

LEARNING • EARNING • ACTIVE • PLACES

A strategy for improving access to education, employment, health and housing opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders in urban and regional areas

PROGRAM OF ACTION 2011 to 2014



Tomorrow's Queensland:
strong, green, smart, healthy and fair

Toward 
Tomorrow's Queensland

 **Queensland**
Government

Message from the Premier and Minister



The Honourable Anna Bligh MP

DRAFT - to come



The Honourable Curtis Pitt MP

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anna Bligh".

The Honourable Anna Bligh MP
Premier and Minister for the Arts

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Curt Pitt".

The Honourable Curtis Pitt MP
Minister for Disability Services,
Mental Health and Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander Partnerships

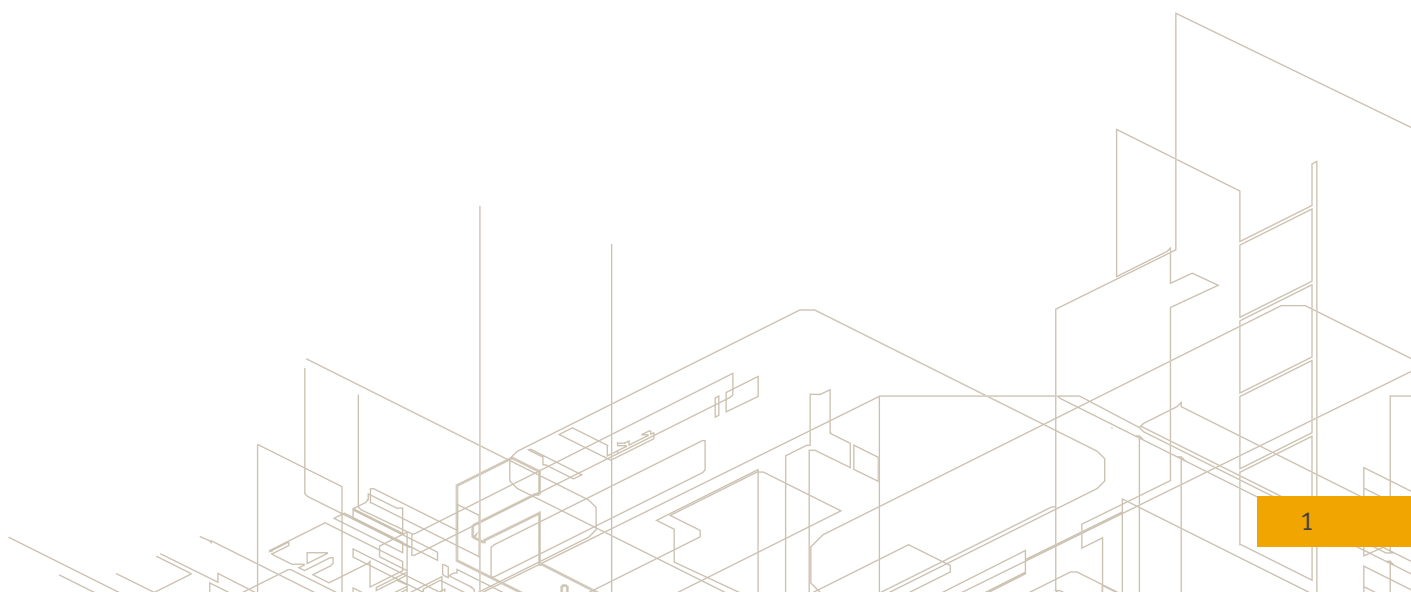


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Our commitment to ‘closing the gap’

All Queenslanders should have access to the same opportunities that come from living in a prosperous state such as Queensland. This means children and young people benefiting from high quality education, having rewarding employment to support yourself and your family, living in safe neighbourhoods and having access to high quality community services.

While Queensland is enjoying great prosperity against most measures of wellbeing—such as employment, health and education— data continues to show that the gap, or difference, between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous peoples is substantial. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders are more likely to be unemployed, have poorer health and are less likely to attend and finish school than non-Indigenous Queenslanders.

