



Local Thriving Communities Joint Coordinating Committee Communiqué – No.3

14 July 2021 – Brisbane and remotely via Teams

The Local Thriving Communities Joint Coordinating Committee was convened in Brisbane and via Teams on 14 July 2021.

This meeting was scheduled to occur in-person in Woorabinda but was relocated due to concerns about the potential impact of the emerging COVID-19 situation in South East Queensland.

LTC Implementation

Ms Joann Schmider co-chaired the meeting as Co-Chair Susan Sewter was unable to attend. Dr Chris Sarra provided an acknowledgement of Country and Traditional Custodians in Brisbane and other parts of Queensland where members and guests were joining from. Ms Schmider noted that due to COVID-19 concerns the Committee was unable to meet in Woorabinda. Ms Schmider acknowledged the work undertaken by Mayor Josh Weazel in planning for the visit and noted that the Committee aims to reschedule this engagement for the September 2021 meeting.

The Committee noted Local Thriving Communities (LTC) community implementation updates, including progress of local decision-making. The Committee noted that the Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships presented an opportunity for each Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Council to utilise a grant of \$10,000 to enhance community engagement, leadership development and local decision-making in the design and delivery of government services. An allocation has also been approved for the communities of Coen and Mossman Gorge. A funding allocation has been provided to the Torres Cape Indigenous Council Alliance (TCICA) to support ongoing opportunities to engage at a regional level on the co-design of services in line with community priorities and aspirations.

The Committee was pleased to note that the Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council formalised an Interim Mapoon Local Thriving Committee Advisory Committee (Mapoon Advisory Committee) and endorsed Terms of Reference. The Advisory Committee will provide advice to Council to guide its decisions relating to implementation. It is anticipated that the role of the Advisory Committee will develop as the LTC reform progresses. Members of the Mapoon Advisory Committee will be remunerated by the Queensland Government. JCC Committee members were encouraged to engage the Advisory Committee for co-design opportunities in Mapoon as it progresses towards a formal Local Decision Making Body.

An update was provided on the renewed approach to alcohol management and development of Community Safety Plans (CSPs). The Committee noted many Councils have indicated community aspirations in their CSP for increased carriage limits and/or the establishment of a locally based licenced venue. Members discussed what mitigating factors may need to be demonstrated to enable changes to Alcohol Management Plans and the unintended adverse consequences of some alcohol restrictions including the harm caused by home brew. The Committee noted that any relaxation of

restrictions must be accompanied by appropriate services and harm minimisation strategies and work is continuing across agencies to assist communities with delivering local priorities.

An update was provided on whole-of-government reform including on community governance to ensure that when Local Decision Making Bodies are established, they are able to engage with community authority and the broad interests and frameworks in a community, as identified by Committee members in previous discussions and workshops. Further work is underway to understand how to mitigate conflicts of interest in a culturally appropriate way and manage risks for community and government. Local Decision Making Bodies will need to work in partnership with the existing and emerging decision-making structures in community such as Community Justice Groups and Local Community Education Bodies.

Government members were asked to reflect on government readiness and to what extent government is ready to let go of decision-making and share the data and information required to enable local decision-making. Government members acknowledged that agencies must undertake readiness work to ensure they are able to give effect to whole-of-government reform. There are some recent examples of successful community co-design and community-led significant decisions around capital works under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Action Plan 2019-2023* that can be built upon, as well as the Department of Education's *Local Community Engagement through Co-Design* process.

Government members acknowledged the Queensland Government needs to do more to coordinate co-design and engagement with community to reduce duplication across agencies and build the cultural capability of government. It was noted that the Queensland Government Procurement Committee committed to reviewing the 12-month forward procurement pipeline for opportunities for co-design and for LTC to present at the Social Services Procurement Council. The Committee also noted progress towards better information on service delivery in community with the development of an information-sharing template.

The Committee discussed how the Ministerial and Government Champions Program can better support implementation of LTC through a high expectations relationship, moving towards more strategic engagement with local leadership. The Committee also considered how the Ministerial and Government Champions Program can be better coordinated across government and provided input into an agenda for upcoming induction workshops.

Queensland Health presented to the Committee on their health equity reform. In August 2020, the *Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2020* was passed requiring each Hospital and Health Service to develop local strategies to achieve health equity in partnership with First Nations peoples and to appoint one or more Aboriginal persons or Torres Strait Islander persons as board members. The most significant reforms are the legislative amendments to the *Hospital Boards Act 2011* requiring each Hospital and Health Service to co-design and implement Health Equity Strategies with First Nations peoples.

On 30 April 2021 the *Hospital and Health Boards (Health Equity Strategies) Amendment Regulation 2021* was published which included actively eliminating racial discrimination and institutional racism and influencing the social, cultural and economic determinants of health. State-wide regional consultations occurred between April and June 2021 to develop an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Equity Framework and Toolkit to guide implementation of the Health Equity Strategies. Subject to government approval, Health Equity Strategies are expected to be released by 30 April 2022. The presentation was well received by the Committee and is a positive example of working in partnership with Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

LTC Joint Coordinating Committee Meeting 14 July 2021 Attendance

Attendees	Dr Chris Sarra (Co-Chair)	Director-General, Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
	Ms Joann Schmider (Acting Co-Chair)	Community representative
	Ms Kelly Barclay	Community representative
	Ms Jennifer Lang	Deputy Director-General, Justice Services, Department of Justice and Attorney-General
	Mr Drew Ellem	Head, Policy and Performance, Queensland Treasury
	Ms Kate Connors	Deputy Director-General, Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs
	Mr Leon Proud	Assistant Director-General, State Schools – Indigenous Education, Department of Education (Proxy for Mr Peter Kelly)
	Ms Sharon Kenyon	A/Executive Director, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing, Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy (Proxy for Ms Trish Woolley)
	Ms Jessica Martin	Director, Social Policy, Department of the Premier and Cabinet (Proxy for Mr Mark Cridland)
	Mr Chris Hodgman	Acting Chief Superintendent, Queensland Police Service (Proxy for Mr Paul Taylor)
	Mr Aaron Hoffman	Senior Director, Engagement Branch, Queensland Health (Proxy for Ms Haylene Grogan)
Apologies	Ms Michelle Deshong	Community representative
	Mr Michael Bond	Community representative
	Ms Susan Sewter	Community representative
	Ms Zhanae Conway-Dodd	Youth representative nominee
	Mr Robert Wilmett	National Indigenous Australians Agency, Commonwealth Government
	Ms Natalie Wilde	Deputy Director-General, Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning
	Ms Haylene Grogan	Executive Director, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, Cape and Torres HHS, Queensland Health
	Mayor Kyle Yanner	Mayor, Mornington Shire Council
	Mr Paul Taylor	Deputy Commissioner, Queensland Police Service
	Mr Peter Kelly	Deputy Director-General, State Schools, Department of Education
	Mr Mark Cridland	Acting Director-General, Department of the Premier and Cabinet
	Ms Trish Woolley	Deputy Director-General, Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy

Guests	Mayor Mislam Sam Mayor, Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council
	Mayor Josh Weazel Mayor, Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council
	Mayor Janita Motton, Mayor, Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council
	Mayor Patricia Yusia, Mayor, Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council
Other attendees	Ms Jessica Oostenbroek, Queensland Heath Ms Kathy Parton, Mr Tim Fell, Ms Michelle Hoffman, Ms Jaya Foley, Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships