

2018 – 19 Budget Estimates

Report No. 9, 56th Parliament
Health, Communities, Disability Services and
Domestic and Family Violence Prevention
Committee

August 2018

Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee

Chair	Mr Aaron Harper MP, Member for Thuringowa
Deputy Chair	Mr Mark McArdle MP, Member for Caloundra
Members	Mr Michael Berkman MP, Member for Maiwar Mr Martin Hunt MP, Member for Nicklin Mr Barry O'Rourke MP, Member for Rockhampton Ms Joan Pease MP, Member for Lytton

Committee Secretariat

Telephone	+61 7 3553 6626
Fax	+61 7 3553 6699
Email	health@parliament.qld.gov.au
Web	www.parliament.qld.gov.au/HCDSDFVPC

Acknowledgements

The committee thanks the:

- Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services
- Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors, and
- Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence.

The committee also acknowledges the assistance provided by departmental officers who contributed to the work of the committee during the estimates process.

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Chair's foreword

This report presents a summary of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee's examination of the budget estimates for the 2018-2019 financial year.

Consideration of the budget estimates allows for the public examination of the responsible Ministers and the chief executive officers of agencies within the committee's portfolio areas. This was undertaken through the questions on notice and public hearing process.

The committee has recommended that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2018 for the committee's areas of responsibility, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

On behalf of the committee, I thank the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, the Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors and the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. I also thank the Ministers' departmental officers for their co-operation in providing information to the committee throughout this process.

I would also like to thank the members of the committee for their hard work and valuable contribution to the estimates process, and other members whose participation in the hearing provided additional scrutiny of the estimates.

Finally, I thank the committee's secretariat and other Parliamentary Service staff and Auslan Connections for their assistance throughout the estimates process.



Aaron Harper MP

Chair

August 2018

1. Introduction

1.1 The Committee's role

The Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee (the committee) is a portfolio committee of the Queensland Parliament. The committee commenced on 15 February 2018 under the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* and the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

The committee's areas of responsibility are:

- Health and Ambulance Services
- Communities, Women, Youth and Child Safety
- Domestic and Family Violence Prevention, and
- Disability Services and Seniors.¹

The committee also has oversight functions in relation to the Health Ombudsman.²

On 15 June 2018, the Appropriation Bill 2018 and the estimates for the committee's area of responsibility were referred to the committee for investigation and report.³

On 31 July 2018, the committee conducted a public hearing and took evidence about the proposed expenditure from the:

- Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services
- Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors, and
- Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence.

The transcript of the committee's hearing can be accessed [here](#).

1.2 Aim of this report

The committee considered the estimates referred to it by using information contained in:

- budget papers
- answers to pre-hearing questions on notice
- evidence taken at the hearing, and
- additional information given in relation to answers.

This report summarises the estimates referred to the committee and highlights some of the issues the committee examined.

Before the public hearing, the committee provided the Ministers listed above with questions on notice in relation to the estimates. Responses to all the questions were received.

A volume of additional information tabled with this report includes:

- answers to the committee's pre-hearing questions on notice

¹ Standing Rules and Orders, Schedule 6. The schedule provides that departments, statutory authorities, government owned corporations or other administrative units related to the relevant Minister's responsibilities regarding these areas are included.

² Section 179, *Health Ombudsman Act 2013* (Qld).

³ Standing Order 177 provides for the automatic referral of the Annual Appropriation Bills to portfolio committees once the Bills have been read a second time.

- documents tabled during the hearing
- answers and additional information provided by Ministers after the hearing, and
- minutes of the committee's meetings.

1.3 Other Members' participation

Ms Leanne Linard MP, Member for Nudgee, was a substitute member for Ms Joan Pease MP, Member for Lytton at the public hearing.

The committee gave leave for other Members to participate in the hearing, with the following Shadow Ministers participating:

- Ms Bates MP, Shadow Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, Shadow Minister for Women and Member for Mudgeeraba
- Mr Bennett MP, Shadow Minister for Child Safety, Youth, Shadow Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Shadow Minister for Veterans and Member for Burnett
- Mr Janetski MP, Shadow Attorney-General, Shadow Minister for Justice and Member for Toowoomba South, and
- Dr Rowan MP, Shadow Minister for Communities, Shadow Minister for Disability Services and Seniors, Shadow Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Shadow Minister for the Arts and Member for Moggill.

The following Members also participated in the hearing:

- Ms Sandy Bolton MP, Member for Noosa, and
- Mr Jon Krause MP, Member for Scenic Rim.

2. Recommendation

Pursuant to Standing Order 187(1), the committee must state whether the proposed expenditures referred to it are agreed to.