The Queensland Government is committed to ‘closing the gap’ to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders have access to the same opportunities and choices as all Queenslanders. To keep us on track—and focus our efforts—the Queensland Government has committed to six ‘closing the gap’ targets. These targets have been agreed nationally through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) and all States and Territories are working to make them a reality.

This strategy—together with other reforms being undertaken across the Queensland Government—outlines how the Queensland Government will work together with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders in urban and regional areas to achieve the ‘closing the gap’ targets.

An important part of this strategy is recognising the strengths and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders in our cities, small towns and regional centres. By building on the strong foundations that already exist within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, we can ensure all Queenslanders lead healthy, productive and fulfilling lives.

COAG Closing the Gap targets

1. Close the gap in life expectancy by 2031.
2. Halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five by 2018.
3. Ensure access to early childhood education for all Indigenous four year olds in remote communities by 2013.
4. Halve the gap in the reading, writing and numeracy achievement for Indigenous children by 2018.
5. Halve the gap in Year 12 or equivalent attainment by 2020.
6. Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians by 2018.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in our cities, small towns and regional centres—setting the scene

Approximately 113,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders—roughly 78 per cent of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in Queensland—live in cities, small towns and regional centres. This is higher than the national average which is around 75 per cent.

The data shows that compared to non-Indigenous Queenslanders in urban and regional areas, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders experience poorer social and economic outcomes—they have lower level qualifications, are less likely to have completed Year 12 and have poorer health. Social and economic disadvantage is not restricted to remote areas of Queensland.



Challenges in Queensland cities and towns

- In major cities, 67.1 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (aged 20 to 24 years) attained Year 12 or equivalent compared to 86.4 per cent of non-Indigenous young people.
- In regional centres, around 37 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (aged 20 to 64 years) had a qualification above a Certificate III compared to around 50 per cent of non-Indigenous people.
- In major cities, over two years (2007-2008), babies born to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women were 1.8 times more likely to have a low birth weight than babies born to non-Indigenous women—the rate rose to 2.3 times in outer regional areas.
- In outer regional areas, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples were up to 5.7 times more likely to live in overcrowded housing than non-Indigenous people.
- In major cities, the unemployment rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people was nearly three times higher (12.8 per cent compared to 4.5 per cent for non-Indigenous people). The unemployment rate rose to 21.4 per cent in outer regional areas for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people compared to 3.8 per cent for non-Indigenous peoples (over five times higher).

Queensland has a population of around 144,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across the State. This is 3.5 per cent of the total Queensland population and around 28 per cent of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population across Australia.

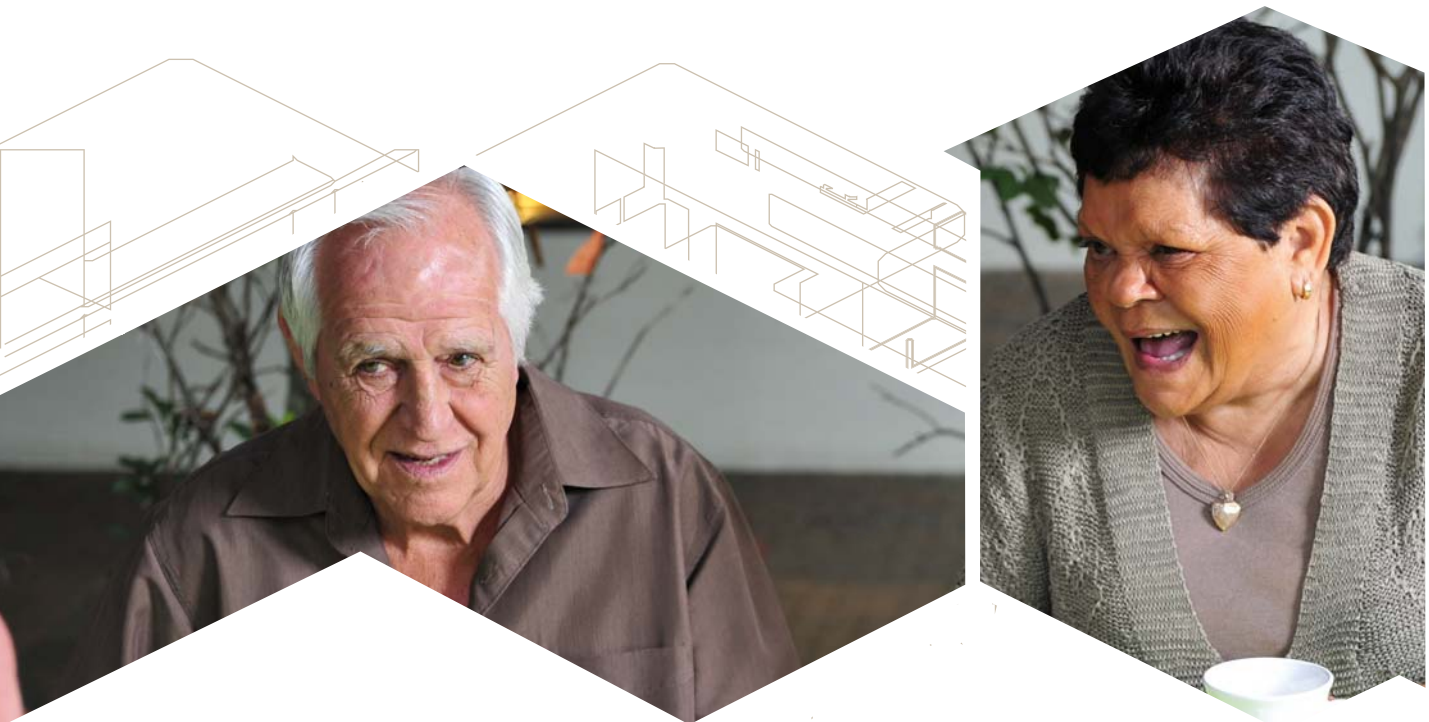
Improving access to opportunities to ‘close the gap’

Consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members throughout 2009 and 2010 provided information about what needs to be done differently in urban and regional areas to ‘close the gap’. Three common themes emerged from consultation:

- **a good start to life:** education and early childhood development is important to give children a good start to life
- **cultural competency:** culturally appropriate service delivery models need to be built into the design and delivery of services
- **community engagement:** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and organisations need to be proactively involved in developing solutions to identified priorities.

A key message throughout the consultation was that the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in urban and regional areas are different to people living in more remote areas of Queensland. A ‘one size fits all’ approach across urban, regional and remote areas will not ‘close the gap’.

Unlike remote areas, the causes and conditions of disadvantage in cities, small towns and regional centres are not solely due to a lack of services or opportunities. In many urban and regional areas, existing services need to be improved to make them more effective, targeted and responsive to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders.



LEAP: learning earning active places

Based on the findings from consultation, the LEAP: learning earning active places strategy has been developed to ‘close the gap’ in Indigenous disadvantage in urban and regional Queensland through improving access to education, employment, health and housing opportunities.

- L is for learning (improved educational outcomes)
- E is for earning (employment and economic participation opportunities)
- A is for active (active and healthy lifestyles)
- P is for places (safe and affordable housing).

The *LEAP: learning earning active places* strategy recognises that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community has many strong leaders, role models, educators, community members and nationally recognised community controlled organisations. A key part of the strategy is supporting and building on the many successful Indigenous-led initiatives already underway in our cities, towns and regional centres.

The strategy has five objectives:

1. **Strengthen the capabilities** (health, wellbeing, education and skills) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples—focusing on individual development.
2. **Increase access** to social, economic and cultural opportunities and address the barriers to participation—improving access to services.
3. **Promote healthy lifestyles** that lead to positive long-term change for families and communities—*supporting prevention and early intervention approaches.*
4. **Strengthen relationships and connections** between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the wider Queensland community—*promoting social cohesion and reconciliation.*
5. **Support the cultural identities** of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in cities, towns and regional centres—*supporting cultural maintenance.*



Program of action—2011 to 2014

The *LEAP: learning earning active places* strategy is a rolling strategy. A **program of action** will be developed every three years outlining what will be delivered.

The first **program of action** is from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2014 and includes a number of actions to improve access to education, employment, health and housing opportunities.

It includes:

- **19 across government actions with a focus on employment and economic participation**
- **Promoting the achievements and successes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders**
- **Place-based ‘closing the gap’ actions across urban and regional areas to respond to community identified needs and government priorities.**



Across government actions— Learning Earning Active Places

Why is this needed?

