

Putting Queensland Kids First

*Giving our kids the
opportunity of a lifetime*





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Acknowledgement of Country

We celebrate and acknowledge the stories, traditions and living cultures of First Nations peoples and the strength of First Nations knowledge in raising children.

The Queensland Government acknowledges the First Nations peoples of Queensland: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their connections to the lands, winds and waters we now all share. We pay our respect to Elders, past and present.

We look to the future with hope and optimism, learning from traditional culture to support thriving children, young people and families, and connected communities.

In the spirit of healing, we recognise the past acts of dispossession, settlement and discriminatory policies, and the cumulative acts of colonial and state governments since the commencement of colonisation, which have left an enduring legacy of economic and social disadvantage that many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have experienced and continue to experience.

As part of our commitment to reframing the relationship between the Queensland Government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, we seek to empower First Nations children, families and communities to have a voice in the services and decisions that impact them. We also aim to empower First Nations peoples to lead and control services for their own communities.

For more information, see the [Statement of Commitment](#) to reframe the relationship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the Queensland Government.

We also acknowledge and thank the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who contributed to the development of *Putting Queensland Kids First*.



Queensland Premier's foreword

Making sure we give every Queensland child the best start in life is a personal passion of mine.

The prosperity we enjoy today is thanks to generation after generation of Queenslanders working hard to make sure their children have more opportunities, and better opportunities, than they had.

Kim and I know how hard raising children can be. Sadly, some Queensland children aren't growing up in the kind of loving, nurturing environment I think every child deserves.

Every government agency, but especially health and education, have an opportunity to improve the lives of young Queenslanders.

This strategy aims to better coordinate those efforts to achieve measurable improvements for all children, especially those from disadvantaged or vulnerable backgrounds.

Health outcomes start to be determined from the moment of conception, so we will increase efforts directed at keeping mums and bubs healthy during pregnancy.

Once babies are born, we will make sure they get the healthcare they need by sending dedicated nurses to their homes.

We will prevent infant deaths by providing Pēpi-Pod® sleep spaces for mums to take home with them. These plastic tubs provide proven safe sleeping spaces for newborns.

To ensure we are identifying any hearing problems which can lead to developmental delays, we will fund hearing screenings, so intervention can start early.

These are just some of the half a billion dollars worth of initiatives in this new strategy.

I'm determined to do what matters for Queensland – including making sure every Queensland child gets the best possible start in life.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Miles', written in a cursive style.

**The Honourable Steven Miles MP
Premier of Queensland**



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Introduction

***Putting Queensland Kids First* invests in our youngest Queenslanders for positive and healthy pathways for life, building on the strengths and opportunities that help children and families to thrive, and supporting people to get back on track when they face greater challenges.**

It focuses on the earliest years of life and directs resources, services and supports to give every Queensland child and family the best possible opportunities for a great life.

Our wellbeing and economy are intrinsically linked. Social wellbeing fuels a strong and sustainable economy for all Queenslanders. We know that investing in the early years is one of the best investments for the long-term health, wellbeing, safety and prosperity of our community.

Through this plan, we commit to working in partnership with communities, service providers and philanthropy to best understand and respond to the needs of families and children. This plan commits to acting early and looks across the traditional government portfolios and services to find opportunities to connect support to people, no matter where they live or what their needs are.

What does the evidence say about early years investment?

It delivers lifelong and multi-generational benefits

Investing in prevention and early intervention has a powerful impact on a young person's life, with multi-generational effects. The early years of life shape a child's entire future – 80 per cent of brain development occurs before a child is three years old¹, providing the best window to shape healthy development.

It's the best return on investment

Investments in early interventions and preventative care early in life generate the most significant returns on investment. The potential value of future benefits from prevention and early intervention in Australia each year is \$5.4 billion.²

It prevents more costly tertiary interventions

Quality prevention and early interventions can avoid growing demands on more costly acute services. A total of \$15.2 billion is spent on late interventions in Australia each year in child protection, crime, unemployment, justice, homelessness, mental and physical health and family violence.³

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- 1 Royal Foundation Centre for Early Childhood, 2021 The Urban Child Institute, 2023
 - 2 Access Economics, 2010
 - 3 CoLab – Collaborate for Kids, 2019



Building on strong foundations for children and families

Putting Queensland Kids First builds on strong foundations of existing strategies, plans and efforts across government, the services sector, and communities to improve the lives of Queensland children and families.

Our plan to put Queensland children first builds on our existing **\$645 million** investment in free kindy for every four-year-old in Queensland from 2024.

We know that engaging in learning sets young Queenslanders up for success and we are supporting students to remain engaged in education and on track with our **\$288 million** Positive Pathways Package.