Recommendation 1

The committee recommends that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2018 for the committee's areas of responsibility, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

3. Queensland Health

The Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services is responsible for the Queensland public healthcare system, which is collectively known as Queensland Health. Queensland Health comprises:

- Department of Health, (the department of health) which is responsible for the overall leadership and management of Queensland’s public health system. The department works in close collaboration with Hospital and Health Services (HHSs) and the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) to ensure that public health services are delivered.⁴
- 16 independent Hospital and Health Services (HHSs), which are independent statutory bodies that provide public hospital and health services in accordance with the *Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011* (Qld), the principles and objectives of the national health system and the Queensland Government’s priorities for the public health system.⁵
- Queensland Ambulance Services – is accountable for the delivery of pre-hospital ambulance response services, emergency and non-emergency pre-hospital patient care and transport services, inter-facility ambulance transport, casualty room services and planning and coordination of multi-casualty incidents and disasters.⁶

The Minister is also responsible for three statutory bodies – the Office of the Health Ombudsman (OHO), the Council of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research (QIMR), known as the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute, and the Queensland Mental Health Commission (QMHC), which make up the remainder of the Health portfolio.⁷

The appropriations for the department of health for 2017-18 and 2018-19 are below.

Appropriations	Budget 2017-18 (\$'000)	Est. Actual 2017-18 (\$'000)	Vote 2018-19 (\$'000)
<i>Controlled Items</i>			
Departmental services	10,319,023	10,257,951	10,934,749
Equity adjustment	113,690	(41,422)	77,157
<i>Administered Items</i>	34,149	73,780	18,744
Vote	10,466,862	10,290,309	11,030,650

Source: [Appropriation Bill 2018, Schedule 2](#), p 16.

3.1 Budget Highlights

Queensland Health’s operating budget will be \$17.318 billion for 2018-19, an increase of \$729.3 million (4.4 per cent) on the adjusted 2017-18 operating budget of \$16.589 billion.⁸ The estimated operating budget includes:

- \$10.917 billion in Queensland Government funding
- \$4.793 billion in Australian Government funding
- \$1.408 billion in user charges and fees, and

⁴ Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Health](#), p 39.

⁵ Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Health](#), p 2.

⁶ Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Health](#), p 55.

⁷ Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Health](#), p 4.

⁸ Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Health](#), p 6.

- \$198.9 million in other revenue.⁹

3.1.1 New measures and key funding initiatives

New measures and funding initiatives for Queensland Health in 2018-19 include:

- \$154.7 million to deliver the Government's commitment to extend the *Specialist Outpatient Strategy* until 2019-20 to continue to improve access to specialist outpatient services within clinically-recommended timeframes¹⁰
- \$77.4 million to support the continuation of initiatives across Queensland to improve access to specialist outpatient services and any conversion to elective surgery¹¹
- \$26.6 million to support enhancements to community mental health treatment services that will assist HHSs to support people with severe and complex mental illness and help to avoid hospitalisation¹²
- \$16.3 million in incentive payments to encourage and reward the delivery of care such as early and regular antenatal care for Indigenous women, wellness interventions for at-risk pre-surgical patients, smoking cessation clinical pathways, as well as timely assessment and treatment of foot ulcers,¹³ and
- \$16 million to expand the *Deadly Choices Healthy Lifestyle Program* for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to locations including Far North Queensland, the North West and Central Queensland.¹⁴

3.1.2 Capital

The total capital investment program for Queensland Health (including the HHSs and the QAS) and QIMR is \$985.5 million in 2018-19.¹⁵ Capital program highlights for hospital and health facilities include:

- \$164.2 million will be invested in the prioritised ICT categories to ensure continued efficiency of the Queensland Health system. This will include investment in core infrastructure to support digital hospitals, and replacement and enhancement of core clinical systems to support frontline health service provision and decision making at the point of care. Investment will also continue in core business systems to support corporate and business services systems to enhance Queensland Health's ability to accurately, cost effectively and seamlessly store and share data across the continuum of care¹⁶
- \$80 million under the Priority Capital Program to be distributed across HHSs and Health Support Queensland for a range of capital works projects to enhance, refurbish or replace existing infrastructure and to sustain and improve business and service level continuity. The program seeks to address legislative compliance (including fire safety and food safety), essential services (including electricity, water supply and sewerage), major plant and systems (including air-conditioners, chillers, lifts and infrastructure call systems) and major building elements (including foundations, floors, walls and roofs)¹⁷

⁹ Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Health](#), pp 7 and 27.

¹⁰ Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Health](#), p 5.

¹¹ Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Health](#), p 7.

¹² Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Health](#), p 7.

¹³ Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Health](#), p 7.

¹⁴ Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Health](#), p 6.

¹⁵ Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Health](#), p 9.

¹⁶ Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Capital Statement, Budget Paper No. 3](#), p 104.

¹⁷ Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Capital Statement, Budget Paper No. 3](#), p 102.