Accessing effective education, employment, health and housing services are essential for improving the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders. 19 existing actions have been included in the strategy to look at ways these services and programs can be better targeted to meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders.

What will we do?

A significant amount of investment is tied to education, employment, health and housing services in Queensland and it is important they deliver real benefits for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living in our cities, small towns and regional centres. As part of this strategy, access to these services will be increased and improvements will be made to how these services are delivered.

How will we achieve this?

Queensland Government agencies will make sure services and programs are targeted, effective and appropriate to meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in cities, small towns and regional centres.



Learning

Education, from early childhood through to higher education, is essential for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to have access to the same opportunities available to all Queenslanders. As well as providing people with the skills needed to get a job and participate in society—thereby reducing the risk of economic and social disadvantage—education is important for cultural expression and the ongoing maintenance of distinct Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.

Through early childhood education, maternal and child services, parenting programs, kindergarten services, responsive schooling that brings Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures into the classrooms, and targeted assistance to support Year 12 students transition to a job or further study, the Queensland Government will increase the proportion of families access early childhood services, improve the performance of students and increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait people completing high school and obtaining qualifications.

Action: Establish seven new children and family centres in Mount Isa, Cairns, Ipswich, Mareeba, Mackay, Rockhampton and Marsden. The centres will deliver integrated early childhood education and care, parenting support, and child and maternal health services to children aged 0 to 8 years and their families.

Target:

1. All seven centres operating from permanent premises by the end of 2012.
2. Increase the number and proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families accessing services offered through the centres.

Leadership: Department of Education and Training

Action: Deliver 38 extra kindergarten services in locations where at least six per cent of four year olds are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. Kindergarten programs will support families and community members participate in the program's activities and to share their cultural heritage to the benefit of all children. Locations include Mackay, Cairns, Toowoomba, Mount Isa, Brisbane, Gold Coast, Ipswich, Laidley, Gympie, Bundaberg, Townsville, Rockhampton, Bowen and Sarina.

Target:

1. Establish 24 new services by 2012.
2. Increase the percentage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children enrolled in an early childhood education program by 2012.

Leadership: Department of Education and Training

Action: Embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives across all aspects of schooling to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to succeed at school. Schools will work with their local communities to bring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures into the school environment in practical ways, including increasing the content taught in schools about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history and culture, employing more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff, getting more families involved in the school environment and delivering cultural awareness training to school staff.

Target:

1. Halve the gap in Year 3 reading, writing and numeracy by 2012.
2. Close the gap in school attendance and in Year 10 to 12 retention rates by 2013.
3. Embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives across all aspects of schooling practice (personal and professional accountability; organisational environment; community partnerships; and curriculum and teaching methods) by June 2012.

Leadership: Department of Education and Training

Action: Support all Year 12 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to finish school, find work or continue their education through the Learn Earn Legend Year 12 Destinations initiative. The two year trial involves providing one-on-one support, mentoring and family support to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Year 12 students (around 1800 students) to help them finish school and successfully get a job or undertake more study.

Target:

1. Transition 90 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to employment, education or training 12 months after completing schooling.
2. 'Close the gap' in Year 10 to 12 retention rates by 2013.
3. Increase the proportion of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (aged 20 to 24 years) who complete Year 12 or a Certificate III.

Leadership: Department of Education and Training

Earning

While education is the key to making the most out of life's opportunities, employment is the pathway leading to greater economic and social benefits for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. A strong focus has been given to employment and economic participation in the strategy as having and keeping a job are the best ways to ensure families reduce the chances of being economically and socially disadvantaged, and for people to have the resources and confidence to lead productive and fulfilling lives.

By increasing public sector employment opportunities, employment and training programs, providing more employment assistance to people exiting prison, setting job targets for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to be involved in disaster reconstruction projects, leveraging employment opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers in industries experiencing strong economic growth and through its own purchasing policies, the Queensland Government will increase the employment rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders.

In cities, 13 per cent of 15 to 64 year old Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are out of work compared to 5 per cent of non-Indigenous people.