We have also invested:

\$1.28 B	for the Community Safety Plan for Queensland.
\$3.1 B	for the Homes for Queenslanders Plan to fast-track 1 million new homes by 2046, including 53,500 new social homes.
\$1 B	for the Queensland Women and Girls' Health Strategy to improve the health and wellbeing of all women and girls across their life course, to achieve health equity.
\$1.645 B	for Better Care Together to support Queenslanders' mental health.
\$1.3 B	for the 10 year Activate! Queensland strategy to support coordinated whole of government investment in physical activity.

These investments are in addition to delivering **record cost-of-living** relief to alleviate pressures for Queensland families, including expanding the **school food program** to support families in need and make sure children have access to healthy, nutritious food.





Investment snapshot

Putting Queensland Kids First is backed by a \$501.98 million investment in:

Partnering for connected and community-led delivery

- **\$15 million** for a dedicated partnership fund for non-government organisations and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations.
- **\$5.8 million** for more safe, stable and secure housing for First Nations families.
- **\$270,000** for First Nations leadership programs for young First Nations parents.

Wellbeing in the earliest years of life

- **\$65.52 million** for more sustained health home visiting and antenatal support.
- **\$18.44 million** supporting healthier pregnancies, including health risk screenings during antenatal care.
- **\$11.09 million** to connect parents with essentials for thriving babies.
- **\$4.1 million** to expand weekly text messaging to support child development and parental wellbeing.
- **\$9 million** for housing and holistic support for pregnant and parenting mothers.

Supporting families and strengthening communities

- **\$29.86 million** to embed Early Childhood Coordinators within existing child, family and community services.
- **\$11.64 million** to support tenancies for young parents with wraparound support including parenting education.
- **\$5.4 million** to support for Neighbourhood Centres to combat the effects of isolation and loneliness.

- **\$20 million** for family and early years school-based hubs in Aurukun and Kowanyama.
- **\$10.4 million** to enhance mental health support for parents, partners and families.

Responsive support for healthy development and positive life courses

- **\$71.4 million** for enhanced child health development checks in the first five years of life.
- **\$56.55 million** for Enhanced Child Development Services in priority locations to improve the health and wellbeing of children with developmental concerns.
- **\$9.94 million** for improved children's hearing screening and diagnostic services.
- **\$2.04 million** to strengthen family connections through an early intervention program for families experiencing complex challenges.
- **\$3.59 million** for housing and support link services for young mothers, babies and families.

Supporting confident steps through life and learning

- **\$26.23 million** to extend free kindy to up to 30 hours per week for four year olds in discrete communities.
- **\$10.73 million** for health practitioners in 20 priority primary schools.
- **\$67.33 million** for Behaviour specialists in priority primary schools to support engagement in learning.
- **\$42.66 million** for Family Support Coordinators in primary schools to support transitions from early childhood for a confident start to learning at school.



What did Queenslanders say?

The voices of Queenslanders right across our diverse state helped to shape *Putting Queensland Kids First*.

We heard from the **vibrant community services sector** about the importance of delivering meaningful, collaborative supports that are outcomes driven and flexible to respond to community and family needs.

We heard from **Queensland families** about complex and sometimes compounding challenges they face in their lives, and the barriers they have experienced when they needed help.

We also heard overwhelmingly about life changing supports from the tireless community services sector who have helped Queenslanders overcome adversity.

Families told us it was essential they have access to support as early as possible, before they are facing a crisis.

We heard from **experts, academics, advocates and professionals** working with children and families right across Queensland. They told us about the importance of prevention and the earliest possible supports, and that this approach is backed by the best evidence.

We also heard that **government and non-government organisations** need to partner and work collaboratively to break down silos and better connect families to the help they need.



About Queensland children and families

Queensland's diversity is its strength – the cultures, traditions and languages found across our state provide a rich backdrop for all children and families to thrive in an inclusive Queensland future.



Nearly
570,000 Queensland children
aged 8 or under¹

11.7% Growth anticipated
by 2031¹

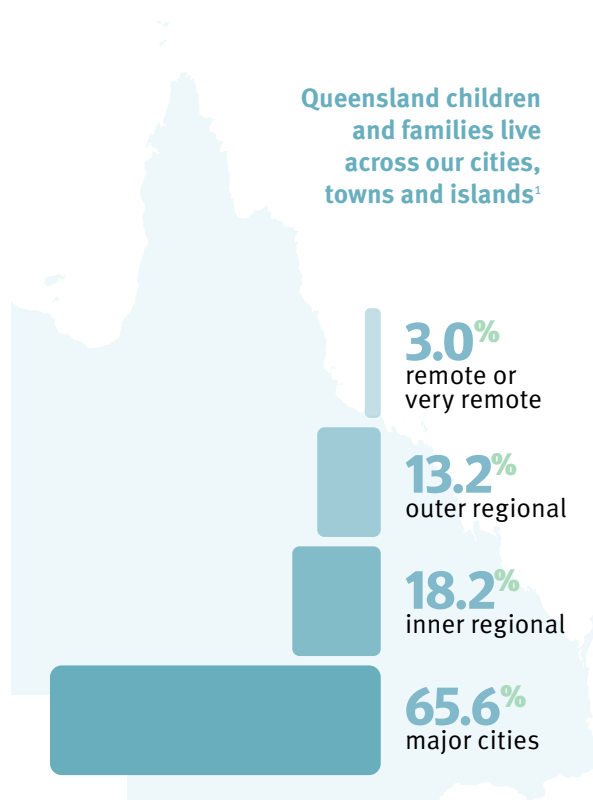
54,500+ Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander children¹

