

2020 Queensland State Election

Member Service Guide

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Health equity

for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

“Our political campaign is based on feedback from you, our Members, about the need to end racism in the health system through health equity...”

CEO Message



Welcome to the QAIHC 2020 State Election Guide.

The Queensland State Election will be held in October this year and it provides an important opportunity to influence the next State Government. To assist you with preparing for the election, QAIHC have created this guide to provide you with information, tips on how your service can get involved with campaigning and the actions that QAIHC will take to influence the election.

The guide has four sections:

- QAIHC's 2020 State Election Message
- About the Queensland State Election
- QAIHC Member Service Guide to campaigning: *a local level approach*
- QAIHC Member Service Guide to campaigning: *a state-wide approach.*

Our political campaign is based on feedback from you, our Members, about the need to end racism in the health system through health equity, and the opportunity for Health Reform that COVID-19 has highlighted. **As we deal with the challenges arising from COVID-19 it is essential that our politicians understand our sector and the critical role that we play and how we are meeting the health needs of our people under this new norm.**

Our campaign message is:

Health equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

I hope this guide provides a useful tool for you to share with your teams and that you will join us in advocating for all political parties to commit to supporting the ATSI CCHO Sector and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' health and wellbeing throughout the next parliament.

I look forward to working with you through this campaign and seeing it build momentum.

Together, we can create change.

Cleveland Fagan
Chief Executive Officer (Acting)
Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council

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“Our vision is to eliminate the disparities in health and wellbeing experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Queensland.”

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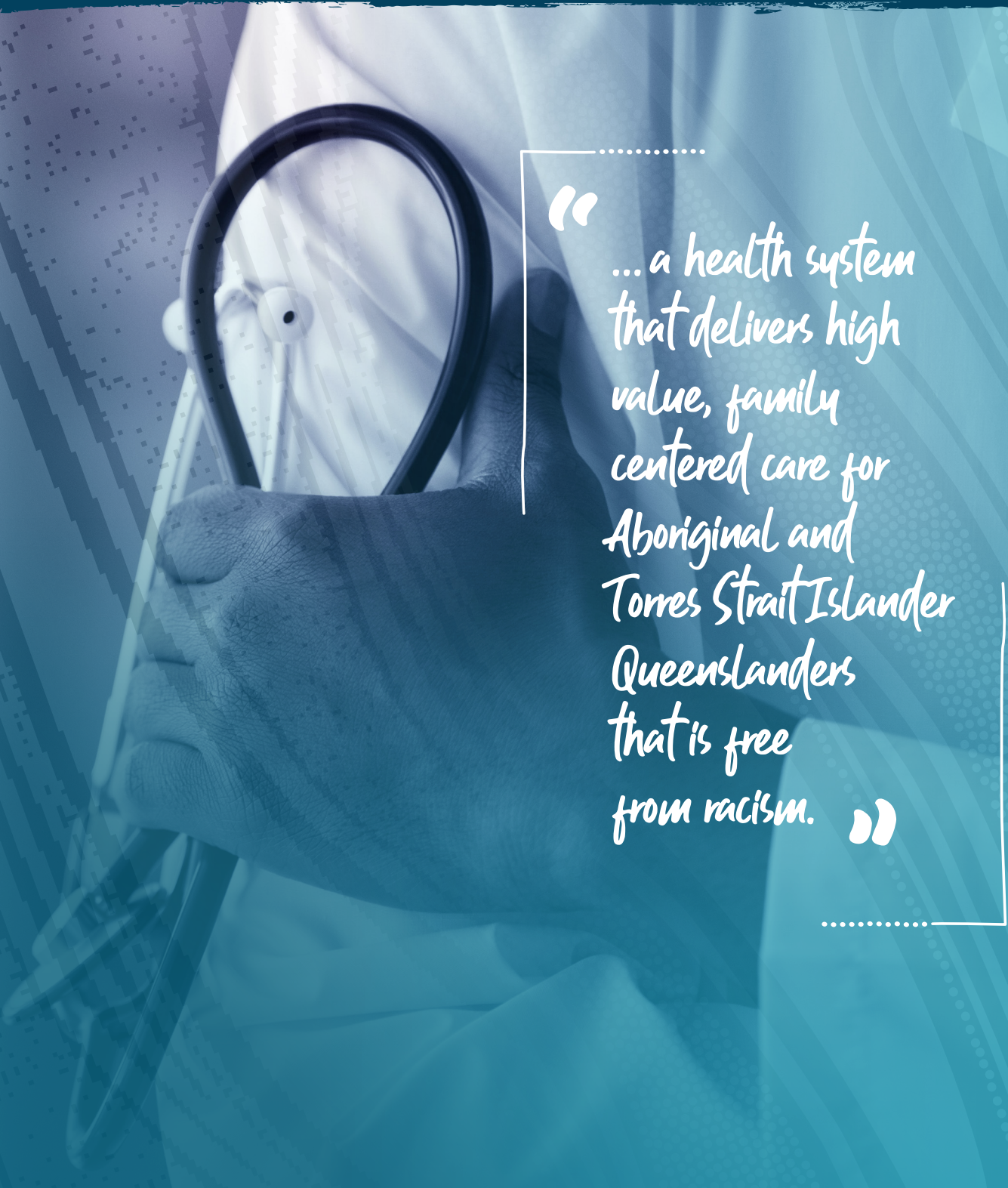
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Health equity