In regional areas, up to 21 per cent of 15 to 64 year old Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are out of work compared to 4 per cent of non-Indigenous people.

Action: Create 2,800 Queensland government employment opportunities across the public sector by June 2013. The Queensland Government will link with job service providers, training organisations, universities and schools, and conduct a communication campaign in regional Queensland, to promote the public sector as an employment destination of choice.

Targets:

1. Attain 2.6 per cent Indigenous representation across the Queensland public sector by 30 June 2013.
2. Provide 2,800 employment opportunities by 30 June 2013.

Leadership: Public Service Commission

Action: Provide training and assistance to 5,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander job seekers to develop the skills required to secure employment through the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative.

Target:

1. Up to 20% of participants in the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative to be Indigenous (5,000 Indigenous people assisted).

Leadership: Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation

Action: Link 200 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners to employment opportunities through a range of mentoring initiatives. This will include funded organisations dedicating 20% of their direct activity to mentor Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners and a dedicated Indigenous Employment and Training Officer providing assistance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners entering employment.

Target:

1. Provide assistance to 200 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners through the Jail to Jobs program.

Leadership: Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation

Action: Increase employment and training opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the resources sector and other industries.

Target:

1. Increased employment opportunities provided to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through partnership arrangements between the Queensland and Australian Governments and the Queensland Resources Council in 2011-12.

Leadership: Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation

Action: Increase employment opportunities and support Indigenous businesses through strengthening Queensland Government purchasing policies. Strategies under consideration include: requiring successful contractors of major Government construction, maintenance, cleaning and infrastructure projects to implement Indigenous training, employment and supplier strategies; and encouraging Queensland Government agencies to join the Australian Indigenous Minority Supplier Council (AIMSC).

Targets:

1. Halve the gap in employment outcomes by providing 29,000 extra employment opportunities by 2018.
2. Strengthen Indigenous procurement policies which will apply to all Queensland Government agencies and contractors.
3. At least four Queensland Government agencies become a member of the Australian Indigenous Minority Supplier Council in 2011-12.

Leadership: Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation

Earning *(continued)*

Action: Expand the *Participate in Prosperity* program to assist highly disadvantaged and marginalised Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander people in Brisbane, Cairns, Townsville and Rockhampton who are currently excluded from the labour force to break the cycle of poverty and enter the workforce. Other locations to be included over the next three years.

Targets:

1. Develop and implement targeted Participate in Prosperity programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples currently excluded from the labour force.
2. 20% participation rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across all Participate in Prosperity programs.

Leadership: Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation

Action: Maximise employment opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders through specific initiatives to support Queensland industry, businesses and communities to recover from the recent natural disasters as part of the \$83 million Queensland Disasters Jobs and Skills Package. Funding will be provided for training and employment activities directly related to flood damage and disaster recovery efforts, Indigenous Employment Coordinators to connect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to employment and training opportunities in flood and cyclone affected areas, and government apprenticeships.

Targets:

1. Up to 600 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people assisted through the Indigenous Employment Program.
2. Five Indigenous Employment Coordinators employed.
3. Apprenticeships for 40 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (20 per cent) through the Government Apprenticeship Program.

Leadership: Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation

Action: Provide mentoring and professional development support for up to 160 Indigenous workers in the community services sector in urban and regional locations.

Targets:

1. Up to 15 mentorship places (30 participants) per region (a total of up to 120 participants).
2. Two trainer programs delivered during 2011 with 20 participants in each program (a total of 40 participants).