63,400+ babies born
annually²



93.1% babies born with a
healthy birthweight²

Queensland children
and families live
across our cities,
towns and islands¹



1 ABS, Estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2021

2 Queensland Health Perinatal Statistics, 2021

Queensland families and kin systems take all different shapes and forms.

They include:

- multigenerational households including carers who are grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins
- single parent households
- blended and step-families
- same-sex parents, and families with gender diverse parents, children and family members
- families with parents, carers, siblings or children with disability
- families with diverse cultural backgrounds, languages and religions
- families who are new to Queensland, including refugee and migrant families.

69% two-parent families

28% one-parent families

3% other family compositions¹

11,600 Queensland children in care with over 6100 foster and kinship carers²



More than
2 in 5

Queenslanders were born overseas or have at least one parent born overseas³

190+ Languages spoken³

Come from
220+ Countries and territories³

110+ Religions³



Nearly
1 in 5

Queenslanders live with a disability⁴



3.3% Children aged 8 or under have a disability³

51.4% Queensland children assessed as 'on track' by the time they start school⁵

¹ ABS Census of Population and Housing, 2021

² Child and Family Performance Statistics, Sept 2023

³ Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Diversity Figures, 2021

⁴ ABS Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia, 2018

⁵ Australian Early Development Census(AEDC), 2021. The indicator 'On track' measures the percentage of children developmentally on track on all five domains.

What does it mean to put Queensland kids first?

A child's wellbeing in the early years is founded in their family, kin and personal relationships, their community and culture, and the wider world in which they live, learn and grow. Parents and carers, families, communities and governments all play an important role.

These goals highlight what wellbeing in the early years looks like, and what it means to put Queensland children first.

Children are valued, loved and safe

Children are supported by their parents, caregivers and families, nurtured and safe from harm within their homes and communities, and spend quality time with their parents, family and friends.

Children are socially, emotionally and physically healthy

Children have the best possible opportunities, to build self-esteem, respect and resilience, develop physical capabilities, social competence, language and communication skills and mental wellbeing, and live happy, healthy lives.

Children are learning

Children are engaged in positive, safe, stimulating and play-based learning environments that build healthy brains and bodies from the very moment they come into their world.

Children have strong identities and connections to culture

Children grow up in environments where they can develop positive social and emotional connections, are connected to their own culture, language, beliefs and identity and are supported to exercise increasing autonomy as they develop.

Children have opportunities to play and imagine

Honouring childhood through providing children with the right to be children in the here and now – to have opportunities to play, imagine and express themselves creatively.

Material basics are met

Children and their families have access to food and nutrition, healthcare, household income and appropriate housing.

Families are empowered, connected and supported

Supporting and empowering parents, carers, and families with the skills, capabilities and resources to meet the health, social, emotional, developmental and educational needs of children in the early years.

Communities are strong, inclusive places to live, grow, play and connect

Communities are safe, inclusive and enriching places that welcome children and their families, encourage a sense of belonging and connectedness to people, culture, land, nature and environment.

Wellbeing goals adapted from the National Early Years Strategy, Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) Nest Wellbeing Framework and Queensland Children's Wellbeing Framework.

Our guiding principles

Children, families and community at the centre

- Placing children and families at the centre.
- Informed by the voices and experiences of children and families.
- Underpinned by the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations and human rights.

Culture, inclusion, diversity, access and equity for all

- Promoting equity and recognising the diverse needs, lived experience and cultural safety of all children and families.
- Focusing on equity in outcomes for all.
- Support that is culturally responsive and recognises the strengths of diverse cultures, particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural knowledge in raising children.

Strengths-based and empowering

- Focused on the strengths of community and cultural knowledge in raising children and promoting health and wellbeing.
- Empowering parents, caregivers, kin and families to create the best conditions for their children to thrive.

Partnering to connect Queenslanders to holistic support

- Connecting Queenslanders to the support and services they need, when they need it.
- Partnering and collaborating to integrate service offerings between government and non-government organisations.

Shifting the balance to preventive care and a life course focus

- Taking a life course approach to preventative services that set the foundations for success at every stage of life.
- Prevention and early intervention services through a mix of universal, targeted and intensive supports.
- Shifting the balance of investment to preventative care and early intervention to achieve the best possible outcomes and return on investment.