for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people



“...a health system that delivers high value, family centered care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders that is free from racism.”

QAIHC's political asks:

- 1 Speak up in support of equity:**

Advocate for equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; support legislation that will ensure health equity; and address institutional racism in the health system by holding hospitals accountable to Health Equity Strategies.
- 2 Champion the new National Agreement on Closing the Gap:**

In partnership with Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and the community-controlled sectors, implement the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.
- 3 Foster a culture of diversity in your community:**

Eradicate interpersonal and institutional racism.
- 4 Demand Health Reform:**

Create a health system that delivers high value, family centred care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders that is free from racism.
- 5 Keep Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples out of hospitals where possible:**

Devolve non-acute care to the ATSI-CCHO Sector and other culturally safe health care providers.
- 6 Create structures to ensure accountability:**

Ensure accountability and transparency of health reform through creating structures such as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Equity Board to develop and oversee health equity strategy accountability measures.

About the Queensland State Election



“ Queensland has ten political parties; however, two main political parties dominate the Queensland political scene. This is why it is called a two-party system. ”

Introduction

The 2020 Queensland State Election will elect members of the 57th Parliament of Queensland. The election will be called following the dissolution of the 56th Parliament as elected at the 2017 Queensland State Election.

Queensland Parliament consists of the Queen and the Legislative Assembly—there is no upper chamber in Queensland. The Queen is personally represented by the Governor. There are currently 93 members in the Legislative Assembly.

Campaign time

Parliament is dissolved when the Governor issues a Writ and the official election campaign period commences. This campaign lasts not less than 26 days and not more than 56 days after the issuing of the Writ by the Governor. The official election campaign builds on the unofficial campaigning that occurs by all political parties during the lead up to the announcement of an election. Electoral Commission Queensland is the overseeing body for the election, responsible for the impartial conduct of Queensland elections.

Queensland’s political parties

Queensland has ten political parties; however, two main political parties dominate the Queensland political scene. This is why it is called a two-party system. These two political parties are:

- the Australian Labor Party (State of Queensland) (ALP)
- the Liberal National Party of Queensland (LNP).

In Queensland, the Liberal Party and National Party of Australia have merged to form the LNP. Together they form the main opponent to the Queensland Labor Party.