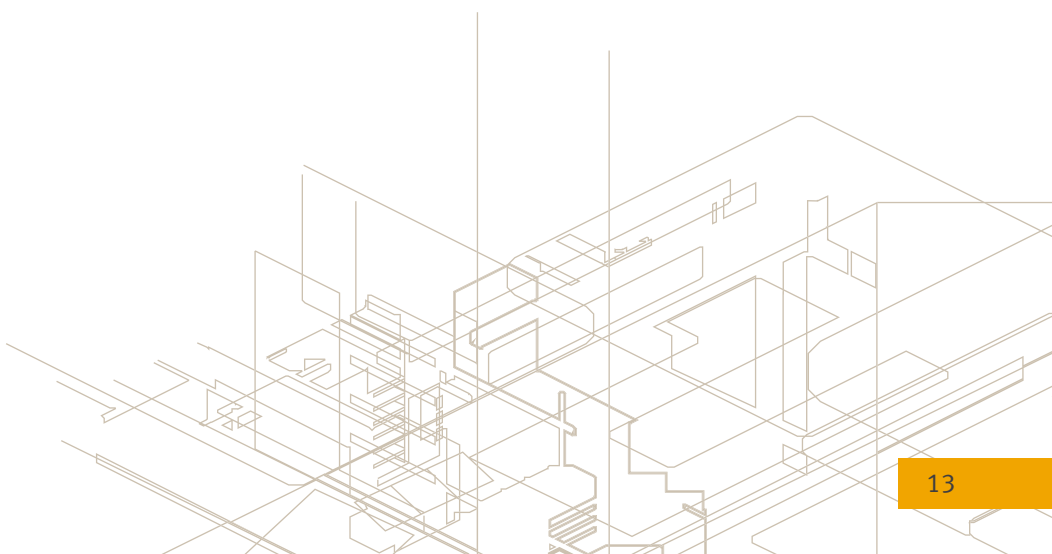
Leadership: Department of Education and Training, Department of Communities

Action: Support the professional development of up to 140 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers and managers in the community services sector. A state-wide professional support network and accredited training will be provided to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander managers working for community service organisations. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community service workers and volunteers will also be eligible to receive study grants for professional development.

Targets:

1. Up to 40 Indigenous Managers to participate in the program.
2. Up to 100 service practitioner development grants provided to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Leadership: Department of Education and Training , Department of Communities



Active

Living a healthy and active lifestyle is the basis for people to participate fully in all aspects of community life and make the most of social and economic opportunities. Increasing access to health and community services, including services for people with a disability and older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, promotes greater connectedness and increases a person's quality of life.

By improving the delivery of primary health care services, providing more maternal and health services to young parents, supporting families who have a child with a disability and assisting frail aged Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and those with a disability, the Queensland Government will improve the delivery of health and community support services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders.

Action: Establish the Southern Queensland Centre of Excellence in Indigenous Primary Health at Inala to improve the delivery of health services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in south-east Queensland. The centre will be a leader in teaching, training and research and will focus on supporting workforce development by providing an alternative teaching environment for health students and medical interns. The centre will also deliver a range of health, podiatry and psychology services, and outreach clinics, to areas with low access.

Target:

1. Increase the number of health checks provided to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Leadership: Queensland Health

Action: Assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who are frail aged and younger people with a disability to live independently in their own homes by increasing access to support services delivered through the Home and Community Care (HACC) program. Services include personal and home care, preparing meals, installing modifications in the home to help people move around more easily, and providing social support and respite for carers of people with a disability.

Target:

1. Increase the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients accessing HACC services.

Leadership: Department of Communities

Action: Reduce the incidence of low birth weight babies in Queensland by providing more maternal and health services in Townsville, Toowoomba, Ipswich, Brisbane, Caboolture, Logan and Mount Isa. A particular focus will be given to the health needs of pregnant women 20 years and younger. Services include: additional maternity teams (consisting of a midwife and an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Maternal and Infant Care Health worker), more parenting advice provided to women in hospital after they have given birth, and the employment of more Indigenous Young Parent Support workers to help young people prepare for parenting. Indigenous Youth Health workers will also be employed in secondary schools and other community settings to focus on the health needs of young people between 12 to 19 years. Other locations will be targeted over the next three years.

Targets:

1. Establish three maternity teams in identified locations.
2. Improve the perinatal health outcomes of women and their babies by increasing the number of mothers accessing antenatal care services, especially in the first trimester.
3. Reduce the incidence of low birth weight babies.
4. Employ two Indigenous Young Parent Support workers in identified locations.
5. Recruit six Indigenous Youth Health workers to deliver services in schools and other community settings.

Leadership: Queensland Health

Action: Support families who have a child with a disability by improving access to a range of disability and early childhood services for families through the Child Connect pilot in Townsville and Ipswich, and improving access to early intervention services for children with autism, including two new services in Mackay and Bundaberg.

