



Queensland State Budget 2016-2017

What's in it for the Community Services Industry?

The Queensland Treasurer, the Honourable Curtis Pitt MP, delivered the Palaszczuk Government's third budget on 13 June 2017. The purpose of this briefing paper to Foundation members is to identify opportunities for the community services industry with a focus on the broader economic policy agenda. We draw on themes within the budget that relate to the business of the community service delivery and identify opportunities for the industry to engage with the policy agenda.

Where to find information?

The government has provided an overview of the Budget titled Jobs for Queensland at <https://budget.qld.gov.au/>. Here you will find summary documents as well as the full budget papers. Budget Paper 4 lists Budget measures by portfolios. The attached summary (Attachment 1) by the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services provides an overview of its funded budget measures.

What parts of the budget are of interest to the Community Services Industry?

In the main the 2017/18 Budget continues or builds on a range of existing reforms and programs particularly in child protection, disability, domestic and family violence and homelessness. It also re-establishes some drug and alcohol and mental health support and justice responses. It contains two significant new items for the Community Services Industry:

- Community Services Workers Award Wage Increases
- Queensland Housing Strategy

The implications of these new budget measures are outlined in the table below along with a range of other measures that impact on Community Service Organisations.

Budget Measure	Why is it important?
Business development opportunities	
Community Services Workers Award Wage Increases	Community Service Organisations have been under financial pressure from wage increases and this measure will provide some relief. This budget commitment is a result of collaborative work between CSIA, QCOSS, PeakCare and a range of community service organisations that worked together over the past twelve months to understand the issue, model the shortfalls and bring the issue to the attention of the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services and Queensland Treasury. This was a powerful industry led collaboration that delivered results. The budget item applies to community service organisations funded by DCCSDS, DJAG, QH and DHPW. Queensland Budget Measure page 36.

Queensland Housing Strategy	<p>The Queensland Housing Strategy is a ten-year strategy which includes a \$1.6 billion investment in social and affordable housing over the next ten years. Over the next 4 years from 2017-18 the Government will provide \$121.5 million in investment. There is a current round of expressions of interest on the QTenders website for the Housing Construction Program.</p> <p>The Strategy is comprised of four key themes, growth, prosperity, connections and confidence. There are strong linkages to the governments broader policy objectives in infrastructure development and jobs growth and this represents real opportunities for community organisations to be involved in the development of projects and models that are both social and economic in nature.</p> <p>Another key aspect of the Strategy is a commitment to research and evaluation from the very beginning of the implementation of the strategy. This will come in the form of a research alliance between industry, universities, government and the private sector.</p> <p>There is also a strong focus on improving services and an increased level of certainty for community service organisations in relation to funding with a \$29.4 million investment in the national Partnership Agreement on Housing in 2017-18.</p> <p>This is a positive budget measure overall and one that has been long awaited by the community services industry. Advice from the Department of Housing and Public Works is that they are seeking a strong partnership approach and we will continue to work with the Community Services Industry to support this.</p> <p>Queensland Housing Strategy 2017-2027 Queensland Budget Measure page 51.</p>
Open Data Policy and Action Plan	This item provides additional funds to implement the existing policy and action plan. Open data provides organisations with free access to government data to inform service and business planning.
Advance Queensland - Ignite Ideas Fund	This program provides opportunities for organisations to seek seed funding to commercialise new products or services or to leverage off new products developed by other organisations. See examples here
Service delivery	
Child Protection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening Queensland's Child Protection System (DCCSDS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are some additional funding opportunities for intensive family support services. • The accelerated transfer of foster and kinship carer support to the non-government sector provides opportunities for community service organisations to deliver training and support services.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster and Kinship Carer Support through the NGO Sector (DCCSDS) • Multiple Agency Response to Child Sexual Abuse (DCCSDS) • QFCC - Responsive Child Protection System (DPC) • Action on Ice (QH, DCCSDS, QPS, DPC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSIA in partnership with QFCC is developing a proposal for Industry led action to drive excellence in child safe organisations and will need to align with existing protocols and guidelines for child sexual abuse. • New programs will be developed to support families in the child protection system to overcome ice issues. This will require co-ordination between drug and alcohol and family support services.
<p>Domestic and Family Violence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic and Family Violence Response – Specialist Domestic and family Violence Courts (DJAG, DCCSDS, QH, QPS) • Domestic and Family Violence Shelters (DCCSDS, DHPW) • Domestic and Family Violence Response-Evaluation (DPC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is continued funding for organisations providing court support and perpetrator programs in Southport and opportunities to access additional funds to roll out services and programs in Beenleigh Townsville, Mt Isa and Palm Island • Community Service Organisations will have opportunities to deliver, partner with, or refer to two new Domestic and Family Violence Shelters. • The evaluation of the Queensland Governments response to the <i>Not Now Not Ever</i> report will determine the effectiveness of domestic and family violence measures
<p>Disability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Escalation of NDIS Funding (DCCSDS) • Support Services for Young people with a Disability leaving School (DCCSDS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.5% escalation of NDIS funding in 2020/21 as already agreed between the Federal and State Governments. • There will be opportunities for disability services to provide transitional support for people with a disability to education, training and jobs.
<p>Homelessness</p> <p>National Partnership Agreement (NPA) on Homelessness (DHPW)</p>	<p>The one year extension to the NPA provides certainty to community service organisation delivering specialist homelessness services. It will be superseded by the new National Housing and Homelessness Agreement from 2018-19.</p>
<p>Financial Counselling</p> <p>Extending Existing Drought Relief Arrangements (DCCSDS, DNRM, DAF)</p>	<p>The extension of community support in drought declared areas provides opportunities for community service organisations to deliver financial support and counselling services and lead or partner with community events.</p>
<p>Drug and Alcohol</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-establishment of the Drug Court (DHPW, QH, DJAG, QPS) • Action on Ice (QH, DCCSDS, QPS, DPC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This budget measure provides opportunities for community service organisations to provide treatment and rehabilitation services as part of the Drug Court Program. • Action on Ice includes extension of Alcohol and Drug Information Services, expansion of services under the Family Drug Support Program and additional training and resources to frontline support workers.
<p>Mental Health</p> <p>Adolescent Mental Health Facility</p>	<p>The new facility to be built at Prince Charles Hospital in Brisbane includes four other complementary services (including two step, up step down facilities) to increase</p>