- \$84.8 million as part of the Enhancing Regional Hospitals Program, to continue to deliver upgrades to the Hervey Bay and Gladstone Emergency Departments, to repurpose the Caloundra Health Service and to redevelop the Roma Hospital¹⁸
- \$53.3 million to continue to deliver projects as part of the Rural and Regional Infrastructure Package, including: to redevelop Blackall Hospital, Sarina Hospital, Kingaroy Hospital and Townsville Hospital Clinical Services, to construct a new Cairns Mental Health Unit, Mer (Murray) Island Building and staff accommodation across the State, and deliver a Maryborough Hospital Emergency Department and Specialist Outpatients Department¹⁹
- \$28.7 million as part of the Building Better Hospitals program, to redevelop Logan (including a new maternity ward), Caboolture and Ipswich hospitals and to commence planning and business case development for the Wide Bay region. The \$679 million total funding also includes \$5 million to refurbish three Cancer Council Queensland lodges, and²⁰
- \$26.6 million as part of the \$230 million Advancing Queensland's Health Infrastructure Program. The program facilitates essential upgrades to health facilities and supporting infrastructure across Queensland, including repurposing of the Nambour General Hospital, redevelopment of the Atherton Hospital Emergency Department and operating theatres, and redevelopment of the Thursday Island Hospital. The program will also support the development of a new health precinct for the southern corridor of Cairns and short-term carpark solutions at Caboolture and Logan Hospitals.²¹

3.1.3 Concessions

The total cost of concessions provided via schemes administered by Queensland Health is estimated at \$281.7 million in 2018-19, a decrease of \$13.8 million on the 2017-18 estimated actual budget. A breakdown of concessions by scheme for 2018-19 is below.

Concession scheme	2018-19 Estimate (\$ million)
Oral Health Scheme	151.8
Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme	84.8
Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme	29.6
Spectacle Supply Scheme	9.3
Community Aids Equipment, Assistive Technologies Initiative and Vehicle Options Subsidy Scheme	6.2
Total	281.7

Source: Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Budget Strategy and Outlook, Budget Paper No. 2](#), p 170.

¹⁸ Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Capital Statement, Budget Paper No. 3](#), p 102.

¹⁹ Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Capital Statement, Budget Paper No. 3](#), p 103.

²⁰ Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Capital Statement, Budget Paper No. 3](#), p 102.

²¹ Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Capital Statement, Budget Paper No. 3](#), p 104.

3.2 Hospital and Health Services

3.2.1 Funding Overview

A total of \$14.771 billion (85.3 per cent of the 2018-19 operating budget) will be allocated, through service agreements, to provide public healthcare services from HHSs, and other organisations. This represents a 5.7 per cent increase compared to the 2017-18 published budget.²²

The operating budget for each HHS in 2018-19, compared to 2017-18, is provided below.

Health Service	2017-2018 Budget (\$ million)	2018-19 Budget (\$ million)	Change from 2017- 18 to 2018-19 (%)
Cairns and Hinterland (page 66)	906.8	936.7	3.3
Central Queensland (page 78)	566.3	610.4	7.8
Central West (page 89)	73.6	76.7	4.2
Children's Health (page 98)	720.2	757.2	5.1
Darling Downs (page 110)	761.7	801.1	5.2
Gold Coast (page 122)	1,391	1,494	7.4
Mackay (page 134)	415.1	441.7	6.4
Metro North (page 144)	2,666	2,838	6.4
Metro South (page 155)	2,315	2,408	4.0
North West (page 166)	172.5	182.0	5.5
South West (page 176)	141.6	149.9	5.8
Sunshine Coast (page 188)	1,155	1,196	3.6
Torres and Cape (page 201)	202.9	213.7	5.3
Townsville (page 213)	935.9	983.8	5.1
West Moreton (page 223)	554.6	607.1	9.5
Wide Bay (page 234)	581.9	614.9	5.7

Source: Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Health](#), pages are in the links above.

3.2.2 Capital

The HHSs will allocate \$162.9 million²³ to capital projects across Queensland, including:

- \$19 million for ICT projects across the Metro North Hospital and Health Service²⁴

²² Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Health](#), p 6.

²³ Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Capital Statement, Budget Paper No. 3](#), p 104

²⁴ Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Capital Statement, Budget Paper No. 3](#), p 104

- \$16.6 million to extend existing ICT services, and develop new ICT services at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital, and²⁵
- \$5 million to continue to construct a new 184-bed Specialist and Ambulatory Care Centre at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital.²⁶

3.3 Queensland Ambulance Services

3.3.1 Funding Overview

The QAS will have an operating expense budget of \$800.3 million for 2018-19, which is an increase of 11.2 per cent from the published operating budget of \$719.6 million from 2017-18²⁷. Key activities for the QAS in 2018-19 include:

- recruiting 100 additional ambulance operatives to provide enhanced roster coverage to manage increasing demand for ambulance services,²⁸ and
- \$5.5 million investment in minor works at existing stations to improve functionality and amenities and prolong useful life.²⁹

3.3.2 Capital

The QAS will invest \$32.5 million³⁰ in capital purchases in 2018-19 to support frontline services, including:

- \$15.1 million for vehicles and stretchers, including to commission 85 new and replacement ambulance vehicles and to continue the rollout of power assisted stretchers³¹
- \$2.5 million for ambulance facilities, including to plan and progress new stations at Hervey Bay, Drayton and Yarrabilba and replace stations at Kirwan and Mareeba,³² and
- \$5.5 million for minor works at various existing stations to improve functionality and amenities and prolong useful life.³³

3.3.3 Key Issues raised at the Public Hearing

Issues raised at the hearing in relation to Queensland Health included:

- the rollout of the integrated electronic Medical Record (ieMR) system
- whether any outages had occurred with the ieMR system
- the Building Better Hospitals scheme
- upgrades to Ipswich Hospital
- funding for the Deadly Choices prevention program and for the My Health For Life chronic disease program
- the potential cost of changing the name of Lady Cilento Children's Hospital
- enhancing community mental health treatment services

²⁵ Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Capital Statement, Budget Paper No. 3](#), p 104.

