



LGBTI Roundtable Communiqué

The Queensland LGBTI Roundtable met for the first time on 23 April 2018.

The purpose of the LGBTI Roundtable is to enable the Queensland Government to ensure its policies, programs, services and strategies are inclusive of and responsive to the needs of LGBTI communities, individuals and their families.

The Roundtable will inform Government engagement with LGBTI communities, and provide a mechanism for communities to highlight issues, challenges and opportunities with the Queensland Government.

11 representatives of Queensland's diverse LGBTI communities were joined by a number of senior staff from across government agencies to discuss priorities and opportunities for real change on the issues affecting the community.

Roundtable community members include: Elise Stephenson; Ben Bjarnesen; Rebecca Johnson; Dr Lisa van Leent; Chris Pickard; Alex David; Jay Wells; Dallas Pitt; Peter Black; Rob Nielsen and Vicki Ogilvie (apology for this meeting). Members are drawn from the Gay and Lesbian, inter-sex and transgender communities and academia. They bring rich expertise in the fields of education, youth services, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services, rural and remote services and the needs of the LGBTI community across Queensland.

Community members were joined by five Senior Government Officials from the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors (Director-General as Chair), Department of Health, Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Department of Education, the Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland and the Queensland Public Sector LGBTIQ+ Steering Committee Chair.

The Honourable Coralee O'Rourke MP, Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors welcomed the Roundtable members and reaffirmed the important role they play in creating an inclusive, vibrant and equitable community where all Queenslanders have the opportunity to thrive.

Roundtable members raised issues such as:

- the need for greater awareness and training regarding domestic violence responses for the Queensland Police Service, court staff, funded support services and hospital staff
- reviewing opportunities to provide greater support for teachers to appropriately respond to and support young LGBTI Queenslanders in schools, including strengthening mental health responses, suicide prevention, anti-cyberbullying and anti-bullying

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- ensuring the views of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTI community members are heard
 - ensuring better access to appropriate LGBTI healthcare for rural and remote communities, particularly for transgender people
 - responding to different culturally and linguistically diverse groups with appropriate, targeted approaches regarding LGBTI matters
 - addressing language and labelling in government systems to include inclusive pronouns in forms and templates.

The LGBTI Roundtable Work plan will be made publicly available through the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors website once finalised: <https://www.communities.qld.gov.au/communityservices/community-support/queensland-lgbti-roundtable>. Regular updates on progress against this plan will be provided.

The achievements of the previous LGBTI Roundtable 2010-2012 were acknowledged as well as the significant work achieved by LGBTI communities and the Queensland government in the past.

The Minister emphasised the need for the Roundtable to focus on deliverables and milestones and to formulate an Action Plan in areas where there could be real and measurable change for the better.

The Roundtable considered their forward business around priority areas which will form the basis for their 2-year Work Plan. Priorities considered include employment, health, safety, and brighter futures for children.

The Roundtable Work Plan will identify tangible deliverables at regular intervals to ensure meaningful outcomes.

The Roundtable will seek out opportunities to connect with LGBTI communities and link in with the important work already happening across the community and government sectors to enhance the lives of LGBTI Queenslanders.

April 2018