	support for young people with mental illness in the community.
Youth Justice Transition of 17 year olds to the Youth Justice System (DJAG, QH, QPS)	This transition has been a long time coming. It includes additional support for 17 year olds as they transition out of the youth justice system and new offenders that enter the system. New facilities are being built and this will mean connections need to be made between support services and new youth justice detention centres.
Place Based Responses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Social Cohesion (DPC) • Aurukun Heightened Response – Aurukun Youth Strategy (QPS, DCCSDS, DATSIP, DJAG, DEHP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Building Social Cohesion item provides additional funds for community driven activities and targeted engagement with specific communities in regional Queensland. Community Service Organisations in regional Queensland could be a potential lead or partner in some place based activities. • There are opportunities for local Community Service Organisations to provide in-community support and influence the development of a community driven youth strategy in Aurukun.

What are the policy themes important to the Community Services industry?

Policy Theme 1: Driving growth and increasing job opportunities for all Queenslanders

What is the role for our Industry?

The Futures Forecast indicates the Industry is “well placed to attract investment and labour” during the next ten years. We need to change the narrative of the Community Service Industry to focus on its contribution to both social and economic outcomes and build a greater understanding of the breadth, depth and value of the industry.

CSIA Funding diversification will be critical for our Industry to meet increasing demand and to respond to issues related to social and economic disadvantage. This requires a range of new funding and financing models utilising social impact investment, philanthropy, corporate partnerships and self-generated revenue.

What are the Opportunities?

In Queensland a consortium of peak and industry bodies (CSIA, Health and Community Services Workforce Council, NDS, QCOSS) is working collaboratively with key government agencies, the disability sector, employment and education sectors, and the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) to build workforce supply and capability to meet demand under the NDIS.

CSIA is intending to partner with Industry to develop strategies to build greater awareness of the community services Industry and its social and economic contribution.

There is some momentum from the Industry, government and private sector towards a developing social investment market. A range of investor incentives, access to start-up capital and less red tape would support the Industry to realise this potential.

Policy Theme 2: Helping communities recover, reconnect and rebuild

What is the role for our Industry?

Community Service Organisations have a critical role to play in disaster preparedness, response and recovery. Despite this, in many cases Community Service organisations are not an integral part of part of community disaster plans. The unique role of community service organisations in communities coupled with their knowledge of the local context and community connections makes them well placed to enhance disaster preparedness, response and recovery interventions.

What are the Opportunities?

CSIA recently partnered with Griffith University to support a project aimed at building the resilience of Community Service Organisations and Queensland's disaster resilience. The project will seek to better integrate Community Service Organisations into Local Disaster Management Groups and support business continuity in disaster affected communities.

Policy Theme 3: Boosting the supply of affordable housing

What is the role for our Industry?

Community Service Organisations have a critical role to play in both the development of the supply of social and affordable housing as well as the delivery of services to people experiencing homelessness. We are pleased to see a particular focus on young people in this budget and will support our stakeholders to partner with government around opportunities emerging from this space.

What are the Opportunities?

One of the huge areas of potential growth and innovation in this space is in the area of impact investment. CSIA will work with the government and stakeholders over the coming months to make the most of these opportunities.

As always, we welcome your feedback on any of the issues raised. CSIA will continue to look for opportunities to engage the Queensland Government's policy agenda for the benefit of the Industry. If you have ideas about how to do this or you would like to participate in shaping the approach please don't hesitate to contact us.

This analysis has been informed by [Forecasting the future: Community Services in Queensland 2025](#)

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