Evidence-informed, accountability and transparency

- Informed by the evidence of what works for children and families in Queensland communities.
- Continuous improvement and learning, informed by research to understand the impact of our current investment and what should be considered for future investment.

Our vision, objectives and outcomes

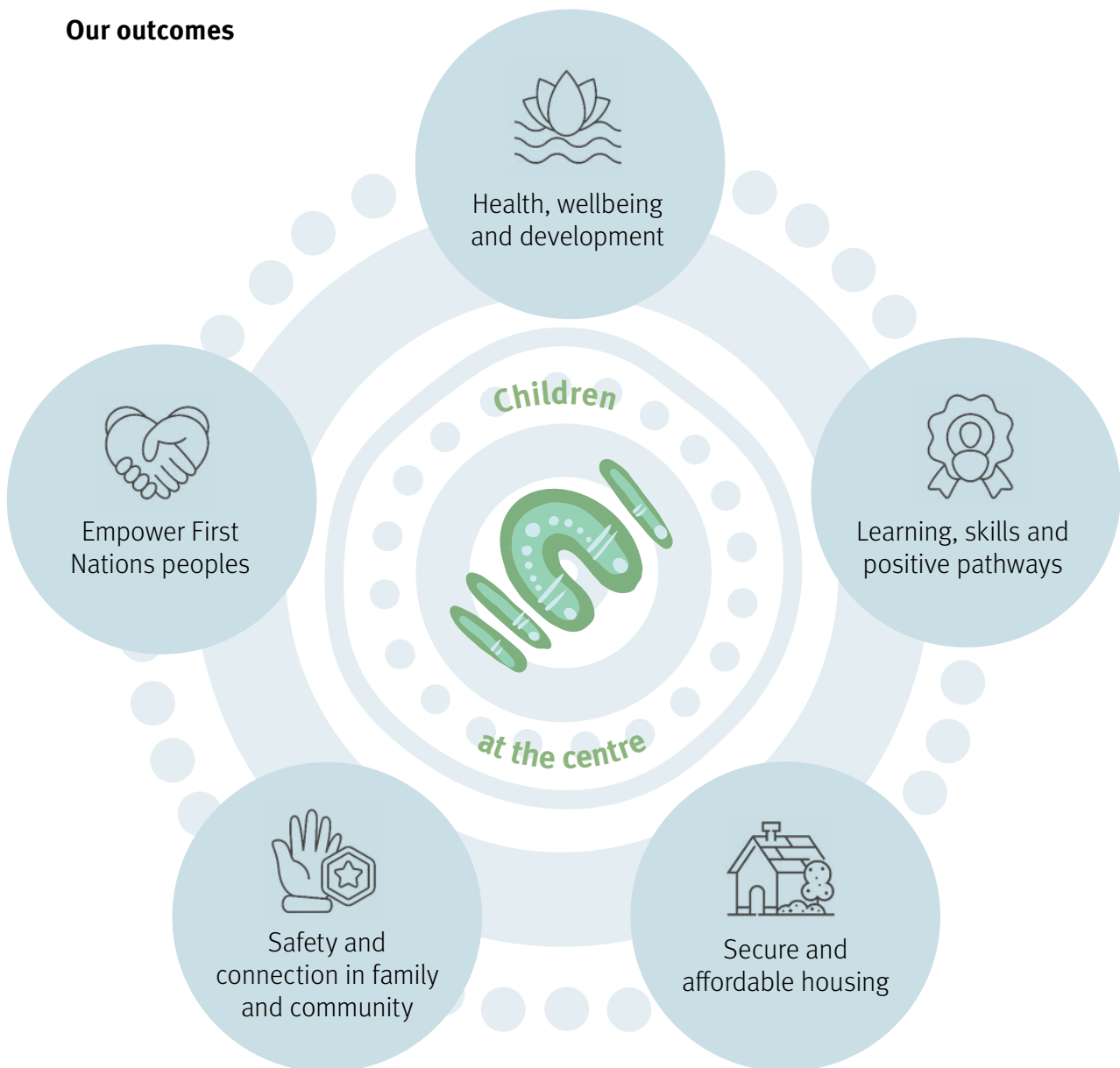
Our vision

Every Queensland child and family has the best start and a lifetime of opportunities.

Our objective

To strengthen investment in prevention and access to the earliest possible supports.

Our outcomes



Putting Queensland Kids First will be underpinned by an evaluation framework and clear performance indicators to assess our progress and implementation.

Our priorities

Our investment priorities are underpinned by an investment of more than \$500 million for prevention and early supports for children and families.

- **Partnering for connected and community-led delivery**

Collaborative partnerships with non-government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations to support local, place-based responses to diverse community needs.