Minority parties and independent members of parliament can have a significant influence on legislation, government policy and elections. In the last decade, a large number of minority political parties have been successful in parliament. They include Bob Katter’s Katter Australian Party (KAP); the Australian Greens, the North Queensland First party and Pauline Hanson’s One Nation Queensland Division.

Current Leadership

Premier of Queensland
The Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk MP

Deputy Premier of Queensland
The Hon. Steven Miles MP

Current Opposition

Opposition Leader
The Hon. Deb Frecklington MP

Deputy Opposition Leader
The Hon. Tim Mander MP

Political ideology

What is an ideology?

Ideologies influence our behaviour and decision-making processes. A political ideology is a set of values and beliefs that are important to us and affect the party of political candidates that we support. This is because as individuals we seek to appoint politicians who are most likely to make decisions in line with the outcomes we want.

What is a political ideology?

Political ideology is measured along a straight line from left to right. This political spectrum measures a political party's opinion (and individuals on it) and how political, economic, social and cultural affairs should be run.

The 'left' is defined by the desire for the economy to be run by a collective, which can be a state or network of communities.

The 'right' is defined by the desire for the economy to be driven by the devices of competing individuals and organisations.



Labor



The Australian Labor Party (State of Queensland)

The Australian Labor Party (State of Queensland), commonly known as Queensland Labor, is the state branch of the Australian Labor Party (ALP). The ALP began as a political affiliate of the trade union movement. The ALP has been in power in Queensland for the vast majority of the past 30 years.

The ALP's policy platform has evolved, guided by the views of society. Originally very focused on the labour movement and workers' rights, the ALP has moved towards the 'centre' and embraced more market-based principles. The Federal Hawke government (1983–1991), for example, privatised the Commonwealth Bank of Australia and Qantas Airways in the 1980s.

The policy of the ALP Queensland is contained in the State Platform, which is approved by delegates to Labor's annual State Conference. According to the State Platform, Labor document their fourteen values, one of which relates explicitly to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples:

"We believe in a just and reconciled Queensland, where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures are valued, respected and affirmed across all areas of society.

We believe in ending racism.

We believe that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples should have the same life chances and choices as other Queenslanders and the length and quality of your life should not be determined by your racial background. We believe in self-determination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and working together in closing the gap in life expectancy, education, health and employment outcomes.

We recognise the extended contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders both past and present for their contribution to building and maintaining community, culture, language, resilience and wellness."

Annastacia Palaszczuk has been the state parliamentary leader of the ALP since 14 February 2015 and has represented her constituency of Inala since 2006. **Steven Miles** is the Deputy Leader of the ALP.

The ALP promote themselves as a party concerned with equality across Australia. The ALP website states that their top priority is in *"the dignity of work, job security and workplace health and safety. The ALP Queensland stands for the Labor values of fairness, equality and social justice."*

Section six of the State Platform identifies 57 detailed commitments for health (pages 53–61) including a statement that:

"Labor will partner with the Commonwealth, local governments and Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander controlled community health organisations to improve health promotion, illness prevention, early detection and treatment services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, to close the gap in health status and life expectancy between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other Australians. Addressing a range of social determinants of health such as housing, employment, education and economic development will be central to this work as it will enhance environmental health, water supply and sewerage provision."

In practice, the platform provides only general policy guidelines to Labor's parliamentary leadership.

At State and Territory level, Labor is currently in government in Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, the ACT and the Northern Territory.

Queensland Labor's 2019 State Platform identified nine priorities:

- 1 **Enduring Labor values**
- 2 **A Strong Economy—** creating jobs and opportunities for all
- 3 **Learning for Life—** investing in our people
- 4 **Industrial Relations—** making our work safe productive and fair
- 5 **Our Environment Our Future**
- 6 **Healthy Living—** a better quality of life
- 7 **Building Connected Communities**
- 8 **Caring and Secure Communities**
- 9 **Regional, Rural and Remote Communities.**

For more information on the ALP visit queenslandlabor.org



Liberal National Party of Queensland

The Liberal National Party of Queensland (LNP) was formed in 2008 through a merger of the Queensland division of the Liberal Party and of the National Party. The LNP provides Queensland with a single united conservative party.

