



# QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENT **COMMITTEES**

## **2024-25 Budget Estimates – Appropriation Bill 2024**



**Report No. 49, 57th Parliament**  
**Community Support and Services Committee**  
August 2024

## **Community Support and Services Committee**

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<b>Deputy Chair</b>	Mr Stephen Bennett MP, Member for Burnett
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### **Acknowledgements**

The committee thanks:

- the Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts
- the Minister for Child Safety, Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Multicultural Affairs, and
- the Minister for Tourism and Sport.

The committee also acknowledges the assistance provided by the 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 committee's examination of the budget estimates for the 2024-25 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 2024 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 Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts; the Minister for Child Safety, Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Multicultural Affairs; the Minister for Tourism and Sport; and their 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 for their assistance throughout the estimates process.



Adrian Tantara MP

Chair

August 2024

## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Role of the committee

The Community Support and Services Committee (committee) is a portfolio committee of the Legislative Assembly which commenced on 13 February 2024 under the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* and the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly.<sup>1</sup>

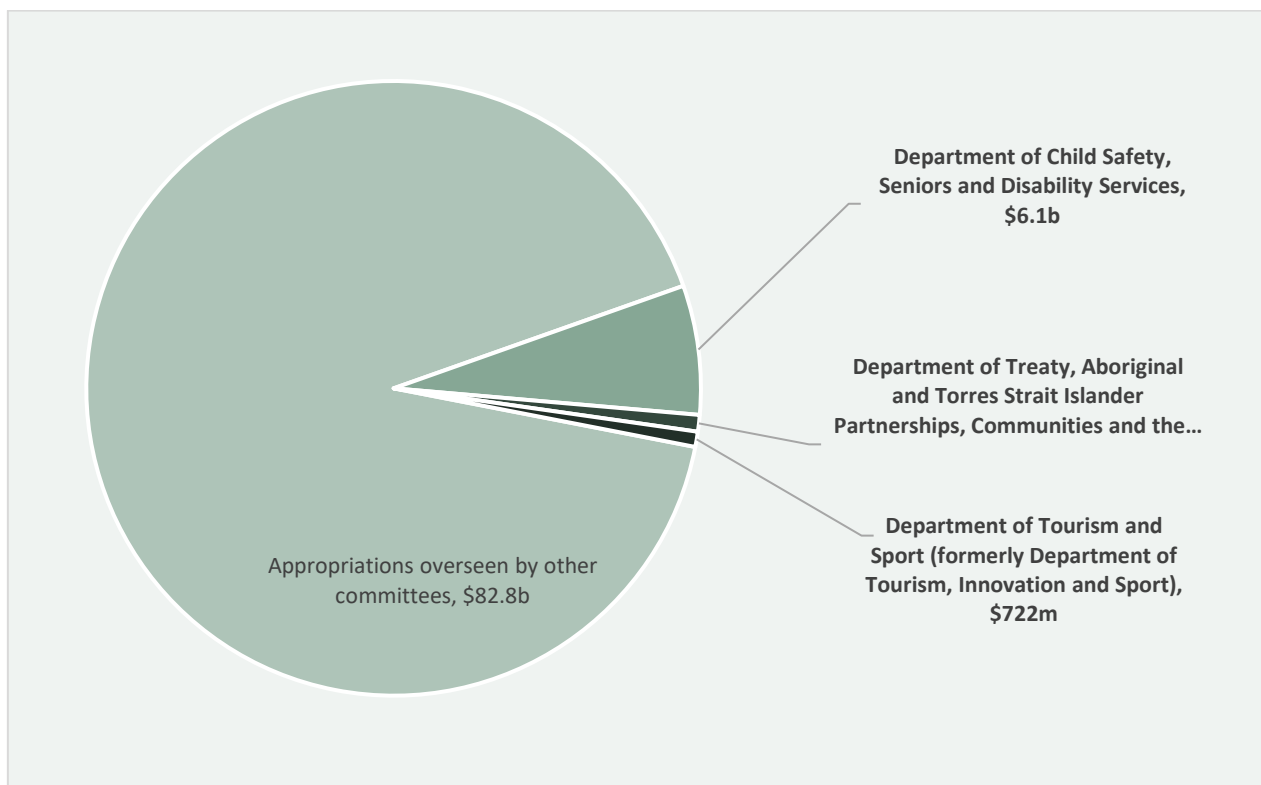
The committee's primary areas of responsibility, from 13 February 2024, are:

- Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts
- Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services, and Multicultural Affairs
- Tourism and Sport.

On 14 June 2024, the Appropriation Bill 2024 and the estimates for the committee's area of responsibility were referred to the committee for investigation and report.<sup>2</sup>

The estimates process is one of the key mechanisms to examine government expenditure, performance and effectiveness. By examining and reporting on the proposed expenditures contained in the Appropriation Bill 2024, the committee assists the Parliament in its scrutiny of the Government's proposed expenditure.

The total Appropriation for 2024-25 is \$90,436,181,000.<sup>3</sup> The proposed expenditure in the committee's portfolio is shown in Figure 1:



Source: Appropriation Bill 2024

<sup>1</sup> *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, s 88; Legislative Assembly of Queensland, Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly, SO 194. The Community Support and Services Committee commenced on 26 November 2020 at the start of the 57<sup>th</sup> Parliament, and the new committee continued with the same name.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> Appropriation Bill 2024, s 2.

The committee's examination of the Appropriation Bill 2024 is in relation to the:

- Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts
- Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services
- Department of Tourism and Sport.

On 31 July 2024, the committee conducted a public hearing and took evidence about the proposed expenditure from the Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts; the Minister for Child Safety, Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Multicultural Affairs; and the Minister for Tourism and Sport. A copy of the transcript of the committee's hearing is available on the committee's webpage.

## **1.2 Aim of this report**

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

The committee considered information contained in:

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

Prior to the public hearing, the committee provided the Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts; the Minister for Child Safety, Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Multicultural Affairs; and the Minister for Tourism and Sport with questions on notice in relation to the estimates. Responses to all the questions were received.

Answers to the committee's pre-hearing questions on notice, documents tabled during the hearing, and answers and additional information provided by Ministers after the hearing are included in the Volume of Additional Information tabled with this report.

## **1.3 Participation by other Members**

The following non-committee Members participated in the public hearing sessions:

- David Crisafulli MP, Member for Broadwater
- Dr Christian Rowan MP, Member for Moggill
- John-Paul Langbroek MP, Member for Surfers Paradise
- Amanda Camm MP, Member for Whitsunday
- Tim Mander MP, Member for Everton
- Dr Amy MacMahon MP, Member for South Brisbane

The committee gave leave for other (non-committee) Members of the Legislative Assembly to participate in the hearing. The list of non-committee Members who sought leave is available in the Volume of Additional Information.