- **Wellbeing in the earliest years of life**

Supporting children to be born and raised healthy in their families, connected to culture, and supported in their development so they start life with the best foundations for lifelong wellbeing.

- **Supporting families and strengthening communities**

Strengthening holistic and wraparound supports for families and communities and responding to the needs of parents, caregivers and kin to create the best conditions for children to thrive.

- **Responsive support for healthy development and positive life courses**

Supporting individual development through the earliest possible access to support to identify and respond to the diverse needs of Queensland children.

- **Supporting confident steps through life and learning**

Encouraging confident steps as children grow and develop, from early learning and across key phases of learning to set them on positive pathways for the future.

Each woven fish represents the journey of families moving together, guided by the child.





Partnering for connected and community-led delivery

Partnering with non-government organisations and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations to deliver local, place-based supports that respond to the diverse needs of Queensland children, families and communities.

Communities are best placed to understand the strengths and needs of local families and children. Community co-design and stewardship of delivery empowers communities through culturally responsive services that respond to the unique contexts of each place. They also build on the diversity and strengths of children and families.

In partnership, we will:

- improve responses to local community needs with children and families at the centre
- improve access to connected, person-centred services and supports
- strengthen investment in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations
- partner with local communities, families and First Nations peoples in the design of services so they can exercise greater choice, control and cultural authority over decisions that affect them.



We are investing in

\$15 M

Partnerships that strengthen responses to diverse community needs

We are delivering a dedicated fund for collaborative partnerships with non-government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations for local, place-based responses to diverse community needs.

\$5.8 M

Housing support for First Nations Families and young people

We are coordinating early supports and housing for young First Nations peoples who are at risk of being displaced from their family home, providing young people with a safe place of their own where they can develop independent living skills while maintaining connection to family, culture, and community.

\$270 K

Leadership and parenting skills for young First Nations peoples

We are delivering a new *Scaffolding the Next Generation of First Nations Leaders Program*, co-designed alongside young First Nations people, community, and youth sector organisations to address factors that can lead to offending through improving parenting, strengthening community, and supporting families at risk.





Wellbeing in the earliest years of life

Supporting children to be born and raised healthy in their families, connected to culture, and supported in their development so they start life with the best foundations for lifelong wellbeing.

Healthy development in the early years supports young Queenslanders with the strongest start for wellbeing and learning, so they become happy and resilient young people, equipped with the skills to embrace their potential.

From conception onwards, a child's physical, social and emotional wellbeing matures at a rapid rate which offers an important opportunity to establish the foundations for a healthy and resilient future.

In partnership, we will:

- improve access to integrated health care during pregnancy to support healthy births and development
- support families to raise children in safe environments free from harm
- provide education and support for parents and families about their child's health, wellbeing and development at key phases of life
- provide extra supports for families who need it most, with access to essentials, such as material basics and safe sleeping spaces for their children.



We are investing in

\$65.52 M	<p>More health home visiting in the first two to three years of life</p> <p>We are expanding health home visiting to more families and children who need it most, responding to the needs of local families and building strong connections with communities and local services. Sustained health home visiting supports parents in their own wellbeing and builds capacity to provide safe, healthy home environments for their child's development.</p>
\$18.44 M	<p>Supporting healthier pregnancies</p> <p>We are supporting healthier pregnancies and healthier babies, with enhanced health risk screening during pregnancy and the antenatal period, and support to stop smoking. Clinical facilitators will provide statewide support to build capability and systems for chronic disease and future health risk screening of pregnant women during antenatal care (including alcohol consumption), with clear pathways to wrap around support.</p>
\$11.09 M	<p>Connecting parents with essentials for thriving babies</p> <p>We are providing access to bundles of essentials for parents experiencing adversity, including those at risk of homelessness, housing stress, domestic and family violence, trauma, relationship breakdowns and unplanned pregnancies. Parents and caregivers will also be provided access to the culturally responsive and evidence based Pēpi-Pod® Program, with safe sleeping education and safe sleeping spaces for babies.</p>
\$4.1 M	<p>Expanding Connecting2U support to every Queensland family</p> <p>We are expanding the existing Connecting2U program to provide weekly text messaging for all Queensland families during pregnancy and extending to five years, with prompts and strategies to support healthy development, parental wellbeing, community connections and information about where to access more support if they need it.</p>
\$9 M	<p>Housing and holistic support for pregnant and parenting mothers</p> <p>We are connecting pregnant and parenting mothers in hotels, hostels and hospitals to the services and supports they need to stay safe and together with their children, with outreach services to respond to the needs of the women and their children, including domestic and family violence safety planning, transition to sustainable housing, and parenting support. We will also provide new mothers birthing in hospital with an integrated care team and sustained support in the first six months, linking them with long term accommodation, parenting and wellbeing support, and a range of connected services.</p>



Case study

Sustained Health Home Visiting program – right@home

Through right@home, families receive 25 home visits by a child health nurse and early intervention clinician (social worker or psychologist) during pregnancy and continuing until their child is two years old.