Target:

1. Increase the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families accessing disability services.

Leadership: Department of Communities

Places

Many social and economic factors, such as unemployment, family breakdowns and health problems, affect the demand for housing and homelessness services. Having a safe place to call home that is affordable and free from overcrowding is essential for people to lead productive and rewarding lives.

Currently, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders are three times more likely to experience homelessness than non-Indigenous Queenslanders. By providing assistance to help people exit homelessness permanently and focusing on priority urban and regional areas throughout Queensland, the Queensland Government will reduce homelessness by a third by 2013.

Action: Reduce Indigenous homelessness by a third by 2013 through a range of initiatives, including the Street to Home initiative (in Brisbane, Cairns, Townsville and the Gold Coast—a new service will commence in Mareeba in 2011) to help people living on streets exit homelessness permanently; and the development of Homelessness Community Action Plans in Brisbane, Hervey Bay, Cairns, Caboolture, Mount Isa, Toowoomba and the Gold Coast. The action plans will bring together various government and non-government organisations, local businesses and community members to provide practical assistance and permanent accommodation to people experiencing homelessness or are at risk of becoming homeless.

Targets:

1. Reduce Indigenous homelessness by 33% (around 700 people) by 2013.
2. Develop and implement homelessness community action plans in Brisbane, Hervey Bay, Cairns, Caboolture, Mount Isa, Toowoomba and the Gold Coast.

Leadership: Department of Communities

Promoting achievement and success

A communication campaign will celebrate and promote the many achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in urban and regional areas across Queensland.

This campaign will focus on the everyday success stories of Indigenous Queenslanders whether they are mothers, fathers, teachers, students, tradespeople, people working in the arts, corporate or public sectors, or community leaders.

The campaign will build on community strengths, recognising the diverse experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders and highlighting the common aspects of the life – the challenges and triumphs - that we all share.

What will we do?

The campaign will generate positive images and messages in the media and within our community, affirm culture, and help increase the capacity of Queensland communities to support the success of Indigenous peoples.

How will we achieve this?

The campaign will leverage from a number of existing communication activities.

Advertising and promotion will salute the success stories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders, through the eyes of high profile ambassadors. Over the life of the campaign promotions may be targeted to address particular issues or audiences.

The **campaign website** will feature an interactive gallery where members of the community can submit stories reflecting the success and achievements of everyday Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders. Social media will be used to share and engage audiences in these stories of success.

The campaign will be supported and grow through **local recognition and engagement activities** to be delivered in partnership by ATSI regional offices. Local activity will leverage from the broader campaign messages, while highlighting the real successes and achievements most relevant to regional audiences.



Local ‘closing the gap’ actions across urban and regional areas of Queensland

Why is this needed?

Local solutions—in response to identified priorities—are needed as a one-size-fits-all approach will not ‘close the gap’. This was a clear message from consultation.

Across large metropolitan centres, small towns and regional centres local place-based solutions will be developed to respond to identified priorities. These actions will be developed in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members and other stakeholders, including the private sector, local governments, non-government organisations and the Australian Government.

What will we do?

Local ‘closing the gap’ action plans will outline a small number of actions the Queensland Government will undertake in response to identified priorities. The plans will be living documents and formally reviewed and reported on every six months to reflect emerging priorities across urban and regional areas.

How will we achieve this?

The Department of Communities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services (ATSIS), will be responsible for developing a plan in each of its seven regions and will work with key partners—Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members, non-government organisations, the private sector, other Queensland Government departments, local governments and the Australian Government—to ensure the place-based actions are delivered.

To support the overall aim and objectives of the strategy, targeted active inclusion activities will be designed to promote healthy lifestyle choices, increase access to services and opportunities, build stronger relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous peoples, and support the cultural identities of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in cities, towns and regional centres.

Some of the identified priorities and locations for place-based actions across Queensland for 2011–12 include:

Brisbane Region

Identified priorities:

- Economic participation: Increase employment opportunities for young people.
- Schooling: Provide vocational training and mentoring for young people at high school.
- Governance and leadership: Support community-controlled organisations to build their organisational capacity and governance structures.
- Health: Promote healthy lifestyles and active participation through sport and recreation.