The LNP has only had limited power in Queensland over the last 30 years, most recently in 2012–2015 under LNP Premier Campbell Newman.

The LNP sits on the right side of politics, supporting free market economic policies and advocating for the liberalisation (relaxing government involvement and regulations) of finance and business. They are seen as the party of economic rationalism (deregulation, smaller government, privatisation of government owned assets, lower taxes, reduction of welfare size) and advocate for economic reform.

The party's parliamentary leader is **Deb Frecklington** who was first elected in 2012 as the Member for Nanango. Deb Frecklington was chosen to be Leader of the Opposition in December 2017, replacing Tim Nicholls.

Tim Mander is the Deputy Leader of the LNP.

The policies of the LNP are contained in the State Platform, "Our Economic Plan".

Under priority 3: Get hospitals working again, LNP have three priorities:

- 1 Clear surgery waiting times
- 2 Tackle the ICE Epidemic
- 3 Fix Labor's endless health IT failures

The LNP have a "commitment to ensuring that genuine and practical progress can be made in improving the health, economic, educational and social outcomes for Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities."²

At State and Territory level, LNP is currently in government in New South Wales, South Australia and Tasmania.

For more information on the LNP visit lnp.org.au

The LNP's 2020 State Platform identifies 11 priorities:

- 1 Rebuild Queensland's economy and create jobs
- 2 Build new and better roads
- 3 Get hospitals working again
- 4 Get back to basics in schools
- 5 Better public transport
- 6 Get tough on crime
- 7 Build dams and secure Queensland's water supply
- 8 Reduce the cost of living
- 9 Lower electricity prices, invest in renewable energy
- 10 Make transport cheaper
- 11 Protect Queensland's environment.

Minority parties



These parties and independent members can have significant influence on legislation and government policy if they hold the balance of power in the Legislative Assembly.

Katter's Australian Party (KAP)

Founded by **Bob Katter**, independent and former Nationals MP for the seat of Kennedy, the KAP was formed in 2011. The party won two seats in Queensland in the 2012 and 2015 state elections, and three in the 2017 state election. In February 2020 leadership was handed to Bob Katter's son, Robbie Katter, Queensland MP for Traeger. KAP ideology is generally viewed as being economically left-wing and socially right-wing.

The KAP identify 23 core values and principles which include "a mixed economic system that will ensure economic growth, full employment, rising living standards, prosperity, opportunity and equality of access to such opportunity for all Australians."

The KAP have three First Nations Policies (relating to Blue Cards, Title Deeds and Alcohol Management Plans) and one Health Policy (relating to organ donation).

For more information on the KAP visit kap.org.au



Queensland Greens

Founded in 1991, the Queensland Greens are affiliated with the Australian Greens. Their four guiding principles are *non-violence, social justice, grass-roots democracy and ecological sustainability*. The party won one seat in the 2017 state election with **Michael Berkman** becoming the MP for Maiwar. The party's policies tend to be towards the left of the political ideology spectrum.

The Greens have a large range of State Policies including Disability, Drugs, Substance Abuse and Addiction, Health, Indigenous Queenslanders, Mental Health, Housing and Youth Justice.

The Greens' public health plan includes:

"Create 21,000 more hospital beds and at least 1,000 more ICU beds across the state to match Germany's ratio of beds to people. Including building more major hospitals across South East Queensland, and significantly expanding regional health capacity.

Employ at least 6,500 more nurses and 3,000 more doctors to match Germany's ratio of nurses and doctors to people, expand much-needed emergency department capacity and improve nurse and doctor to patient ratios.

Build 200 Community Health Clinics with bulk billing GPs and specialists to take pressure off our hospital system.