The right@home program is a relationship-based Australian model of care that was developed by Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY), Western Sydney University and The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne. The right@home program is designed for the Australian context to integrate with, and sustainably strengthen, existing services.

Six month old baby Jack and his family were able to benefit from the comprehensive care model provided by right@home.

The Child Health Nurse established that Jack's mother had a long history of severe anxiety and that Jack's birth had exacerbated Mum's anxiety. With Mum's consent the nurse liaised with the Mental Health Case Worker.

Within weeks Mum's medication had been reviewed and she was slowly improving. The nurse was then able to discuss right@home and the family for the program. Both parents have been receptive and found benefit in participating. Mum has enjoyed the resources, and the family have engaged in additional supports including the Ellen Barron Family Centre.

Mum has developed awareness of the impact of her own mental health issues on her parenting, and is working on proactive strategies to minimise this. Mum is caring for Jack independently, both Mum and Dad are engaging in self-care, and the maternal grandmother is providing additional support within the family home.



Case study

Early Years Places connecting families with services to support their child's early development

Early Years Places are an easy way for families to access a range of early childhood activities and support from the one welcoming location. Early Years Places are a service and social hub where families can come together in a space they feel is their own, where they can build their social networks and connections, as well as have access to a range of support services.

Each Early Years Place is unique, offering a different mix of programs including playgroup, early childhood education and care, child and mental health services, and family and parenting support for their community.

Located in more than 50 communities across Queensland, Early Years Places make it easy for families to connect with services to support their child's early development.

Jane, a mother of three children, started attending a supported playgroup at the Cairns Early Years Centre. Through this soft-entry approach, the staff at the centre helped Jane to access occupational and

speech therapy to address concerns about her child's development. Jane was also supported to complete day care enrolment processes and was provided parenting strategies and supports to manage home activities and the family's daily routine.

Jane's capability, awareness of and engagement in her children's development, and her increased belief in her own parenting capacity, increased significantly as a result of the support received at the centre. In turn, this resulted in more positive outcomes for the family as a whole, with increased social networks and connections and decreased social isolation.



Supporting families and strengthening communities

Strengthening holistic and wraparound supports for families and communities, and responding to the needs of parents, caregivers and kin to create the best conditions for children to thrive.

In their earliest years, children's development is best supported by forming secure attachments in nurturing and stimulating environments that enable them to safely explore and make sense of their world.

Whole of family health and wellbeing is critical to a child's healthy development. Caregivers need to be supported to handle the financial, social, health and relationship impacts of the transition to parenthood, and to build knowledge and skills to support their child's wellbeing in a way that best responds to diverse needs and choices.

In partnership, we will:

- help parents and caregivers so they are ready and able to parent, strong in culture, kin and community
- connect people to information, advice, services and culturally responsive support to enable them to deal with life challenges – particularly when people are facing adversity or challenges
- provide practical supports to live healthily, with access to support to heal, restore and promote their wellbeing.



We are investing in

\$29.86 M	<p>Early Childhood Coordinators</p> <p>We are embedding 36 Early Childhood Coordinators within existing child, family or community services, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled services in priority locations across Queensland to improve pathways and connections for families experiencing vulnerability to access early coordinated childhood education, health and development services. This includes expanding supported playgroups in communities where children experience vulnerability and disadvantage.</p>
\$11.64 M	<p>Supporting young parents</p> <p>We are supporting tenancies for young parents at risk of homelessness, who are either residing in or are eligible for social housing in seven locations. This will provide wraparound support to build parenting skills and capacity to sustain a tenancy, and help them towards social and economic independence, including engagement in education, training and employment.</p>
\$5.4 M	<p>Support for Neighbourhood Centres to combat social isolation</p> <p>We are addressing the root causes of social and health inequalities and poor social connections in Neighbourhood Centres, providing non-clinical, early intervention support towards literacy, food security, and social support, in addition to supporting access to quality healthcare, education, and stable housing.</p>
\$20 M	<p>Family and early years school-based hubs</p> <p>We are delivering new family and early years hubs at Aurukun State School and Kowanyama State School to provide comprehensive, locally responsive and connected services that support child, parent and family wellbeing, enhance positive child learning and development, and build parenting capacity.</p>
\$10.4 M	<p>Mental health support for parents, partners and families</p> <p>We are enhancing support for parents, partners and families who are impacted by or experiencing perinatal mental ill health, with a peer-to-peer workforce to support mothers and families during the antenatal and early parenting years. This includes the development of online mental health peer support for rural and remote Queenslanders, establishing Perinatal Wellness services across Queensland and establishing First Nations and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse lived experience positions focused on perinatal mental health.</p>



Responsive support for healthy development and positive life courses

Supporting individual development through the earliest possible access to support to identify and respond to the diverse needs of Queensland children.