## 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 2024 for the committee's areas of responsibility, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

### 3 Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts

The Minister has responsibility for the following department: <sup>4</sup>



The Minister's responsibilities also include the following agencies, services and statutory entities: <sup>5</sup>



To assist the committee with its consideration of portfolio estimates, and in keeping with the requirements of Schedule 7 of the Standing Orders, the Chief Executives of the following organisations were present at the hearing on 31 July 2024: <sup>6</sup>

- Queensland Art Gallery
- Queensland Museum
- Queensland Performing Arts Centre/Queensland Performing Arts Trust
- Queensland Theatre Company
- State Library of Queensland
- Family Responsibilities Commission
- First Nations Treaty Institute.

<sup>4</sup> Queensland Budget 2024-2025, Service Delivery Statements (SDS), Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts (DTATSIPCA), n.p.

<sup>5</sup> Queensland Budget 2024-25, SDS, DTATSIPCA, n.p.

<sup>6</sup> Schedule 7 of the Standing Orders sets out a list of statutory entities to which direct questioning of chief executives at estimates applies.

### 3.1 Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts

The Hon Leeanne Enoch MP, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts, is the Minister responsible for the Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts (DTATSIPCA). DTATSIPCA has the following 3 service areas:

- Treaty and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
- Community Services
- Arts Queensland.<sup>7</sup>

The objectives of these services areas are:

- working in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to increase cultural, social and economic opportunities
- accessible, timely and responsive community services and support for Queenslanders, including young people and veterans
- enhancing Queenslanders' access to arts and culture, through investment in the creation, development and presentation of arts product, cultural experiences, and cultural infrastructure.<sup>8</sup>

#### 3.1.1 Budget overview

The proposed budget comprises \$552.6 million in departmental expenditure and \$290.5 million in funding to be administered by the DTATSIPCA on behalf of the state.<sup>9</sup>

The proposed \$552.6 million in departmental expenses represents an increase of \$22.6 million on estimated actual departmental spending in 2023-24.<sup>10</sup>

The estimated \$290.5 million in administered expenses is a decrease of more than \$2.3 billion in DTATSIPCA's estimated actual expenditure for 2023-24 (\$2.6 billion). The Service Delivery Statements (SDS) for DTATSIPCA advise:

- The 2023–24 Estimated Actual includes \$2.3 billion of administered funding for the \$1,000 Queensland Government electricity rebate. Funding for the Queensland electricity rebate is appropriated in 2023–24 but will be applied to household bills in 2024–25.
- The department administers funds for Arts statutory bodies including the Queensland Art Gallery, Queensland Museum, Queensland Performing Arts Trust, and State Library of Queensland. Financial statements for the Queensland Art Gallery, Queensland Museum, Queensland Performing Arts Trust and State Library of Queensland are separately reported within the 2024–25 Service Delivery Statements.
- Administered funding provided for each Arts Statutory Body entity in 2024–25 includes:
  - \$74.7 million for State Library of Queensland
  - \$37.5 million for Queensland Art Gallery

<sup>7</sup> Queensland Budget 2024-2025, SDS, DTATSIPCA, pp 3,4,6.

<sup>8</sup> Queensland Budget 2024-2025, SDS, DTATSIPCA, pp 3,4,6.

<sup>9</sup> Queensland Budget 2024-2025, SDS, DTATSIPCA, p 9.

<sup>10</sup> Queensland Budget 2024-2025, SDS, DTATSIPCA, p 13.

- \$39.7 million for Queensland Museum (including \$1.7 million of administered equity funding)
- \$11.3 million for Queensland Performing Arts Trust.
- The department administers payments for natural disasters on behalf of the Queensland Government and the Australian Government, for example, Emergency Hardship Assistance Grants, Essential Services Hardship Assistance Grants, Essential Household Contents Grants, Structural Assistance Grants and the Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Grants.
- The department administers payments for Screen Queensland and the Queensland Veterans Council.<sup>11</sup>

To fund this budgeted expenditure, the Appropriation Bill 2024 proposes that DTATSIPCA receive a departmental appropriation of \$517.7 million in 2024-25, with the remainder of the \$34.86 million in planned departmental spending to be financed through a combination of user charges and fees, royalties and land rents, grants and other contributions, interest and distributions from managed funds, and other revenue.<sup>12</sup>

The following table taken from the Appropriation Bill 2024 illustrates the combined total of the cash appropriations for the department for 2024-25, compared with the budgeted and actual cash appropriations for the department in 2023-24.

Appropriations	Budget 2023-24 \$'000	Est. Actual 2023-24 \$'000	Vote 2024-25 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>			
departmental services	461,865	477,599	517,719
equity adjustment	12,324	(32,406)	25,441
<i>Administered Items</i>	171,021	2,415,132	248,964
<b>Vote</b>	<b>645,210</b>	<b>2,860,325</b>	<b>792,124</b>

Source: Appropriation Bill 2024, Schedule 2, p 14.

As highlighted in the table, the total combined 2024-25 appropriation of just over \$792 million represents an increase of almost \$147 million on the 2023-24 budgeted appropriations, and a decrease of almost \$2.1 billion on the estimated actual total appropriations for DTATSIPCA in 2023-24.

As noted above, the difference between the 2023–24 budgeted amount and the 2023–24 Estimated Actual amount is due to funding for the Queensland electricity rebate appropriated in 2023–24, and to be applied to household bills in 2024–25.

As a consequence of the recent machinery-of-government changes, the committee accepts that figures from previous budgets are not directly comparable with those of 2023-24.

<sup>11</sup> Queensland Budget 2024-2025, SDS, DTATSIPCA, p 9.

<sup>12</sup> Queensland Budget 2024-2025, SDS, DTATSIPCA, p 10.

