

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER QUEENSLANDERS



The Palaszczuk Government is committed to improving outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders as we continue along the road to reconciliation. We are delivering programs to close the gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders and non-Indigenous Queenslanders in life expectancy, health, education and employment.

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

Skilling Queenslanders for Work

\$420M

to provide skills development, training and job opportunities for Queenslanders, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders (since 2015).

Back to Work Program

\$369M

to assist employers to hire job seekers including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander job seekers (since 2016).

Indigenous Councils Critical Infrastructure Program

\$120M

to deliver essential water and waste services, and local jobs and business opportunities in remote and discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities (since 2016).

The 2018-19 Budget continues to focus on improving life outcomes with programs including:

**Queensland Government
Reconciliation Action Plan
2018-2021**

which demonstrates the Queensland Government's commitment to building stronger relationships between Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and non-Indigenous Queenslanders. Key initiatives include an annual Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-themed cabinet meeting and establishing a ministerial advisory mechanism.

Indigenous Housing

\$239M

to continue to deliver improved housing options for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples including the Remote Home Ownership Program.

Deadly Choices Program

\$16M

for the expansion of the program to support more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders to make healthy choices and prevent chronic disease.



Image: Quinn Rooney/Getty Images

Queensland didgeridoos set tone for Commonwealth Games

The spectacular didgeridoo orchestra in the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games (GC2018) opening ceremony showcased the offerings of Aboriginal-owned didgeridoo manufacturer Santo Didgeridoo to a global audience of millions.

The Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships provided business assistance to the Mackay-based business, which secured a significant GC2018 contract to produce authentic didgeridoos for the performance.

GC2018 was the first Commonwealth Games and major sporting event in Australia with a Reconciliation Action Plan. The Reconciliation Action Plan recognises, respects and celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. It has created a lasting legacy including employment and training opportunities, as well as promoting authentic Indigenous art and culture beyond GC2018.

Delivering for

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER QUEENSLANDERS

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 2018-19 Budget continues to provide funding for initiatives that enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 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 Palaszczuk Government supports initiatives that focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders getting access to on-the-job skills training, supporting growing Indigenous businesses and providing jobs for school leavers.

Back to Work

The continuing Back to Work initiative helps Queensland jobseekers and those at risk of unemployment. As at 4 May 2018, Back to Work supported 1,341 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander jobseekers into employment.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work (SQW)

The continuing SQW initiative provides a range of skills and training programs to assist Queenslanders into work. Since 2015, there has been 5,103 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders assisted through SQW. This includes employment of 76 local trainees across 14 Indigenous councils.



Youth Employment Program (YEP)

YEP supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Year 12 graduates, and other skilled candidates who are looking for work or training and education options. This program provides career advice, and resume and job interview support. As at 30 April 2018, 862 job placements have been achieved through YEP, exceeding the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships’ overall jobs target of 610 for 2017-18.

Advancing Indigenous Businesses

Successful Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned businesses are essential to achieving maximum economic participation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The 2018-19 Budget provides funding to support a variety of projects and initiatives including:

- industry partnerships worth \$142,950 to support Indigenous businesses
- more than \$154,000 for Accelerate Indigenous Small Business Grants
- investment in research to support appropriate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned business models
- the development of a statewide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander business network network.

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

The QIPP, launched on 1 September 2017, provides a whole-of-government framework to increase government procurement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned businesses, to support growth and development of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander business sector in Queensland. For 2016-17 the procurement spend utilising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned businesses was \$270 million.

Giving all our children a great start

Ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children get a positive start in life requires good health and being ready for school.

Early Years Places

For 2018-19, an investment of \$10.9 million for Early Years Places will bring together early

childhood education and care, family support, and child and maternal health services. This is to achieve an increase in parents and carers’ awareness of and engagement with their children’s development, and increase connection and access to early childhood education and care. This investment has seen 2,552 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and 1,763 parents and carers participating in activities delivered by Early Years Places in six months.

Deadly Kindies

Funding of \$250,000 for the Deadly Kindies campaign in partnership with the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health to improve kindergarten participation rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children living in South East Queensland. From 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017, 480 eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children have engaged in the campaign, 69 per cent of whom have enrolled in an approved kindergarten program.



Image: Koobara Kindy

Housing

The 2018-19 Budget delivers \$239 million to improve housing outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders, including:

- \$118 million to improve social rental housing
- \$37.8 million to improve state-owned and managed Indigenous housing
- \$10.4 million for activities to support private home ownership in discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- \$9.6 million for a young women’s facility in Townsville to assist young women from remote communities to take up employment, education and training opportunities.

Our Way: A generational strategy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families 2017-2037

Launched in May 2017, the strategy provides a \$162.8 million investment over five years from 2016-17. It represents a long-term commitment by government, Family Matters Queensland and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to work together to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in Queensland grow up safe, cared for in family, community and culture, and to eliminate the over representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the child safety system by 2037.

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 hospital-based services.