Locations: Inala, Zillmere, Bracken Ridge, Sandgate, Taigum, Greater Brisbane

South East Region

Identified priorities:

- Schooling: Make education more culturally inclusive through the involvement of Elders in schools and forming Indigenous reference groups for ongoing advice.
- Health: Increase knowledge amongst community members about healthy eating choices.
- Governance and leadership: Reduce truancy rates by supporting Elders to work with local families.
- Governance and leadership: Support local community members to build their own governance and decision-making structures.
- Health: Support community-controlled health services and organisations to deliver workshops and printed media about local health priorities.

Locations: Redlands, Logan, Gold Coast

South West Region

Identified priorities:

- Healthy Homes: Reduce overcrowding by working with non-government housing service providers.
- Early childhood: Increase access to early childhood services for 0 to 4 year olds.
- Economic Participation: Improve employment outcomes for young people completing senior schooling.
- Governance and leadership: Support the organisational capacity of local community controlled organisations.

Locations: Dalby, Toowoomba, Ipswich, St George

Local ‘closing the gap’ actions across urban and regional areas of Queensland *(continued)*

North Coast Region

Identified priorities:

- Governance and leadership: Support non-government community based organisations to improve their cultural capability and employ more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Governance and leadership: Support local community members to build their own governance and decision-making structures to respond to local issues.
- Schooling: Improve educational outcomes for young people.

Locations: North Coast, Gympie, Deception Bay, Sunshine Coast, Caboolture

Central Queensland Region

Identified priorities:

- Governance and Leadership: Address the existing barriers preventing the delivery of outreach services to smaller regional areas.
- Early childhood: Promote the benefits of early childhood education.
- Economic Participation: Improve the literacy and numeracy skills of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have been involved in the criminal justice system.
- Economic Participation: Enhance business and employment opportunities by working in partnership with the corporate sector.
- Safe communities: Increase the number of young people accessing services through the Police Citizens Youth Club.

Locations: Maryborough, Hervey Bay, Eidsvold, Barcaldine, Mt Morgan

North Queensland Region

Identified priorities:

- Healthy Homes: Support social housing tenants to connect to their communities.
- Healthy Homes: Promote home ownership.
- Safe communities: Support communities to reduce substance misuse.
- Governance and leadership: Support the establishment of community-led groups (including young people) to contribute to local government and develop responses to identified priorities, such as young mums and Elders.
- Schooling: Support high school students to gain a deeper understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and history.
- Schooling: Increase school attendance and retention rates.
- Health: Improve access to services for Indigenous people, including young people at risk of suicide and people with disabilities.
- Early childhood development: Increase the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children accessing child care services
- Economic Participation: Enhance business and employment opportunities by working in partnership with the corporate sector.
- Governance and leadership: Support initiatives to increase Indigenous people's contribution to local initiatives (such as Cyclone Yasi recovery projects).

Locations: Upper Ross—Condon, Rasmussen and Kelso, Townsville, Ingham, Mt Isa, Normanton, Mackay, Sarina, Bowen, Proserpine

Far North Queensland Region

Identified priorities:

- Governance and leadership: Rebuild Elders leadership and cultural exchanges with young people to help them make positive life choices.
- Early childhood: Provide intensive support to single parent families to help their children succeed at school.
- Economic Participation: Work with local industries to increase employment opportunities for young people.

Locations: Cairns, Cairns West (Manoora, Manunda and Mooroolool), Mareeba, Gordonvale, Innisfail,

Implementing the strategy

The Department of Communities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services, is responsible for implementation of the *LEAP: learning earning active places* strategy in partnership with other Queensland Government departments.

Throughout the implementation of the strategy Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples will be actively involved to ensure the strategy stays on track, delivers results and responds to community identified priorities.

Subsequent programs of action beyond 2014 will be released until Queensland has achieved the six national 'closing the gap' targets.

Regular progress reports will be provided to the Queensland Government on the implementation of the strategy. Public reports will be made available annually about the achievements being made in our cities, small towns and regional centres.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will be involved in the development of place-based 'closing the gap' actions across urban and regional areas of Queensland and will be provided with regular reports on progress.

Your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Regional Service centre.