## Budget highlights – Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts

The 2024-25 budget highlights for DTATSIPCA include: <sup>13</sup>

<b>Cost of living rebate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$2.267 billion for the Cost-of-Living Rebate for households to automatically receive a \$1,000 electricity rebate in 2024–25 from the Queensland Government on their energy bills. This funding will also support the Queensland Government's \$325 small business electricity rebate.</li> </ul>
<b>Cost of living relief</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$20 million for cost-of-living relief, and support for vulnerable Queensland families including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$1.3 million for community focused food programs, including a new food and nutrition initiative to help families of school aged children create nutritious, affordable meals</li> <li>\$2.9 million over 4 years to improve warehousing arrangements for Foodbank Queensland</li> <li>\$3.6 million over 2 years to enable OzHarvest and SecondBite to continue critical food recovery and distribution services</li> <li>\$1.2 million over 4 years and \$300,000 per annum ongoing to support peak body Queensland Meals on Wheels</li> <li>\$2.2 million for community financial resilience support and \$3.3 million for continued emergency relief provider funding</li> <li>\$5.4 million over 2 years to help combat the effects of isolation and loneliness for Queensland families</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$11.8 million to prepare for the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$6.3 million to help community members to tell their story and support staff wellbeing</li> <li>\$5.5 million over 3 years for research and archival specialists</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Close the Gap funding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$11.2 million over 4 years to help Close the Gap and improve outcomes for First Nations Queenslanders, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$6.4 million in 2024–25 to continue wellbeing and community safety programs and support</li> <li>\$3.1 million to strengthen the sector, including funding to the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Coalition</li> <li>\$1.7 million over 2 years to continue the Doomadgee Place Based Partnership and related programs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Arts and culture infrastructure renewal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$28.7 million for arts and culture infrastructure renewal, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$12 million in 2024–25 for asset renewal</li> <li>\$11.8 million in 2024–25 for essential capital upgrades at the Queensland Cultural Centre</li> <li>\$5 million over 3 years for urgent and unavoidable renewal works for Queensland Museum Cobb + Co and Rail Workshops infrastructure</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Screen Queensland industry initiatives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$40 million to extend existing Screen Queensland industry initiatives, including \$36 million to continue the Production Attraction Strategy Incentive and the Post, Digital and Visual Effects Incentive; and \$4 million for the Digital Games program (inclusive of \$2 million of internal funding).</li> </ul>

<sup>13</sup> Queensland Budget 2024-2025, SDS, DTATSIPCA, p 2.

### 3.1.2 Capital program

Capital outlays of \$133.8 million have been planned by DTATSIPCA in 2024-25 for a range of projects, including:

- \$119.6 million to be invested in infrastructure projects across the community, arts and cultural facilities
- \$14.2 million to be invested in screen industry growth, veteran support, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and community services initiatives.<sup>14</sup>

### 3.1.3 Matters raised during the estimates process

Matters raised during the committee's examination of DTATSIPCA are listed below.

Matters considered by the committee in relation to the estimates for DTATSIPCA included:	Pre-hearing questions on notice <sup>15</sup>
Update on progress with Queensland's legislated Path to Treaty	Committee question
Progress on builds and rebuilds of Neighbourhood Centres in Queensland	Committee question
First Nations Repatriation Program	Committee question
Evidence-based diversionary and intervention programs led by First Nations organisations	Crossbench question Dr Amy MacMahon MP, Member for South Brisbane
Funding for accommodation to support Indigenous partnerships	Crossbench question Ms Sandy Bolton MP, Member for Noosa

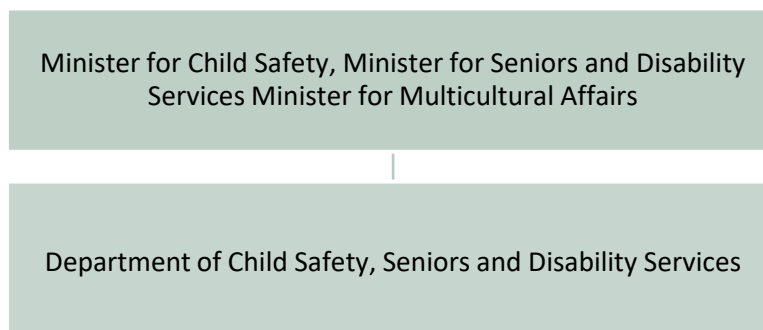
<sup>14</sup> Queensland Budget 2024-2025, SDS, DTATSIPCA, p 8.

<sup>15</sup> The complete list of questions on notice to DTATSIPCA; the Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services (CSSDS); and the Department of Tourism and Sport (DTS) have been collated in the associated Volume of Additional Information along with the departmental responses.

Matters considered by the committee in relation to the estimates for DTATSIPCA included:	Public hearing transcript, Brisbane, 31 July 2024, page nos:
Travel and accommodation costs in the United States and Canada	4-5, 19-20
Cultural awareness, cultural competency, and cultural agility training	5-7
Repatriation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ancestral remains and artefacts	8-9, 19-20
Indigenous Youth Program and reframing the relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples	9-10
Alcohol management plans, and programs to address home brew and sly grog	10-11
Path to Treaty	2, 3, 7-8, 10, 12-14
Costs associated with QPAC's new performing arts venue	16-18
QAGoMA travel to Venice	24-26
Refugee support	27
Support for the Arts	28

## 4 Minister for Child Safety, Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Multicultural Affairs

The Minister has responsibility for the following agencies and services:<sup>16</sup>



The Minister's responsibilities do not include any entities or statutory bodies. As such, no Chief Executives were required to attend the hearing on 31 July 2024 under Schedule 7 of the Standing Orders.

### 4.1 Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services

The Hon Charis Mullen MP, Minister for Child Safety, Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Multicultural Affairs is the Minister responsible for the Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services (DCSSDS). The DCSSDS acquired the portfolio area of Multicultural Affairs following machinery-of-government changes on 18 December 2023.

DCSSDS has the following 3 service areas:

- Child and Family Services
- Seniors and Disability Services
- Multicultural Affairs Queensland.

The objectives of these services are to:

- enable families to safely care for their children and young people, and provide services to support the safety, belonging and wellbeing of children and young people not able to be cared for by their families
- deliver high quality services and safeguards and promote the inclusion, engagement, rights and social and economic participation of seniors, carers and people with disability
- influence, facilitate and promote efforts to build belonging, and economic and social inclusion for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.<sup>17</sup>

#### 4.1.1 Budget overview

The proposed budget comprises \$2.6 billion in departmental expenditure and \$3.4 billion in funding to be administered by DCSSCS on behalf of the state.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>16</sup> Queensland Budget 2024-25, SDS, Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services (DCSSDS), n.p.

<sup>17</sup> Queensland Budget 2024-25, SDS, DCSSDS, pp 3, 5, 6.

<sup>18</sup> Queensland Budget 2024-25, SDS, DCSSDS, p 7.