²⁶ Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Capital Statement, Budget Paper No. 3](#), p 104.

²⁷ Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Health](#), p 55.

²⁸ Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Health](#), p 55.

²⁹ Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Health](#), p 55.

³⁰ Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Capital Statement, Budget Paper No. 3](#), p 105.

³¹ Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Capital Statement, Budget Paper No. 3](#), p 105.

³² Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Capital Statement, Budget Paper No. 3](#), p 105.

³³ Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Capital Statement, Budget Paper No. 3](#), p 105.

- enhancing renal services in North Queensland
- patients receiving treatment within clinically-recommended time frames
- obtaining access to palliative care on the Sunshine Coast
- how patients could gain quicker access to medicinal cannabis products
- the Chinchilla Hospital’s capability to deliver maternity services, and
- progress towards ensuring 95 per cent of children receive their relevant immunisations at ages 1, 2 and five years by 2022.³⁴

Issues raised at the hearing in relation to QAS included:

- assaults on paramedics
- the new Hervey Bay, Drayton and Yarrabilba ambulance stations
- the rollout of powered ambulance stretchers, and
- staff who were medically retired.³⁵

4. Council of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research

The QIMR is a statutory body under the *Queensland Institute of Medical Research Act 1945* (Qld). Its research strategy focuses on the four key areas of cancer, infectious diseases, mental health and chronic disorders.³⁶

4.1 Funding Overview

The QIMR will receive \$18.9 million from the Queensland Government in 2018-19, which will represent approximately 14.8 per cent of its total revenue.³⁷ In 2018-19, QIMR will:

- expand its cell manufacturing facility, Q-Gen Cell Therapeutics, and increase manufacturing of therapies for industry and academic partners
- complete the expansion of the Institute’s wholly owned clinical trials facility, Q-Pharm Pty Ltd
- establish a new research group, collaborating with the Children’s Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service, focused on the interplay between the gut, the immune system and disease
- continue to progress the development of new immunotherapies to treat cancer and other diseases
- continue to work towards developing an imaging-based diagnostic test for depression
- test at least four new anti-malaria drugs in our ‘human challenge’ trials performed at our clinical trials company, QPharm Pty Ltd
- work with our collaborators to develop new diagnostic and treatment tools for patients with drug-resistant epilepsy
- move research on the use of drugs that alter the epigenome closer to clinical use, and

³⁴ Queensland Parliament, [Record of Proceedings](#), 31 July 2018.

³⁵ Queensland Parliament, [Record of Proceedings](#), 31 July 2018.

³⁶ Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Health](#), p 244.

³⁷ Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Health](#), p 244.

- start to analyse the initial results of D-Health, a five-year randomised trial, which is investigating the role of vitamin D supplementation in preventing premature death, cancer and other chronic diseases.³⁸

5. Queensland Mental Health Commission

The Queensland Mental Health Commission (the Commission) was established on 1 July 2013 as an independent statutory body under the *Queensland Mental Health Commission Act 2013* (Qld).

The Commission's purpose is to drive ongoing reform towards a more integrated, evidence-based, recovery-oriented mental health, alcohol and other drugs service system in Queensland, with a broad objective to improve the mental health and wellbeing of Queenslanders by:

- reaching consensus on and making progress towards achieving system-wide reforms, and
- maximising the collective impact of lived experience and professional expertise.³⁹

5.1 Funding overview

The Commission has an operating budget of \$9.03 million in 2018-19, almost unchanged from the \$9.02 million in 2017-18.⁴⁰ In 2018-19, the Commission will:

- finalise and release the renewed whole-of-government Queensland Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Strategic Plan
- in consultation with key stakeholders, renew a whole-of-government Queensland suicide prevention strategy
- develop a whole-of-government alcohol and other drug strategy to prevent and reduce the adverse impact of problematic alcohol and other drug use
- progress a targeted research project examining the impact of stigma and discrimination relating to alcohol and drug use on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, families and individuals
- progress a collaborative approach to support social and emotional wellbeing in line with the National Strategic Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People's Mental Health and Social Wellbeing 2017–2023 and the Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Declaration
- plan and support an integrated cross-sectoral approach for the best start for infants and families in Queensland
- continue the Wheel of Wellbeing Support Program to support and sustain increased cross-sectoral mental health and wellbeing capacity
- evaluate the Regional Mental Health and Wellbeing Hubs Initiative
- continue to advocate for human rights protection for people being treated involuntarily for a mental illness
- implement strategies to reducing stigma and discrimination for people experiencing problematic alcohol and other drug use, and

³⁸ Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Health](#), p 245.