For young Queenslanders with developmental delays, the potential for improved long-term outcomes relies on the earliest possible access to appropriate identification, interventions and support.

The early years of life are a key time to identify developmental vulnerabilities and respond as early as possible, so they are ready to transition into school with confidence, and to prepare them for the best future outcomes.

In partnership, we will:

- enhance access to universal and foundational health and education services and support children and families to access more specialist supports that respond to their individual needs, no matter where they live in Queensland
- improve inclusive and responsive supports for children with disability, and provide earlier access for children with developmental concerns to improve access to support as early as possible
- work with communities to design and deliver trauma informed, culturally-safe services and learning experiences.



We are investing in

\$71.4 M	<p>Enhanced child health services and development checks</p> <p>We are expanding access to Child and Family Health Services in priority locations, giving children a minimum of eight health and development checks in the first five years, including offering services in early years' settings and enhanced support for those that need more care.</p> <p>Enhanced support will include parenting support (sleep and settling, infant behaviours), brief intervention and advice to support normal child health and development, and emotional support for improved family wellbeing. It will also fund scholarships, bursaries and more child health nurses, with dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, culturally and linguistically diverse, and rural, regional or remote positions across Queensland.</p>
\$56.55 M	<p>Enhanced Child Development Services in priority locations</p> <p>We are enhancing Child Development Services in priority locations to improve the health and wellbeing of children with developmental concerns by connecting them to allied health clinicians for diagnostic assessments to identify and respond to their individual needs as early as possible.</p>
\$9.94 M	<p>Improved children's hearing screening and diagnostics</p> <p>We are expanding the Community Hearing Screening Service to increase access to screening and diagnostic audiology services for children and provide in-school hearing screening in priority locations across Queensland with the highest need.</p>
\$2.04 M	<p>Strengthening family connections</p> <p>We will trial the Family Connections early intervention program and in-home supports for families experiencing complex challenges and disadvantage, to build family capacities to keep children safe and well and increase family support systems.</p>
\$3.59 M	<p>Housing and Support Link Services for young mothers, babies and families</p> <p>We are expanding housing and support link services for young parents who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, including support for mothers, babies and families receiving treatment at the Mater Young Adult Health Centre, building on an existing \$600,000 allocated through the Better Care Together plan. Housing link services will respond to patients' immediate housing and support needs, connecting them to appropriate housing and other supports such as tenancy sustainment, financial management and education.</p>



Supporting confident steps through life and learning

Encouraging confident steps as children grow and develop, from early learning and across key phases of learning to set them on positive pathways for the future.

Children who have positive experiences with learning are more likely to be happy at school and improve their academic and social skills, setting them up for better outcomes across their schooling, training and employment journey.

Early childhood and school settings that are child-ready and able to meet the individual learning and wellbeing needs of children relies on schools, educators, service providers and families working together in positive, flexible and individually responsive ways.

In partnership, we will:

- support parents and caregivers as first teachers to engage in their child's learning
- support children to access nutritious food, participate in community and engage in healthy behaviours and exercise
- strengthen steps between home, early childhood and learning environments
- connect families and children with holistic support to engage positively in learning and improve responses to complex behaviours and wellbeing needs.



We are investing in

\$26.23 M	Extending free kindy hours for four year olds in discrete communities We are building on an existing \$645 million commitment to 15 hours of free four year old kindy by extending free kindy for four year old children in discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities up to 30 hours a week.
\$10.73 M	Health practitioners in primary schools We are providing students at 20 high priority primary schools with free access to primary healthcare at their school. Health practitioners will facilitate referrals to support services such as speech pathologists and other allied health services and remove barriers families may face accessing healthcare and referrals.
\$67.33 M	85 Behaviour Specialists in 299 primary schools We are connecting young students, families and teachers with specialist behaviour support in high-needs Queensland state primary schools to support better engagement in learning for stronger pathways. Behaviour specialists will work with teachers to build their capability and confidence in supporting student behaviour and engagement. They will also work with students, families, teachers and Family Support Coordinators to help develop and implement evidence-based prevention and early intervention plans.
\$42.66 M	84 Family Support Coordinators in 219 primary schools We are supporting transitions with Family Support Coordinators working with classroom teachers and Early Childhood Coordinators to provide families with a smooth transition into school from early childhood services, with rapid access to learning or engagement support to establish positive patterns of attendance and behaviour and engagement in learning.



Building on a system of support

Putting Queensland Kids First complements and builds on existing services and strategies delivering for Queensland children and families.

Health, wellbeing and development

HealthQ32 is a vision for Queensland's health system that focuses on maximising health and wellbeing and access to care in the community for all Queenslanders.