Deadly Choices

To expand the successful Deadly Choices program, the 2018-19 Budget provides \$16 million over two years. Deadly Choices empowers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders to take greater control of their health and prevent chronic disease. The funding will expand the reach of Deadly Choices across Queensland.

Indigenous Councils Critical Infrastructure Program (ICCIP)

To support councils to manage water, wastewater and solid waste, \$120 million from 2016-17 to 2019-20 is being provided for infrastructure in remote and discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The ICCIP contributes to water security and long-term environmental and community public health outcomes. It also seeks to provide job, training and supplier opportunities for local communities.

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.

Aurukun Four Point Plan

The Government is investing \$1.6 million in 2018-19 for continued implementation of the Aurukun Four Point Plan, to build community safety and strengthen the community.

Community Justice Group (CJG) Program

The 2018-19 Budget provides continued investment of \$3.9 million a year to support 49 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander CJGs across Queensland. CJGs are run by members of the local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community, and provide a community-based response to local justice issues and general support to defendants and victims.

CJG Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) Enhancement Program

To support 18 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to develop tailored responses to domestic and family violence in their communities, the 2018-19 Budget continues the \$11 million committed from 2016-17 over four years. To date, funding has been provided to the communities of Mossman, Hope Vale, Wujal Wujal, Cherbourg and Mornington Island for their DFV responses.

Murri Courts

The 2018-19 Budget provides \$2.2 million over four years and \$700,000 per annum ongoing for 14 Murri Courts located across urban, regional and remote Queensland. The Murri Courts deliver a culturally appropriate court process that respects and acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures as well as refer defendants to support services that address the underlying contributors to their offending.

Being a responsive Government

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to supporting all Queenslanders by delivering on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community priorities that improve outcomes at the local and state level.

Reconciliation Action Plan

The *Queensland Government Reconciliation Action Plan 2018-2021* is the Queensland Government’s commitment to reconciliation including through stronger partnerships to empower communities to achieve positive and practical outcomes. Initiatives include greater engagement through an annual Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-themed cabinet meeting and summit, creating social cohesion through protection and value of culture and increasing economic opportunities.

Kupai Omasker

In 2017-18 the Palaszczuk Government provided \$1 million over three years to develop new legislation that recognises the achievements made by Torres Strait Islander people's continued use of traditional Torres Strait Islander child rearing practices. This includes the engagement of eminent persons to assist with the consultation process to progress this important work.

Torres Strait seawalls

The Government will provide an additional \$20 million over three years from 2018-19 to construct seawalls and other coastal mitigation works on five outer Torres Strait Islands, pending Australian Government matched funding. This will protect infrastructure and communities on these islands from rising sea levels and the impacts of coastal inundation.

Disaster management

\$1.1 million in 2018-19 will assist in the establishment of a road and construction unit within the Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council, which will enable Council to tender for and undertake construction and road projects and improve its year-round disaster management capabilities.

Waste removal

From 2018-19 the Government is providing an additional \$5 million over two years to conduct the removal of waste metal build-up including vehicle stockpiles from the communities within the Torres Strait Island Regional Council, Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council and Torres Shire Council areas.

Queensland Productivity Commission Inquiry

The Government is considering the findings of the Queensland Productivity Commission Inquiry into service delivery in remote and discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The report outlined the need for Government to work closely with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders in a collaborative, co-design approach to achieve effective and efficient services that meet community needs and deliver priority outcomes.

Torres Shire Water Treatment infrastructure upgrade

From 2018-19 the Government is providing additional funding of up to \$12 million over two years to upgrade Torres Shire Council's



A new Primary Health Care Centre for Palm Island

By the end of 2018, Palm Island residents will have access to health services through a purpose-built Primary Health Care Centre. This has been made possible through the Palaszczuk Government's investment of \$16.5 million, which includes \$8.5 million from the Queensland Government's Significant Regional Infrastructure Projects Program and \$8 million from Queensland Health. Once completed, Palm Island residents will have improved access to comprehensive primary healthcare, allied health, visiting specialists, social and emotional wellbeing services, and dental, maternal and child health programs.

This new centre forms a central plank of the new community-endorsed *Palm Island Health Action Plan 2018 – 2028*, which sets out how community and providers will work together to improve the health and wellbeing of Palm Island residents. This Plan also sets a goal for the future operation of the new primary health care service to transition to a Palm Island community-based organisation in the next five years.

drinking water treatment infrastructure including water filtration and other related infrastructure on Thursday Island and Horn Island. The adjacent Hammond Island will also benefit from the upgrade as its drinking water is sourced primarily from Torres Shire Council via a pipeline.

Kowanyama Men's Shed and Women's Meeting Place

In 2018-19 the Government is providing an additional \$2.7 million over four years and \$416,000 per annum ongoing to establish a Men's Shed and a Women's Meeting Place for the Kowanyama community.

Cape York Splash Parks

In 2018-19 there is additional funding of \$4 million to build splash parks at Pormpuraaw, Napranum and Mapoon.

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