³⁹ Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Health](#), p 252.

⁴⁰ Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Health](#), p 252.

- hold a ‘state of the state’ conference in late 2018 bringing the mental health, alcohol and other drug sector together to discuss what is going well, and what could be improved upon.⁴¹

6. Office of the Health Ombudsman

The Health Ombudsman, supported by the Office of the Health Ombudsman (OHO), commenced dealing with health complaints on 1 July 2014. The primary functions of the Health Ombudsman are to:

- receive and investigate complaints about health services and health service providers, including registered and unregistered health practitioners
- decide what action should be taken in relation to those complaints and, in certain instances, take immediate action to protect the safety of the public
- monitor the health, conduct and performance functions of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and national health practitioner boards
- provide information about minimising and resolving health service complaints, and
- report publicly on the performance of its functions.⁴²

6.1 Funding overview

The OHO has an operating budget of \$22.2 million for 2018-19, up from \$14.6 million in 2017-18. Key activities for the OHO in 2018-19 are to:

- continue to focus on improved performance against all legislative timeframes for responding to, managing and investigating complaints
- increase the proportion of systemic investigations undertaken
- continue to implement key changes to the office’s case management system database with a focus on driving greater efficiency and effectiveness in complaint management
- continue to enhance cooperation with AHPRA in the co-regulation of health practitioners
- continue to support the Government in its work to consider and progress recommendations from the Parliamentary Committee’s inquiry report and progressing other changes necessary to improve the health complaints and regulation system, and
- invest in developing a stronger organisational culture including progressing remote working solutions to support a flexible and mobile workforce.⁴³

7. Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors

The Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors (the department of communities) falls under the responsibility of the Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors.

The department of communities contributes to the Queensland Government’s objectives to:

- keep Queenslanders healthy by improving the wellbeing of individuals requiring community, disability and seniors’ services, and contributing to the advancement of disadvantaged communities and helping them to thrive

⁴¹ Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Health](#), p 253.

⁴² Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Health](#), p 260.

⁴³ Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Health](#), p 261.

- create jobs in a strong economy by supporting the community services industry and assisting in its sustainability, and
- be a responsive Government by demonstrating leading and responsive approaches in management and governance.⁴⁴

The table below compares the appropriations for the department for 2017-18 and 2018-19.

Appropriations	Budget	Est. Actual	Vote
	2017-18 \$'000	2017-18 \$'000	2018-19 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>			
Departmental services	2,722,317	2,032,433	841,129
Equity adjustment	(24,319)	(44,973)	(7,150)
<i>Administered Items</i>	891,501	747,704	1,925,198
Vote	3,589,499	2,735,164	2,759,177

Source: [Appropriation Bill 2018, Schedule 2](#), p 9.

7.1 Budget highlights

The department of communities' total estimated expenditure of \$2.759 billion for 2018-19 includes:

- \$728.431 million in Queensland Government funding
- \$122.144 million in Australian Government funding
- \$2.980 million in user charges and fees, and
- \$2.240 million in other revenue.⁴⁵

7.1.1 Capital program

The capital works program for the department of communities is \$17 million in 2018-19. Total capital grants will be \$3.1 million. These funds will focus on integrated community services and strengthen and protect the well-being of Queenslanders, particularly those who are vulnerable and most in need.⁴⁶

Capital funding has been allocated to the following building and infrastructure programs in 2018-19:

- \$12.7 million to continue the upgrade and construction program for multipurpose community and neighbourhood centres including:
 - \$1.9 million for building upgrades, rectifications and compliance works
 - \$3 million for the construction of the Moranbah Youth and Community Centre at a total cost of \$3.2 million, as part of a capital and operating funding agreement with BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance

⁴⁴ Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Service Delivery Statements, Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors](#), p 2.

⁴⁵ Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Service Delivery Statements, Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors](#), p 12.

⁴⁶ Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Service Delivery Statements, Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors](#), p 14.

- \$6 million for the construction of centres at Inala and East Murgon, and
- \$1.7 million to acquire land for new centres at Bowen and Wilsonton and for the design development of Kallangur, Yarrabilba/Jimboomba and the Thursday Island Community Hub, and
- \$3.3 million to continue infrastructure upgrades, rectification works and construction of purpose-built accommodation as part of a targeted response for people with an intellectual or cognitive disability who exhibit extremely challenging behaviours.⁴⁷

7.1.2 Concessions

The total cost of concessions provided via schemes administered by the department of communities is estimated at \$383.8 million in 2018-19, an increase of \$17.5 million on the 2017-18 estimated actual budget.⁴⁸ A breakdown of concessions by scheme for 2018-19 is provided below.