The proposed \$2.6 billion in departmental expenses represents a decrease of \$16.9 million on estimated actual departmental spending in 2023-24. The SDS for DCSSDS advise:

- The controlled budget for 2024–25 is \$2.639 billion of which 98 per cent is appropriation revenue. Other revenue mainly relates to information systems and corporate support provided to other government agencies.
- The reduction in revenue and expenditure from 2023–24 to 2024–25 mainly reflects additional funding provided in 2023–24 for out of home care services as placement reforms are implemented to increase the number of children in family-based care in the Child Protection System.
- In 2024–25, service procurement represents approximately 52 per cent of DCSSDS's expenditure budget and mainly relates to out of home care services in Child and Family Services.
- Employee expenses also account for approximately 28 per cent of the total budget and support 5,480 FTEs.<sup>19</sup>

The estimated \$3.430 billion in administered expenses is a \$767.3 million decrease on the DCSSDS's estimated actual expenditure for 2023-24 (\$4.2 billion). The SDS for DCSSDS state that:

- The total administered budget for 2024–25 for the DCSSDS is \$3.430 billion. Administered funds are those the department administers on behalf of government and cannot be used for any other purpose than they were intended.
- In 2024–25, \$1 billion is allocated for energy, rates and water concessions and rebates administered by DCSSDS. This includes an allocation of \$698.1 million for the Commonwealth Cost of Living Rebate, provided as an electricity rebate for households.
- A further \$2.4 billion is budgeted for Queensland's estimated cash contribution to the NDIS. This represents Queensland's estimated contribution net of services provided on an in-kind basis in accordance with bilateral agreements with the Australian Government.
- DCSSDS administers the Queensland Government's participation in the National Redress Scheme for Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (the scheme), with the provision estimated at \$409.4 million as at 30 June 2024. The scheme provides eligible applicants support through monetary payment; access to counselling and psychological care; and the option to receive a direct personal response from the institution responsible.

To fund this budgeted expenditure, the Appropriation Bill 2024 proposes that the DCSSDS receive a departmental appropriation of \$2.6 billion in 2024-25, with the remainder of the \$48.8 million in planned departmental spending to be financed through a combination of user charges and fees, grants and other contributions, and other revenue.<sup>20</sup>

The following table taken from the Appropriation Bill 2024 illustrates the combined total of the cash appropriations for the department for 2024-25, compared with the budgeted and actual cash appropriations for the DCSSDS in 2023-24.

<sup>19</sup> Queensland Budget 2024-25, SDS, DCSSDS, p 9.

<sup>20</sup> Queensland Budget 2024-25, SDS, DCSSDS, p 10.

Appropriations	Budget 2023-24 \$'000	Est. Actual 2023-24 \$'000	Vote 2024-25 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>			
departmental services	2,345,650	2,593,998	2,590,054
equity adjustment	21,356	20,943	1,813
<i>Administered Items</i>	4,115,501	4,187,263	3,551,715
<b>Vote</b>	<b>6,482,507</b>	<b>6,802,204</b>	<b>6,143,582</b>

Source: Appropriation Bill 2024, Schedule 2, p 9.

As highlighted in the table, the total combined 2024-25 appropriation of over \$6.1 billion represents a decrease of almost \$339 million on last year's budgeted appropriations, and a decrease of \$658.6 million on the estimated actual total appropriations for the department in 2023-24.

#### Trends in Vote

For comparison, the table below shows the amount sought in the Appropriation Bill 2024 for the Vote against spending in recent years.

	2023-24 Estimated Actual \$'000	2024-25 Estimates Sought \$'000
	6,802,204	6,143,582
<b>% Change</b>		-9.7

As a consequence of machinery-of-government changes, comparison of figures has been considered with only the 2023-24 financial year.

## Budget highlights – Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services

The 2024-25 budget highlights for the DCSSDS include: <sup>21</sup>

<b>Care allowance and Post Care Supports</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$190.8 million over 4 years and \$52.5 million per annum ongoing to ensure that care allowance payments reflect eligibility based on the Child Strengths and Needs Assessment and \$31.8 million over 5 years and \$7.9 million per annum ongoing for Extended Post Care Support services to support children exiting care between the ages of 18 and 21 and indexation of the Living Independently Allowance</li> </ul>
<b>Supporting Families, Changing Futures ICT Digital Applications and for the Unify Program Continuous Improvement Pipeline</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$57.4 million over 4 years (\$35.1 million operating funding and \$22.3 million capital funding) and \$14.4 million per annum ongoing (\$9.3 million operating funding and \$5.1 million capital funding) for the continuation of the Supporting Families, Changing Futures ICT Digital Applications and for the Unify Program Continuous Improvement Pipeline</li> </ul>
<b>Asylum Seeker and Refugee Assistance Program, and Queensland Program of Assistance to Survivors of Torture and Trauma</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$5.8 million over 2 years to strengthen community cohesion in Queensland by expanding support under the Asylum Seeker and Refugee Assistance Program (\$4.8 million over 2 years) and broadening engagement with children through the Queensland Program of Assistance to Survivors of Torture and Trauma (\$1 million over 2 years)</li> </ul>
<b>Family reunification pilot service</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$5.7 million over 2 years to design, implement and procure a family reunification pilot service targeted at children aged 12-15 years</li> </ul>
<b>African youth and community members</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$2.6 million over 2 years to support the African Youth Support Council's African Villages in Moorooka, Geebung and Redbank Plains to build a sense of belonging, identity, establish strategic partnerships, engage with the system and build positive relationships in safe spaces for African youth and community members</li> </ul>
<b>Disability reforms</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>over \$160 million provisioned towards a package of disability reforms as an initial response to the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability and the NDIS review with immediate investment to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$5 million in 2024–25 to expand individual and systemic disability advocacy</li> <li>\$10 million in 2024–25 to provide a temporary uplift to the Queensland Community Support Scheme (QCSS)</li> <li>\$6.5 million in 2024–25 for a pilot of a Hospital Assistive Technology Loan Pool and an expansion of supports provided under the Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme (MASS)</li> <li>\$24.4 million over 5 years for: a sector-led stakeholder engagement strategy; improvement of disability data and reporting; and strategic leadership, implementation and monitoring of disability reforms across the Queensland community, including whole of government coordination.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<sup>21</sup> Queensland Budget 2024-25, SDS, DCSSDS, p 2.