Queensland Women and Girls' Health Strategy 2032 provides an overarching framework that will drive Queensland reforms to benefit women and girls' health, with a focus on young women and girls and priority communities.

Better Care Together delivers a lifespan and person-centred plan for Queenslanders experiencing mental illness, mental health crisis, and problematic alcohol and other drug use, and prioritises mental health treatment, care and support for new parents, infants and children.

Making Tracks Together is a co-designed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Equity Framework to eliminate institutional racism across the public health system and achieve life expectancy parity for First Nations peoples by 2031. It focuses on good health from before conception and throughout life.

Activate! Queensland supports Queenslanders to be active to improve their physical and mental health and bring communities together.

Learning, skills and pathways

Queensland Early Childhood Workforce Strategy recognises the essential early childhood workforce and their role in making sure all children start strong and thrive to realise their full potential.

The **Equity and Excellence: realising the potential of every student** education strategy includes priorities to support a strong start to school by strengthening protective factors in the early years and nurturing the confidence of students to thrive in their future schooling years.

Employment and economic participation is a key foundation for financial resilience for families. Queensland's workforce strategy **Good people. Good jobs** connects Queenslanders with the work they want to grow a stronger, more diverse and inclusive workforce. It is supported by a First Nations training strategy **Paving the Way** to open opportunities for participation and empowerment.

Secure and affordable housing

Homes for Queenslanders fast tracks one million new homes over the next 20 years, supporting families with safe, secure and appropriate housing to their needs and choices, and works towards ending homelessness for vulnerable Queenslanders.

Towards ending homelessness for young Queenslanders 2022–2027 connects young Queenslanders to information, opportunities and support to access safe, secure and affordable housing.

Empower First Nations peoples

Underpinned by the **Path to Treaty** and **Local Thriving Communities reforms**, the Queensland Government is **committed to reframing the relationship** with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders, and **implementation of the National Closing the Gap Agreement and the Reconciliation Action Plan**.

Our Way: A generational strategy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families is a commitment by government and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to work together to close the gap in life outcomes and eliminate the disproportionate representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the child protection system.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Health Organisations (ATSI CCHOs) are the leading providers of community-led and culturally safe care for children and families. Partnering between Queensland Health services and ATSI CCHOs are being prioritised to deliver streamlined and integrated models of care, through strategies such as the **Health Q32 First Nations First Strategy**. This will include better enabling Community Controlled First Nations Integrated Health and Wellbeing Services to provide early intervention and protective supports for First Nations children and families.

Safety and connection in family and community

The **Community Safety Plan for Queensland** is focused on making communities safer by supporting victims, delivering frontline support, detaining offenders, intervening when people offend, and preventing crime before it occurs.

Communities 2032 is a long-term plan to strengthen the fabric of our communities and to help Queenslanders live their best lives.

Queensland's Disability Plan: Together, a better Queensland aims to build an inclusive Queensland. It sits alongside reforms to systems supporting people with a disability, including the review of the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability.

The **Queensland Women's Strategy** is our vision to strengthen and support the rights of women and girls, with an emphasis on achieving gender equality in Queensland.

Domestic and family violence (DFV) prevention strategy provides a cohesive approach to prevention and responses to all people who experience DFV, including women, men, children and young people.

Queensland's Plan for the Primary Prevention of Violence Against Women 2024–2028 is a blueprint to strengthen efforts to prevent violence against women and target the underlying drivers of violence.



← To Marbella Dr

No Parking

Friends Centre

Visitor Information
Café
Toilets
Public toilet

Guiding Waters



Guiding Waters is a collaborative creation by Iscariot Media, Kylie Hill and Tori-Jay Mordey.

Guiding Waters depicts the story of growing and raising strong, healthy kids. It's a story built on ancestral foundations and enriched by the strength of a community that surrounds children as caretakers, educators, and guides.

Along their path, small steps and journey stones chart their progress. Much like fish navigating the ocean's currents, we guide them with wisdom, innovation, and nurturing, enabling them to flourish.

The four meeting places represent community that strengthen and give different avenues for raising healthy, happy children. Smaller journey rocks represent

the pathways forward for children, families and community. The five large white journey stones represents ancestors watching over the journey.

The plants resemble growth, guided by the child. The vine leaf from the Torres Straits represents community. When you pull that leaf, its vines are rooted deep in the ground under the sand and it is near impossible to rip or break it. It represents working together as a community knowing we are stronger as a unit.

Hands of all children release woven fish that represent not only Torres Strait Island culture, but all families moving together, guided by the child.



Aboriginal artist Kylie Hill (from the Kalkadoon and Waanyi from Far North Queensland and Mount Isa).



Torres Strait Islander artist Tori-Jay Mordey (based in Meanjin, born on Thursday Island in the Torres Strait, descended from the Meriam and Maluyigal clans).