Concession scheme	2018-19 Estimate (\$ million)
Electricity Rebate Scheme	195.5
Electricity Asset Ownership Dividend	100.0
Pensioner Rate Subsidy Scheme	53.6
South East Queensland Pensioner Water Subsidy Scheme	18.2
Home Energy Emergency Assistance Scheme	10.0
Electricity Life Support Concession Scheme	2.3
Reticulated Natural Gas Rebate Scheme	2.6
Medical Cooling and Heating Electricity Concession Scheme	1.6
Total	383.8

Source: Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Budget Strategy and Outlook, Budget Paper No. 2](#), p 149.

7.2 Key issues raised at the public hearing

Issues raised at the hearing included:

- the rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)
- data provided by the Queensland Government to the Commonwealth Government regarding people who had applied for the NDIS
- the financial situation of an NDIS provider, and
- staff changes made as a result of the NDIS implementation.⁴⁹

⁴⁷ Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Service Delivery Statements, Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors](#), p 14.

⁴⁸ Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Budget Strategy and Outlook, Budget Paper No. 2](#), p 149.

⁴⁹ Queensland Parliament, [Record of Proceedings](#), 31 July 2018.

8. Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women

The Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women (the department of child safety) falls under the responsibility of the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence.⁵⁰

The department of child safety has three services areas:

- Child and Family Services
- Women, Violence Prevention and Youth Services, and
- Youth Justice Services.⁵¹

The table below compares the appropriations for the department of child safety for 2017-18 and 2018-19.

Appropriations	Est. Actual	Vote
	2017-18	2018-19
	\$'000	\$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>		
Departmental services	783,414	1,608,444
Equity adjustment	(2,054)	17,383
<i>Administered Items</i>	N/A	53,304
Vote	781,360	1,679,131

Source: [Appropriation Bill 2018, Schedule 2](#), p 9.

8.1 Budget highlights

The department of child safety's total estimated expenditure of \$1.679 billion for 2018-19 includes:

- \$1.599 billion in Queensland Government funding
- \$10.827 million in Australian Government funding
- \$14.500 million in user charges and fees, and
- \$300,000 in other revenue.⁵²

8.1.1 Capital

The capital works programme for the department of child safety is \$49.6 million in 2018-19, with total capital grants for the portfolio of \$500,000. These funds provide the infrastructure and systems to support children, young people and families to be safe and help prevent and respond to crime, violence, abuse and neglect.⁵³

Capital works program highlights include:

⁵⁰ Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Service Delivery Statements, Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women](#), p 1.

⁵¹ Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Service Delivery Statements, Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women](#), p 3.

⁵² Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Service Delivery Statements, Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women](#), p 14.

⁵³ Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Capital Statement, Budget Paper No. 3](#), p 35.

- \$4.1 million to undertake a range of upgrades to Child Safety Service Centres to accommodate an additional 292 child protection staff, commencing from 2017-18
- \$19 million of a total of \$26 million to support the transition of 17 year olds into the Youth Justice system, including an allocation of \$13.1 million in 2018-19 for further zonal fencing and an additional 12 beds at the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre
- \$7.2 million of a total of \$32.8 million to upgrade the security management system at the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre
- \$5.2 million to conduct ongoing program renewal, maintenance and minor works of Youth Justice facilities
- \$1.3 million to continue the development of a whole-of-government Our Child information and communication technology system to improve information sharing across agencies with regards to children missing from out-of-home care, and
- \$8.1 million to enhance and develop information systems for the following key programs:
 - the Social Investment Program which will support the department's social procurement spend and improve contract management system functionality for future outcome-based investment
 - the Destination Information Initiative which will deliver smarter, simpler, better management of electronic information and documents, and
 - the Child and Family Services Information and Communication Technology Program which is implementing solutions to support Child and Family Reform initiatives.⁵⁴

8.1.2 Concessions

The department of child safety will not operate any concession schemes during 2018-19.

8.2 Key issues raised at the public hearing

Issues raised at the hearing included:

- the final report of the Youth Sexual Violence and Abuse Steering Committee, headed by Justice Stanley Jones, and the government's response to that report
- the establishment of new youth bail houses in Queensland
- the capacity of Cleveland and Brisbane Youth Detention Centres
- the cost of keeping young people in youth detention
- the over-representation of young Indigenous people in the youth justice system
- funding preventative initiatives or assistance for men that have been perpetrators or victims of domestic violence, and
- increasing the number of child safety staff.⁵⁵

⁵⁴ Queensland Budget 2018-19, [Capital Statement, Budget Paper No. 3](#), p 35.

⁵⁵ Queensland Parliament, [Record of Proceedings](#), 31 July 2018.

9. Statement of Reservations

Statement of Reservations

Opening:

The 2018/19 Budget is a budget of taxes, debt and unemployment.

After three-and-a-half years, Labor's legacy for Queensland is no less than five new taxes, an \$83 billion debt bomb and the worst unemployment in Australia - at the time the budget was handed down.

This is a budget that shows Labor have given up and have no plan for Queensland, just a plan for more taxes and more debt. These five new taxes will rip \$2.2 billion out of our economy. These five new taxes will hit households and businesses in every corner of this State.

