



The LGBTI Roundtable is inclusive of all sexually and gender diverse people

LGBTI Roundtable Communiqué

The Honorable Coralee O'Rourke MP, Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors and the Director-General, Clare O'Connor, attended the first Queensland LGBTI Roundtable for 2019 on 9 April.

The role of the Roundtable is to enable the Queensland Government to ensure its policies, programs and services are inclusive of and responsive to the needs of LGBTI communities, individuals and their families.

Representatives of Queensland's diverse LGBTI communities bring rich expertise in the fields of education, youth, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and rural and remote issues and the needs of the LGBTI community across Queensland. Representatives include – Elise Stephenson, Dr Lisa van Leent, Alex David, Rob Nielson, Dallas Pitt, Vicki Ogilvie, Matt Hall, Sarah Walbank, Ruth Toomey and Mikhara Ramsing – were joined by six senior government officials from the Departments of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors (Assistant Director-General as Chair); Justice and Attorney-General; Health; Education; and Child Safety, Youth and Women; and the Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland.

At the meeting, representatives from working groups formed at the previous meeting in December 2018 provided an overview of progress in each of the key areas of the Roundtable's work plan:

- Creating Jobs in a Strong Economy
- Keeping Queenslanders Healthy
- Keeping Communities Safe
- Giving All Our Children a Great Start
- Being a Responsive Government.

Highlights included:

- In December 2018, the Queensland Government launched a 12 month campaign for the LGBTI community to raise awareness of domestic and family violence and break down barriers to seeking support.
- The Queensland Government funded the Queensland AIDS Council to develop a training package 'Queer without Fear'. The training is being delivered by approximately 500 DFV sector workers across the state during 2018-19 along with online learning resources.



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- The Giving All Our Children a Great Start working group developed a draft statement of commitment to support young LGBTI Queenslanders in schools for consultation.
- The Keeping Queenslanders Healthy working group has set up mechanisms for communication between the Roundtable and the Sexual Health Ministerial Advisory Committee. The group also prepared briefing papers on the impact of mental health on LGBTI communities and opportunities to support quitting smoking in LGBTI communities to inform options for action.

Officers from the Department of Justice and Attorney-General provided a further update on the review of the *Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2003*. Public consultations on two discussion papers closed on 23 April 2019:

- Registering life events – Functions and powers of the Registrar and the use and disclosure of information
- Registering life events – Registration and access.

Members were presented with an update on the Queensland Government's Domestic and Family Violence program, including initiatives to support the LGBTI community. There was also a discussion among members on ideas for a communication strategy for the Roundtable.

Members spoke with the Minister about emerging issues and areas of concern for the LGBTI community, including:

- high suicide rates among LGBTI people
- the need for health professionals to use professional translators when working with LGBTI people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities
- police search procedures
- infant surgeries on intersex people.

The Minister will report back at the next Roundtable meeting in August 2019.