

QUEENSLAND WOMEN'S BUDGET STATEMENT

Strengthening women's wellbeing and economic security

Women and girls have raised their voices to demand equality and respect and the Palaszczuk Government is listening - **we hear you**. We are committed to a vision for Queensland as a place where women and girls have equal rights and access to the opportunities available in our state.

Building on existing investment and significant progress to date and harnessing the momentum from the release of the *Queensland Women's Strategy 2022–27*, the 2022–23 Queensland Budget continues to invest in initiatives that ensure women and girls are supported to succeed.



GOOD JOBS



BETTER SERVICES



GREAT LIFESTYLE

ECONOMIC SECURITY

\$163.4 million

Continued investment to provide housing, support and specialist homelessness services to vulnerable people, including older women and those experiencing domestic and family violence.

\$100 million

Skilling Queenslanders for Work aims to increase workforce participation and improve work opportunities for disadvantaged Queenslanders. As at 31 May 2022, over 35,900 women, more than half of all participants, have benefited from the initiative.

SAFETY, HEALTH & WELLBEING

\$363 million

Significant investment in the multi-year response to the first report of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce. This investment into our systems, our communities and our first responders will increase the ability to understand, identify and respond to coercive control and to enable the criminalisation of this form of abuse.

ELEVATING FIRST NATIONS WOMEN

\$2.8 million

Investment in programs offering coaching, mentoring and access to extra-curricular activities to encourage young First Nations women and girls to remain actively engaged in education until completion of Year 12.



Economic security

Economic security is the cornerstone of achieving gender equality. The government is committed to playing our part to help women access education, employment, and safe and secure housing – building the foundations for success and independence.

- **\$1.908 billion** over 4 years, from 2021–22, for the *Queensland Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2021–25*. This supports the government’s continued commitment to reducing the number of older women and other vulnerable people experiencing homelessness.
- The government is continuing to support the National Association of Women in Construction’s target of 11 per cent women in frontline construction such as carpentry, painting, electrical and plumbing through QBuild’s second Exemplar Project, a 10 one-bedroom apartment social housing complex in Hervey Bay.
- **\$140 million** over 4 years, from 2021–22, through the revitalised Back to Work program continues support for young people, First Nations peoples, people with disability and long-term unemployed people, into employment. Since the program commenced in 2016, over 11,600 women have been supported into employment through Back to Work.
- **\$39.1 million** over 4 years to fund the Small Business Grants and the Mentoring for Growth program. Women have continued to increase as a share of those operating their own business, comprising 42 per cent of Queensland’s self-employed, the highest proportion of all states.
- The Female Founders program will invest **\$890,000** to continue to deliver a suite of support and capability programs to help Queensland women start and grow innovative businesses.
- **\$120,000** in 2022–23 for the continuation of the STEM Girl Power initiative. Since it began in 2016, over 380 Year 10 girls have participated in the initiative and have been encouraged into senior STEM subjects and career pathways.
- Advancing equity and diversity in the Queensland public sector workforce has been prioritised with the establishment of the Office of the Special Commissioner, Equity and Diversity. A key focus of the Special Commissioner’s work is policies, procedures and practices that improve employment outcomes for women.

Women in Construction

As a Senior Project Engineer, Prasanthi Yarlagadda led the electrical design of the pilot Women in Construction Exemplar Project at Cannon Hill, a 20-apartment, 5-storey social housing complex.

With over 15 years’ experience in the field of building electrical services, Prasanthi was very proud to be part of this kind of project. “When service design complements the architecture of the building and you can see a quality real-world outcome, you feel very satisfied both personally and professionally.”

Following the success of the Cannon Hill project, Prasanthi was buoyed to see other projects adopting targets for female participation in the delivery of large infrastructure programs. “There is significant infrastructure development happening in Queensland which gives opportunities for women to work across various roles in the industry.”

Working in engineering has been a life-long ambition for Prasanthi so she is pleased to see critical pipeline programs for young women like Try A Trade, where female school students from years 9 to 11 get to experience an active commercial construction environment. “These programs give young women practical experience to see first-hand the various roles that are involved in the building industry.”

Prasanthi’s advice to young women is to have trust in themselves and be prepared for the challenge. “Be confident, practise resilience and most importantly be an active team player – you will find champions and mentors this way.”

Currently Prasanthi is working on projects to build world-class learning facilities in state schools across Queensland.



Safety, health and wellbeing

The government is committed to changing the story for Queenslanders affected by violence against women as well as supporting equitable access to health and strengthening broader wellbeing.

- **\$363 million** over 5 years to deliver the response to the first report of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce. The package of reforms seeks to ensure victims are kept safe and perpetrators are held to account and includes:
 - new laws and programs to recognise, prevent and punish coercive control including making coercive control a criminal offence
 - a Commission of Inquiry into police responses to domestic and family violence (DFV)
 - better support for women including expansion of High-Risk Teams, and trialling co-responder models so victims receive a joint response from police and DFV services
 - expansion of specialist DFV courts
 - a specific strategy for First Nations communities
 - increased funding for perpetrator programs to change behaviour and stop the cycle of violence
 - increased respectful relationships education to all Queensland children and young people
- **\$125.6 million** over 4 years to strengthen the community and social service sector with a focus on elevating the role and functioning of neighbourhood and community centres – universal services that support a wide cross-section of the community, including programs aimed at supporting women and families.
- **\$1.645 billion** over 5 years and capital funding of **\$28.5 million** for increased mental health, alcohol and other drug services across the state including expanded perinatal and infant mental health support services.
- **\$60 million** for breast cancer screening; continued support of **\$6.2 million** to deliver women's reproductive and sexual health services; and **\$79,000** to continue access to a mobile health app for endometriosis support.
- **\$14.3 million** in 2022–23 to provide students in all Queensland state schools, outdoor education centres and student residential facilities and 16 non-state schools with free access to period products as part of the expanded Share the Dignity in Queensland schools initiative.
- **\$45.9 million** per annum ongoing for the Intensive Family Support services to continue early intervention support services for families and parents who are experiencing vulnerability and have more complex needs, and **\$16.7 million** per annum ongoing for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Wellbeing Services.
- **\$2.7 million** in 2022–23 in programs for women who are in contact with the courts to reduce their risk of entering or returning to prison.
- **\$1.5 million** over 3 years for the Gendered Response to Bail Support for girls and young women aged 10 to 17 years at risk of being remanded into custody as part of existing funding for the Youth Justice strategy reforms.

Elevating First Nations women

The government is committed to the elevation of First Nations women and girls, recognising their valuable contributions to Queensland and the unique challenges and barriers they experience.

- **\$2.8 million** in 2022–23 to encourage young First Nations women to remain actively engaged in education and complete Year 12 through their attendance at school engagement programs delivered by the Stars Foundation, Netball Queensland and the Brisbane Broncos. In 2021, over 680 First Nations women and girls across 13 schools participated in the program.
- **\$100,000** in 2022–23 for continued support of the Queensland Indigenous Women Rangers Network for First Nations women rangers to enhance professional development and leadership in caring for country.
- **\$410,000** to deliver the Clancestry Festival and other First Nations projects, supporting a large program of over 100 First Nations artists reflecting the gender diversity of our First Nations community.



Queensland Indigenous Youth Leadership Program

The Queensland Indigenous Youth Leadership Program (QIYLP) has delivered leadership training to more than 630 First Nations young people since its inception in 2004, with almost two-thirds of all participants being young women.

Semara is a proud Gudjula, Kuku Yalanji and Darnley Island woman residing in Gimuy (Cairns). She completed the QIYLP program in 2014, and has gone on to co-found and currently chairs the Deadly Inspiring Youth Doing Good Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation.

As a passionate advocate for the Uluru Statement from the Heart reforms, she is an advisor to the From the Heart Campaign that is progressing the commitment to an Indigenous Voice enshrined in the Constitution. Semara is the co-chair of international law firm King & Wood Mallesons' inaugural Youth Advisory Council; the youngest board member at her local Aboriginal medical service, Wuchopperen Health Service; and inaugural Youth Health Network Member for Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council.

Semara is passionate about youth leadership and ensuring that youth voices are provided a platform, heard, and embedded in the work that affects their lives.

"QIYLP helped me to understand my strengths and connect me to a network of amazing mob", Semara said.

Semara now works as a lead facilitator for QIYLP, coaching and guiding First Nations young people to reach their potential and become leaders in their own communities, including the 37 young women enrolled in this year's program.

Women with diverse backgrounds and experiences

The government recognises the resilience and strength of women with diverse backgrounds and experiences. We continue to invest in initiatives that amplify women's voices and work towards an accessible, safe and equal Queensland for everyone.

- **\$7.7 million** annually for expanded elder abuse prevention and intervention services. This includes the Elder Abuse Prevention Unit, the Elder Abuse Helpline and specialist financial information and support for victims of elder abuse, with women accounting for over two-thirds of all alleged victims.
- **\$4 million** for the Queensland Disability Advocacy Program which provided advocacy services to more than 480 women and girls in the first quarter of 2022 alone.
- **\$250,000** to support community-led projects that improve women's safety in culturally and linguistically diverse communities through the Safe and Diverse Communities grant program.
- **\$2.7 million** in 2022–23 for the Community Action for a Multicultural Society program to support people from culturally diverse backgrounds, including women, to have opportunities for inclusion in local employment, services, and networks.
- The Celebrating Multicultural Queensland program provides funding of **\$2 million** per annum for multicultural events and projects that increase social and economic inclusion for people from culturally diverse backgrounds, including women, to contribute to building an inclusive, harmonious and united Queensland.

Empowerment and recognition

The government is investing in women's empowerment and recognition across all aspects of Queensland society.

- **\$1 million** over 2 years for the Queensland Country Women's Association to continue minor works upgrades to infrastructure, including community halls.
- **\$540,000** annually for the Investing in Queensland Women grant program to support events and projects that inspire the Queensland community to respect women, embrace gender equality and promote and protect the rights, interests and wellbeing of women and girls.
- **\$100,000** to support continuation of the Engaging Science Grants program, delivering STEM education, events and activities including Citizen Science to support science literacy.
- Support for awards and events that highlight the outstanding achievements of women including the Australian Women in Music Awards, the Rural Women's Award, Queensland Women in STEM prize, Women in Fire and Emergency Services Award and the Women of the World Festival.



Australian Women in Music Awards. Image credit: Elouise van Reit-Gray

The Queensland Government continues its commitment to ensuring women's equal representation in positions of leadership and responsibility through:

- introduction of diversity targets seeing representation of women on Queensland Government boards remain over 50 per cent
- ensuring at least 50 per cent of nominated directors on the Organising Committee for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Board and 50 per cent of members of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Legacy Committee are women
- adopting the Law Council of Australia's Gender Equitable Briefing Policy target where women barristers are to be briefed in at least 30 per cent of all matters.