After three-and-a-half years in office, Labor has no economic plan for Queensland. To divert attentions from Labor's lack of an economic plan and failure to deliver its promises, Labor continues to attack the LNP Government, unable to defend to their own record.

Disappointingly, the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee hearings lacked openness and transparency with the Government members abusing standing orders.

Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services

On the Minister's watch, ambulance ramping is increasing, elective surgery wait times are blowing out, our emergency departments are overcrowded, promised hospital upgrades are years away from completion, we have a number of high-profile corruption investigations – including the Indigenous Cardiac Outreach Program, the Heart Valve Bank, which was already closed down, which provided cancerous tissue for cardiac surgery to four Queenslanders, three of them babies and yet the Minister refuses to take responsibility.

In relation to the Heart Valve Bank tissue debacle, it was clear that the Minister had not even personally contacted the families of the children involved in the major stuff-up, which is currently subject to an investigation.

After that was finally admitted, the Committee Chair clearly said that he would move to government members questions at which time the Minister allowed the Chief Health Officer to further elaborate on previous questions from the LNP members (page 8 of the transcript).

In fact in the first 90 minutes session, the LNP members only got around 20 minutes of questions –undermining the entire budget estimate hearing process.

The second session started with the Minister initially refusing to allow questions to the Chief Health Officer about the Heart Valve Bank tissue debacle.

When Dr Young was able to take questions, it was revealed that the tissue bungle only came about because of an investigation by Metro South Hospital and Health Service (HHS) because of complaints raised by staff at the Heart Valve Bank.

Labor's media story for the delay was the announcement about renaming the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital. Despite the Director-General saying that Queensland Health has looked at the potential costs of a name change, no actual or approximate estimate was provided to the Committee. The LNP maintains that this would be an extraordinary decision and tarnishes the reputation of Lady Cilento, as a leading female medical pioneer in Queensland. It also shows that when it comes to improving frontline health services, particularly for our sick kids, Labor's priorities are completely wrong.

The LNP maintains its concerns with respect to the rollout of the Integrated electronic Medical Record (leMR) system in Queensland. Doctors and other health staff have raised concerns about the technology and it was confirmed that there has been 21 partial incidents in the last year. Further, the Minister confirmed that there is a Crime and Corruption Commission investigation into the rollout of the leMR. In relation to corruption investigations, it was confirmed that Queensland Health are dealing with 44 matters involving alleged corrupt conduct of departmental employees.

We understand that two of these relate to allegations regarding the Medicinal Cannabis Unit and the Indigenous Cardiac Outreach Program (ICOP), which is operated from the Metro North HHS. The CEO of Metro North HHS confirmed that there had been previous investigations in relation to the administration of this program.

The secret business case into the \$124 million Ipswich Hospital upgrade revealed that the project will only provide an additional 6 beds and won't be opened until late 2022. Six additional beds in over four years. That wasn't mentioned to the people of Ipswich before the last state election and it falls well short of the required capacity according to Labor's own secret business case.

The LNP has grave concerns for the future of maternity services in rural and regional Queensland. It was confirmed that the Chinchilla Hospital is still on maternity bypass and has been since December 2017. Further, the LNP have heard concerns that there is a reduction of services at the Theodore Hospital as well.

Queenslanders deserve a world-class health service, no matter where they live.

In relation to the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS), the LNP has been contacted by a number of former QAS officers who raised concerns with the process of their medical retirement. In the estimates hearings it was revealed that 13 officers medically retired in the last financial year, with a total payout of \$177,423.27.

MINISTER FOR COMMUNITIES AND MINISTER FOR DISABILITY SERVICES AND SENIORS

LNP members' questions to the Minister confirmed the now well-worn story of this Government's failure to manage Queensland's transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme ('NDIS'). During questioning, it was revealed that hundreds of NDIS letters had been sent to deceased Queenslanders in December 2017, a gross oversight that would have led to avoidable trauma to the loved ones of the deceased. With confirmation, and no satisfactory excuse as to why, of over a two year gap in Cabinet briefings of any NDIS updates, it was apparent that only the Queensland Audit Office's report into the NDIS transition had forced this Government to assess the failing of Queensland's transition to the NDIS.

During questioning, it also emerged that the Minister had failed to maintain oversight over the finances and functions of Freedom, Social Justice, Growth ('FSG'), despite tens of millions of government funding going to FSG, and despite three years of FSG's increasing financial losses. It was only on 3 May this year that the Minister was aware of FSG's situation, and only on 25 May that a financial investigation concluded that FSG was having financial issues due to over delivery of services. Given that less than a month later FSG told its approximately 900 employees it would be going into voluntary administration, this effort was clearly too little, too late.

It was apparent during questioning that, beyond human service providers being required to be accredited against the Human Services Quality Framework, that little accountability was in place for the actual financial management and future financial viability of funding recipient organisations. With millions of taxpayers' dollars going to these organisations with the expectation of providing ongoing and effective services in the disability and seniors space, this lack of financial oversight is concerning.