#### 4.1.2 Capital program

Capital outlays of \$28.9 million have been planned by DCSSDS in 2024-25 for a range of projects, including:

- \$7.4 million to enhance and develop information systems and programs to provide additional system functionality, information security and contemporary technology to improve service delivery, including a continuous improvement pipeline for the Unify program
- \$6 million in 2024–25 of a total \$6.5 million capital grant to AEIOU Foundation as a contribution to provide infrastructure projects to support increased demand for children with autism requiring early intervention
- \$5.5 million for Child and Family Services facilities, including fit-out and upgrade of Child Safety service centres and office accommodation
- \$4.1 million in 2024–25 of a total \$4.7 million to complete major repairs and upgrade works at 'Forensic Disability Services House 2' to ensure optimal service capacity can be achieved
- \$2.1 million for Disability Services facilities including upgrade, improvement and modification of accommodation facilities for Disability Services clients and fit-out of office accommodation
- \$1.9 million in 2024–25 of a total \$90.3 million to finalise and complete Tranche 1 of Unify (Integrated Client Management System (ICMS) Replacement Program)
- \$1.6 million in 2024–25 of a total \$2 million capital grant to BestLife Incorporated as a contribution to the Helena's House project to support the safe transition of young people with a disability from the family home to a living solution of their choice
- \$390,000 in 2024–25 of a total \$3.5 million capital grant contribution to establish a Holocaust Museum and Education Centre in Brisbane to honour victims of the Holocaust and support students and the broader community to explore and understand the impact of racism.<sup>22</sup>

#### 4.1.3 Matters raised during the estimates process

Matters considered by the committee in relation to the estimates for DCSSDS included:	Pre-hearing questions on notice
Number of children in residential care compared with other states and territories	Committee question
Number of children on permanent care orders	Committee question
Details about the 'Voice of Queenslanders with Disability' survey	Committee Question
State response to potential changes to conditions funded by the NDIS	Crossbench question Dr Amy MacMahon MP, Member for South Brisbane
Increased assistance provided for local governments to employ an Accessibility or Inclusion Officer to assess and improve accessibility for seniors and Queenslanders with a disability	Crossbench question Ms Sandy Bolton MP, Member for Noosa

<sup>22</sup> Queensland Budget 2024-25, SDS, DCSSDS, p 8.

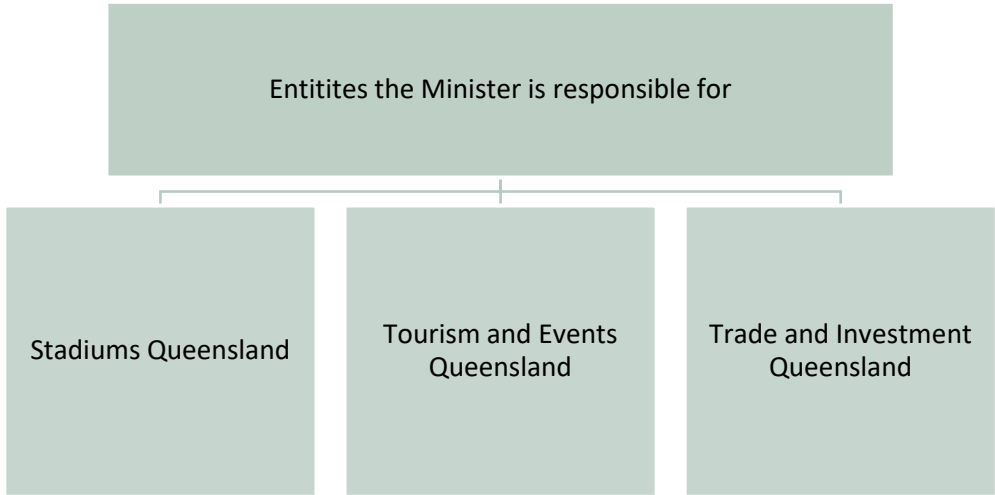
Matters considered by the committee in relation to the estimates for DTS included:	Public hearing transcript, Brisbane, 31 July 2024, page no:
Residential Care Facilities	33-34
Children in residential care under the age of 12	37, 42
School attendance of children in residential care	34, 35, 39, 46
NDIS and state disability programs	46-53
Elder Abuse Hotline	54
Seniors Strategy	55
Supported Accommodation	54, 55
Grant application form for the Celebrating Multicultural Queensland program	59-60
Interactions with communities affected by conflict in Middle East	61-62
Support for people fleeing to Queensland from Gaza	63
Multicultural Action Plan 2024-25 to 2026-27	63
Community cohesion	63-64

## 5 Minister for Tourism and Sport

The Minister has responsibility for the following department:<sup>23</sup>



The Minister's responsibilities also include the following agencies, services and statutory entities:<sup>24</sup>



To assist the committee with its consideration of portfolio estimates, and in keeping with the requirements of Schedule 7 of the Standing Orders, the Chief Executives of the following organisations were present at the hearing on 31 July 2024:

- Stadiums Queensland
- Tourism and Events Queensland
- Trade and Investment Queensland

### 5.1 Department of Tourism and Sport

The Hon Michael Healy MP, Minister for Tourism Sport, is the Minister responsible for the Department of Tourism and Sport (DTS).

DTS has the following service areas:

- Tourism Industry Development
- Sport and Recreation

<sup>23</sup> Queensland Budget 2024-25, SDS, DTS, n.p.

<sup>24</sup> Queensland Budget 2024-25, SDS, DTS, n.p.

- Queensland Academy of Sport<sup>25</sup>

The objectives of these services are to:

- drive the return and growth of a sustainable and competitive tourism industry, attracting capital investment and maximising the benefit of tourism and major events to boost Queensland's economy
- lead the sport and active recreation industry to support Queenslanders to participate through quality infrastructure and local environments, and by supporting pathways to assist Queenslanders to reach their full sporting potential.<sup>26</sup>

### 5.1.1 Budget overview

The proposed budget comprises \$511.4 million in controlled departmental expenditure and \$204.9 million in funding to be administered by DTS on behalf of the state.<sup>27</sup>

The proposed \$511.4 million in departmental expenses represents an increase of \$79.3 million on estimated actual departmental spending in 2023-24. The expenses for 2024-25 primarily include the following grant programs. The SDS for DTS advise:

