and health and wellbeing of women and girls.
- \$166.3 million (over 4 years from 2025–26) for the Women and Girls' Health Improvement Program to support women and girls to more readily navigate the healthcare system and receive timely and effective care.
- \$2 million (over 4 years from 2024–25) to deliver statewide peer support programs for Queensland women, including women experiencing menopause, cancer and endometriosis.
- \$36.3 million (over 5 years) for the ongoing provision of high quality women's reproductive health and sexual health services.
- \$8.9 million (over 4 years from 2024–25) to establish and deliver the Wellbeing Women and Girls' Caboolture Integrated Health Hub, which will offer a mix of medical, nursing, counselling and social services.
- \$1.1 million for a new mobile breast screening van based in Cairns for regional and remote communities.
- \$18.9 million (over 4 years to 2027–28) and \$4.8 million (ongoing from 2028–29) for the Supporting Healthier Pregnancies initiative to improve the current and future health of pregnant women and their children through preventative health practices within public antenatal care.
- \$928,000 (over 4 years) to provide statewide support services for women with advanced breast cancer, including psychosocial support by telephone, web, online moderation and DVD resources for women, their families and carers.
- \$2.7 million in 2025–26 for 20 McGrath Cancer Care Nurses supporting breast cancer patients and their families.
- \$1 million to support participation in the Commonwealth Accessible Australia initiative to build accessible amenities across Queensland.
- \$33.2 million (over 4 years) and \$6.4 million (ongoing) for the Share the Dignity initiative for students in participating Queensland state schools, outdoor education centres and residential facilities to have access to free period products.

Women's Wellbeing Line

1800 4 WOMEN (1800 496 636)

The Queensland Government is delivering expanded medical services for women and girls in regional and rural Queensland with the new virtual counselling Women's Wellbeing Line.

The Women's Wellbeing Line provides essential mental healthcare, counselling, pregnancy loss advice and health referrals via telephone, web chat service and face-to-face video conferencing. The service, operated by Women's Health and Equality Queensland, is staffed by trained counsellors and midwives.

This critical service ensures women in regional and remote Queensland have access to free expert mental health support where and when they need it.