MINISTER FOR CHILD SAFETY, YOUTH AND WOMEN AND MINISTER FOR THE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

Child Safety, Youth, Women and Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence

LNP members were disappointed that the Minister used Estimates to release the final report of the Youth Sexual Violence and Abuse Steering Committee. Not only was nothing done with this important report that had been with Cabinet for 16 months, but the timing of its release prevented any reasonable analysis or questioning of the report's recommendations and observations. This report, which first sat with the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships before the buck was passed, was within the Minister's responsibilities for at least 8 months, and yet no action was taken on the report's recommendations. Given that some of the report's recommendations would have an immediate impact on child safety, the delay in releasing this report is questionable at best.

It was also confirmed during LNP members' questioning that the Government's commitment to establish a Youth Reference Group had been completely abandoned without any notice or announcement of this occurring. This was confirmed to have consequential impacts on the Government's promised Youth Charter, which has had little progress made on it despite having been scheduled for completion in December 2017.

Practices within the child safety system were shown to be in need of further improvement, with LNP members' questioning highlighting notable cases of children being returned to parents despite concerns raised by the Department. It was unfortunate to hear that, in the year leading up to 31 March 2018, there had been nine cases of child sexual abuse in foster care. Further reform and oversight is clearly needed to ensure the safety of Queensland's most vulnerable children.

Youth Justice

Estimates revealed that despite the government committing to the establishment of nine youth bail houses by July 2018, only four have been established and there are no signs that the other five will ever open. The government has not committed any additional funds to establish the five youth bail houses that were promised, and Labor could not even provide a date as to when we could expect to see these opened.

Essentially, Labor has effectively admitted to failure after just 6 months of the program.

Whilst the Minister could not advise the Committee of the plans for the remaining 5 youth bail houses, they did reveal the issues concerning the existing youth bail houses. The issues included:

- Of the 33 young people who have spent some time in a supervised community accommodation service (youth bail house), five have been charged with new offences
- There has been 16 critical incidents at Townsville SCA 1, 19 at Townsville SCA 2, three at Logan and three at Carbrook – a total of 41 critical incidents since January 2018 when the youth bail houses were first opened. A critical incident includes things such as noncompliance with the structured activities that are organised, confrontation with staff or between residents and breaches of the curfew
- The safety of the community is at risk, with an incident between detainees and local residents reported
- It seems that while education is encouraged, it is not compulsory.

In terms of Labor's bungled transition of 17-year-old offenders from adult prisons to youth detention centres, the Minister advised that as at 31 July 2018, there were 131 detainees in the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre (BYDC), which is over the 85 per cent 'safe capacity' target as stated in the Service Delivery Statement.

The Minister also revealed that the transfer of 17-year-olds to the youth justice system created an unprecedented spike in youth detention centre numbers. As at 31 July, there were five 17-year-olds in the adult system. It is expected that there will be none by 31 October 2018. This transition was supposed to have been completed by November 2017 – another youth justice failure under the Palaszczuk Labor Government.

To run a youth detention centre is extremely expensive, costing tax payers approximately \$296,709 per day.

It was made known that the current cost of one youth in detention is \$1,491 per day. In addition to this, taxpayers will pay \$13.1 million to develop 12 new beds and zonal fencing in the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre (CYDC).

Given the overcrowding issues in our youth detention centres and the exorbitant cost to construct additional centres, it comes as no surprise that Labor are considering alternatives to detention, including GPS tracking of offenders and raising the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12, as outlined in the Atkinson Report on Youth Justice.

CLOSING

Instead of a plan for the future Labor continues with the politics of the past.

Unlike Labor, the Liberal National Party does have a plan for Queensland. Our plan is designed to make it easier for Queenslanders to get a job and get ahead.

The LNP economic plan lays out five goals and how the LNP would deliver each of them.

The LNP plan will:

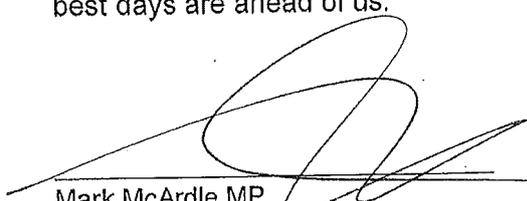
- Bust congestion
- Provide cheaper electricity
- Ensure better health and education
- Deliver water security
- Guarantee no new taxes

The LNP's Economic Plan outlines what we would do right now and what we plan to do from 2020.

It is the beginning, not the end, of our commitment to Queensland.

Because we want Queenslanders everywhere to have good jobs and great opportunities.

Only the LNP has a plan will get this State moving again and ensure Queensland's best days are ahead of us.



Mark McArdle MP
State Member for Caloundra
Deputy Chair Qld Parliament Health Committee
Member QLD Parliament Ethics Committee

13 August 2018



Marty Hunt MP
State Member for Nicklin
Member Qld Parliament Health
Committee

13 August 2018