- The Tourism Industry Development service area has grant expenses for Attracting Aviation Investment Fund, Queensland Reconstruction Authority Tropical Cyclone Jasper Tourism Resilience Recovery, Regional Tourism Recovery Program including the Binna Burra Lodge rebuild and Tourism Experience Development Fund, Minjerribah Futures, Great Keppel Island Rejuvenation Project, Growing Future Tourism Program, Queensland Music Trails, Women's Asian Cup 2026, 2023 Year of Accessible Tourism, Backing Bush Communities - Building Bush Tourism Fund, and Activate Ecotourism.
- The Sport and Recreation service area has grant expenses for the continued delivery of approved projects and initiatives under Activate! Queensland 2019-2029, including funding to support sport and recreation organisations with the clean up and repair of equipment and facilities damaged from the South East Queensland rain and flooding event in 2021-22; delivery of Browne Park Redevelopment Stage 1, Police Citizens Youth Club (PCYC), Minor Infrastructure Program, Local Community Sporting Infrastructure, and Women's Football Legacy Fund. The department will also continue with the delivery of the 2032 High Performance Strategy-Inspiring Extraordinary Sporting Success.<sup>28</sup>

The estimated \$204.9 million in administered expenses is a \$30.3 million increase on the DTS's estimated actual expenditure for 2023-24. The SDS for DTS advise:

- Administered activities are those undertaken by departments on behalf of the government
- The department administers funds on behalf of the state which include provision of funding for Tourism and Events Queensland (TEQ) and Stadiums Queensland (SQ)
- TEQ is the Queensland Government's lead marketing, experience development and major events agency
- SQ supports and maintains the operation of sporting and entertainment facilities.

<sup>25</sup> The service area name has been amended to combine Sport and Recreation and Queensland Academy of Sport to better reflect the full scope of services delivered. It was previously named 'Sport and Recreation' in the 2023-24 Service Delivery Statements; see Queensland Budget 2022-23, SDS, DTS, p 4.

<sup>26</sup> Queensland Budget 2024-25, SDS, DTS, pp 3-4.

<sup>27</sup> Queensland Budget 2024-25, SDS, DTS, p 6.

<sup>28</sup> Queensland Budget 2024-25, SDS, DTS, p 9.

To fund this budgeted expenditure, the Appropriation Bill 2024 proposes that DTS receive a departmental appropriation of \$461.7 million in 2024-25, with the remainder of the \$49.6 million in planned departmental spending to be financed through a combination of user charges and fees, grants and other contributions, and other revenue.<sup>29</sup>

The following table taken from the Appropriation Bill 2024 illustrates the combined total of the cash appropriations for the department for 2024-25, compared with the budgeted and actual cash appropriations for DTS in 2023-24.

Appropriations	Budget 2023-24 \$'000	Est. Actual 2023-24 \$'000	Vote 2024-25 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>			
departmental services	465,307	352,458	461,732
equity adjustment	20,167	1,858	34,227
<i>Administered Items</i>	197,119	194,580	225,919
<b>Vote</b>	<b>682,593</b>	<b>548,896</b>	<b>721,878</b>

Source: Appropriation Bill 2024, Schedule 2, p 14.

As highlighted in the table, the total combined 2024-25 appropriation of almost \$722 million represents an increase of over \$39 million on last year's budgeted appropriations, and an increase of almost \$173 million on the estimated actual total appropriations for the department in 2023-24.

### Trends in Vote

For comparison, the table below shows the amount sought in the Budget 2025 for the Vote against spending over the previous three years.

	2021-22 Estimated Actual \$million	2022-23 Estimated Actual \$million	2023-24 Estimated Actual \$million	2024-25 Estimates Sought \$million
	437,867	682,593	548,896	721,878
<b>% Change</b>		+55.9	-19.6	+31.5

<sup>29</sup> Queensland Budget 2024-25, SDS, DTS, p 10.

## Budget highlights – Department of Tourism and Sport

The 2024-25 budget highlights for DTS include:<sup>30</sup>

<b>High Performance Strategy – Inspiring Extraordinary Sporting Success</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$72 million over 4 years to continue delivery of the Queensland Academy of Sport 2032 High Performance Strategy–Inspiring Extraordinary Sporting Success, ensuring elite sporting success in Brisbane 2032</li> </ul>
<b>FairPlay program</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$33.5 million in 2024–25 to increase the value of the FairPlay voucher from up to \$150 to up to \$200, to guarantee 50,000 vouchers under current eligibility requirements, and to provide a further 150,000 vouchers for Queensland children and young people aged between 5 and 17 years to participate in sport and active recreation. This brings total funding for the FairPlay program in 2024–25 to \$40 million</li> </ul>
<b>Growing Future Tourism Program</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$15 million over 2 years for the Growing Future Tourism Program to provide financial support to eligible Queensland tourism operators, not-for-profit organisations and local governments to deliver new and enhanced tourism infrastructure or experiences</li> </ul>
<b>Backing Bush Communities – Building Bush Tourism Fund</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$10 million over 2 years for the Backing Bush Communities – Building Bush Tourism Fund to support delivery of the Bush Boost and Queensland’s long term Towards Tourism 2032: Transforming Queensland’s visitor economy future tourism industry strategy by providing support for the development of new and enhanced tourism products or supporting infrastructure that will increase visitation in Queensland’s regions outside South East Queensland</li> </ul>
<b>North Ipswich Sport and Entertainment Precinct</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to \$10 million in 2024–25, held centrally, for the proposed redevelopment of sporting facilities at the North Ipswich Sport and Entertainment Precinct, subject to confirmation of a matching co-contribution from Ipswich City Council and a \$20 million contribution from the Australian Government</li> </ul>
<b>Sport Minor Infrastructure Program</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$9.5 million in 2024–25 for the Sport Minor Infrastructure Program to provide targeted funding to eligible organisations to help the sport and active recreation industry deliver new, upgraded and end of life infrastructure projects and works.</li> </ul>

### 5.1.2 Capital program

Capital outlays of \$269.9 million have been planned by DTS in 2024-25 for a range of projects, including:

- \$28.3 million allocated to Queensland Active Precincts to enhance existing state-owned sport and active recreation facilities at the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and Townsville, to deliver quality experiences that inspire physical activity
- \$11 million for development of the Wangetti Trail, a 94 kilometre walking and mountain bike trail from Palm Cove to Port Douglas, with public and eco-accommodation facilities.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>30</sup> Queensland Budget 2024-25, SDS, DTS, p 2.

<sup>31</sup> Queensland Budget 2024-25, SDS, DTS, p 8.

Total budgeted capital grants in 2024–25 are \$230.5 million including:

- \$43.1 million allocated to Browne Park Redevelopment Stage 1 including building a contemporary 3,500 seat grandstand, public amenities, food and beverage outlets, media and coach facilities, and increasing the ground capacity
- \$27.9 million allocated to the Sport Minor Infrastructure Program to fund minor facility improvements that support increased opportunities for Queenslanders to participate in sport and active recreation
- \$25 million allocated to Police Citizens Youth Club Queensland Capital Works for the construction of new facilities and the upgrade of existing facilities
- \$18 million to support new and upgraded facilities as part of the Minor Infrastructure and Inclusive Facilities Fund to make community sport and active recreation more inclusive, accessible, safe and efficient
- \$16.9 million to support the clean-up and repair of community and recreational assets damaged by the extraordinary 2021–22 natural disaster events, in partnership with the Australian Government
- \$14.1 million for the local community sporting infrastructure to encourage Queenslanders to be more active, more often as well as working to increase health and wellbeing outcomes across the state in line with key government priorities.<sup>32</sup>

### 5.1.3 Matters raised during the estimates process

Matters considered by the committee in relation to the estimates for DTS included:	Pre-hearing questions on notice
Update on the joint Queensland and Australian Government disaster funding provided to the tourism industry after Cyclone Jasper	Committee question
Towards Tourism 2032: Transforming Queensland's visitor economy future strategy	Committee question
Sport grants and funding administered by DTS in 2023-24 and 2024-25	Committee question
Attracting Aviation Investment Fund (AAIF)	Committee questions Crossbench question Dr Amy MacMahon MP, Member for South Brisbane
Funding for sports clubs to upgrade facilities to accommodate local and visiting female teams	Crossbench question Ms Sandy Bolton MP, Member for Noosa

<sup>32</sup> Queensland Budget 2024-25, SDS, DTS, p 8.

Matters considered by the committee in relation to the estimates for DTS included:	Public hearing transcript, Brisbane, 31 July 2024, page no:
Delays to the development of the Wangetti Trail	66-68, 78-79
Underspending on tourism projects	66-67, 70-71
TEQ global marketing campaign	73
Changes to the TEQ Board	74
Number of athletes on Australian Olympic team who have been involved in the Queensland Academy of Sport (QAS) High Performance Program	84
Statutory body reform, and leadership changes at QAS	85-90, 93
FairPlay vouchers	90
Gabba expenditure	95-98

**Statements of Reservation**



**MICHAEL BERKMAN MP**

*Member for Maiwar ▲*

8 August 2024

### **Statement of Reservation - Fixing Budget Estimates**

The new estimates procedures agreed by the house guaranteed a set proportion of time for opposition and cross bench questions. While the intent of these changes was welcome, they predictably made no real difference to the process, and we were not allowed sufficient time to ask important questions. This was especially the case in some of the most contentious portfolio areas and in sessions where more than one cross bench member had questions to ask (i.e. the vast majority of sessions).

The problems this year were the same as always - interruptions from government MPs and committee Chairs, baseless points of order to interrupt uncomfortable questions, time-wasting monologues from Ministers, and Ministers going to great lengths to avoid answering difficult or potentially embarrassing questions. For anyone paying close attention: yes, I'm now copying and pasting from my previous statements of reservation to the CSSC estimates reports.

In this vein, I'll quote the final paragraphs from the dissenting report I prepared in 2022:

"There remains a widespread consensus in Queensland, across civil society and the press gallery, that our system of Parliamentary oversight in general and estimates in particular are hopelessly ineffective. This perception is gaining traction in other quarters, as evidenced in the final report of Coaldrake Review and the recent comments of the Clerk of the Parliament, and is feeding directly into the numerous discrete concerns that have fed into a full-blown integrity crisis in the Queensland Government.

Good governments welcome scrutiny, and budget estimates has the potential to be a key part of a healthy democracy. Now is the time for the Government to do the right thing - open itself up to genuine scrutiny and offer Queenslanders the opportunity to regain faith in our processes of public governance and State institutions."

Essentially nothing changed from last year. If anything, the Ministers at estimates hearings this year appeared to be even more defensive, risk averse, and largely disinterested in offering a clear view into the workings of their departments. And, sadly, I think this same defensiveness and risk aversion has become more apparent in the evidence provided by some other witnesses, whose impartiality and frankness is perhaps even more integral in these hearings.

The hearings, like recent polling, suggest that the government thinks it's on a hiding to nothing. It's staggering to me that, especially in the context of recent integrity issues, they continue to show no interest in reforming estimates so it does what it's supposed to - that is, provide an opportunity for genuine scrutiny of budget spending and the broader operation of the Government in Queensland.

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It's well beyond time the Queensland Government accepted and responded to the serious criticism levelled by such relevant and experienced voices as Professor Peter Coaldrake AO, the Clerk of the Parliament, and former Labor MPs, including former Minister and Speaker John Mickel.

The reform proposals are not complex, and they could be adopted immediately: Appoint a non-government chair to each committee for the estimates hearings; Abolish the pointless, and frankly embarrassing, practice of Dorothy Dixers from government MPs; Allow any Member the opportunity to ask questions on notice before the hearings; Increase and at least double the amount of time for questions for each minister or portfolio area.

It's been a couple of years now since the Leader of the Opposition announced that he intends to adopt at least some of the Greens' reform proposals, and it's well past time the Government did the same. I'll believe the LNP's commitment to meaningful reform of estimates when I see it, although I genuinely hope it doesn't come to that.

I take no issue with the general thrust of the Committee's single recommendation - "that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2024 for the committee's areas of responsibility, be agreed to". But it's difficult to concede that the Government's 2024-25 budget should be agreed to "without amendment" while the process for scrutiny of government spending remains so fundamentally flawed. Let's hope I can't so comfortably reproduce this report in respect of future estimates proceedings.



Michael Berkman MP



## Statement of Reservation - Community Support and Services Committee

### Introduction

Opposition members of the Committee agree with the passing of the 2024/25 Budget but acknowledge its clear limitations.

It is a matter of regret that the Estimates process has, once again, been characterised by obfuscation, concealment rather than transparency and the triumph of the opaque over the crystal clear.

At the conclusion of nearly a decade in office, and at the end of the first four year parliamentary term, the government has failed to provide reassurance that its policies are meeting the significant challenges that face the state – the cost of living crisis, the health crisis, the crime crisis and the housing crisis.

The band aid solutions outlined in the Budget fail to address the underlying causes behind these challenges. Simply directing scarce government funds at problems – many of which are the direct result of government action or inaction – will not provide the long term solutions that are required.

The Budget provided a chance for the government to chart a new direction, to discard the errors of the past and reassure Queenslanders that problems will be met head on. Unfortunately, there is no evidence that this is occurring.

Unless the government faces the economic challenges that confront the state there is little prospect other underlying problems will be overcome. The Estimates process has revealed just how unprepared the government is to meet its responsibilities to help Queenslanders.

### Treaty; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships

When asked about staffing and departmental operations, the Minister revealed she is no longer having meetings where non-indigenous staff are being asked to leave as was the case last year.

The Minister was asked about cultural agility training following her invitation for the Shadow Minister to attend. When asked if all Ministers and the Premier had also attended this training it was unclear and the question as to whether the Premier had attended was not answered.

When asked about sly grogging in communities, it was confirmed that sly grogging and home brew are still affecting communities and undermining alcohol management plans.

The review of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act commenced in May 2019 and a completion date was asked for. The Minister spoke at length about issues and the extensive work being undertaken, however, no time frame was forthcoming.

With reference to Path to Treaty, questions were asked if it was the government's intention to cede ministers' powers to Indigenous Queenslanders as is being sought in Victoria. No direct answer was given.

### **Communities and the Arts**

Questioning within the Arts portfolio revealed that the New Performing Arts Venue at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre would not be delivered on time, or on budget.

It was confirmed that in addition to a \$9 million budget allocation to cover cost-increases due to project delays, the Minister for the Arts confirmed that Queensland audiences would not be attending the first performance at the New Performing Arts Venue until at least 2026.

Questions were also asked on the \$126,000 Ministerial Study Tour to the United States of America and Canada, by the Minister, Director General, and other Staff, including the benefit of the overseas travel to the repatriation of ancestral remains and sacred items, as well as the selection and booking of specific luxury accommodation.

It was revealed that there were only three items repatriated in 2023-24 and when asked if all items would be repatriated according to the budget allocation of \$4.6 million to the end of 2027, a time frame was not able to be provided.

As time was limited, further questions around the \$1.6 million Live Music Support Package were not able to be answered.

### **Child Safety**

This tired Labor Government continues to fail our most vulnerable children. Despite the numbers of children in residential care growing to 1,955 (a 105% increase on 2019 levels), the Government can't answer some of the most basic questions about these children. The Minister revealed she only visited her first residential care facility less than a month ago – just a few weeks before the Estimates hearing.

Over a year ago this Government talked big about starting work straight away on reforming residential care yet since then we have seen even more kids in residential care and particularly alarmingly, an increase of 27% in under 10s in the last year.

CSO caseloads continue to be averaged out over funded positions, covering the true extent of workload pressures on these critical frontline workers.

This was the third Labor Child Safety Minister to face Estimates in this term and the lack of priority being placed on our most vulnerable will continue to see poor outcomes.

## **Seniors and Disability Services**

The NDIS was spoken about at length and concerns about the federal government's legislation. The Minister was asked what the consequences would be of delaying the responses to the recommendations of the disability royal commission and the NDIS review from 31 March to Mid-2024 and how this would affect foundational supports.

The Minister advised work was ongoing on foundational supports and the delayed response to the recommendations would not impact foundational supports.

Concerns were raised about possible gaps between NDIS changes and Queensland foundational support commencement. It was then revealed that there is currently no strategy finalised and no dates for implementation of foundational supports.

Support for Queensland carers was also raised, with questions around support for the over 500,000 carers that provide informal care and future plans for workers in this space. It was advised these matters related to the Commonwealth, and that the Queensland Carers Advisory Council is continuing to advocate.

An Elder Abuse hotline concern was raised. An elderly constituent voiced his concern that if he left a message on the hotline and the return call was answered at a time the alleged abuser was in the house or aged care facility, this could cause further issue for an elderly complainant. The Minister advised she would be happy to speak to the provider to understand how these situations were being handled.

## **Multicultural Affairs**

With reference to the grant application form for the Celebrating Multicultural Queensland Program, the Minister was asked if she was aware of the changes to the application and how confusing this was for CALD communities. The Minister did not think the form was confusing and said she was open to feedback, however the Minister confirmed she had not seen the updated application form.

When asked about two specific changes related to outcomes and timeframes for events that are to be held in the future, the Minister said she was happy to take feedback.

Due to new gender inequality questions on the application form, questions were asked if the department had identified any bias towards male dominated events. The Director General indicated no bias one way or the other. Following on from that the Minister was asked if the gender inequality questions meant that preference would be given to applications that are weighted to women and girls. The Minister did not believe that was the case and made note of wanting to ensure opportunities for women.

The Minister was asked what interactions she had with affected communities regarding the Middle East conflict since October 7. The Minister indicated engagement and conversations had been ongoing. When asked about pro-Palestinian rallies in Surfers Paradise and what advice the Minister had received from the Police Minister, the Minister advised she had no specific advice in relation to that matter.

Following a tragic scooter fatality on the Gold Coast, the Minister was asked about her communication with the Turkish Honorary Consul in Queensland. The Minister referenced this as an issue the federal government would engage with.

## **Tourism**

The majority of time in the tourism portfolio was spent talking about what hadn't been done rather than what had, with 2024, marking the third year in a row where delays and underspend on the Wangetti Trail being a topic of discussion.

Massive underspends in other programs and projects were a constant theme that the Minister had difficulty explaining and even greater difficulty taking responsibility for.

## **Sport**

Across the Sport Portfolio, the Opposition spent considerable time questioning the Minister and departmental officials about the sudden and unexplained departure of the former CEO of the Queensland Academy of Sport.

It was revealed that changes to the Queensland Academy of Sport structure may have prompted the CEO leaving. The irony of that situation is that the proposed governance structure which was said to have been the cause of the CEO's decision to leave has subsequently been scrapped to make way for plans to have the Academy operate as an independent statutory authority.

This uncertainty and murkiness, against the backdrop of the Paris Olympic games, only serves to reinforce the view that Queensland's preparation for the Brisbane 2032 games under the Palaszczuk-Miles administration has been an embarrassment.

## **Conclusion**

These hearings have revealed many shortcomings in the government's policies and little evidence that the government knows how to overcome these.

Effective service delivery comes a distant second in competing with political objectives and Queenslanders continue to be let down. There was little evidence provided over the course of Estimates that the government has a clear, coherent plan to overcome the significant problems facing the state.

Of equal concern was the government's failure to deliver public projects on budget and on time.

No evidence emerged during these hearings that the government has any capacity to overcome the continuing state of chaos and crisis that has characterised so much of the past decade.

This Budget is a wasted opportunity and Queenslanders have been ignored by the government.



**Stephen Bennett**



**Mark Robinson**