Establish a string of public factories to manufacture face masks, other PPE, and hand sanitiser with the funding to make both freely available to all Queenslanders whenever they're needed.

Make the influenza vaccine available for free every year for every Queenslanders."

For more information on the Greens visit greens.org.au/qld



Pauline Hanson's One Nation Queensland Division

The One Nation party was launched in 1997 by its founder, **Pauline Hanson**. The party aims to have *"Grass Roots values with a common-sense approach"*. The Party won one seat in the 2017 state election with Stephen Andrew elected as the MP for Mirani. The party's policies tend to be towards the far right of the political ideology spectrum.

The State Platform identifies five priority areas: Education, Law and Order, Right to Life, Youth Justice and 4WD.

For more information on One Nation visit onenation.org.au



North Queensland First (NQF)

NQF was formed in November 2019 by Independent MP Jason Costigan, Member for Whitsunday. **Jason Costigan** was elected to parliament as a LNP party representative in the 2012, 2015 and 2017 elections. The party's policies are toward the right in the political ideology.

NQF is a conservative, pro-North Queensland political party. The Party's policy is around real royalties for regions. The NQP are *"strongly committed to securing billions of dollars in additional infrastructure spending in North, Far North and Central Queensland from royalties generated in the resources sector."*

For further information on the NQF party visit nqfirst.com.au



Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party (QLD)

Originally formed in response to the 1992 *Firearms Amendment Act* as the Shooters Party, the party changed their name in 2016 to Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party to reflect their wider support in rural areas. The party is committed to the protection of freedoms, rights and culture. The party's policies are towards the hard right of the political spectrum.

The party's Queensland Platform was not available at time of print.

For further information on the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party visit shootersfishersandfarmers.org.au



Animal Justice Party (Queensland)

The Animal Justice Party is a single-policy party who *"pursue the vital issues of animal protection through the Australian Parliamentary System"*. They also have five positions based on their core principles of Kindness, Equality, Rationality and Non-Violence outlining how their representatives will vote on non-animal issues of asylum seekers, abortion, marriage equality, vaccinations and voluntary euthanasia. The party's policies are to the left of the political spectrum.

According to their website: *"The Animal Justice Party actively campaigns at a government policy level against animal atrocities relating to wildlife destruction, factory farming, live export, companion and domestic animal abuse, and the use of animals for sport and entertainment"*.

For further information on the Animal Justice Party visit animaljusticeparty.org



Civil Liberties & Motorists Party

Led by its founder, **Jeffrey Hodges**, the party aims to *"keep publicly owned assets, such as roads and bridges, toll-free in public ownership"*. They have two health related priorities—to lift the lock down and isolate the vulnerable, and to stop water fluoridation. The party's policies are towards the hard left in the political ideology.

For more information on the Civil Liberties & Motorists Party visit motorists.org.au

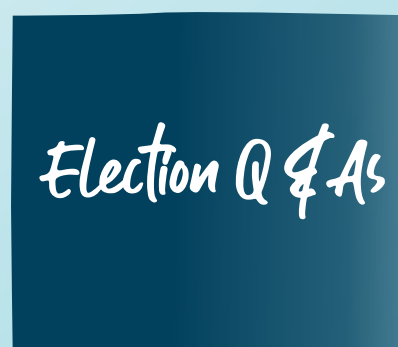


Clive Palmer's United Australia Party

Renamed Clive Palmer's United Australia Party in January 2020, the party has had a turbulent history, briefly disbanded in 2016, then revived in 2018 in advance of the 2019 federal election. The party is led by Clive Palmer and won 3.4 percent of the federal election vote. The party's policies are to the right of the political spectrum.

The UAP stands for four functions: *introducing fair policies to prevent paid political lobbyists, revising the current refugee policy, creating mineral wealth and establishing a system where wealth flows back into the community that generates that wealth.*

For further information on the United Australia Party visit unitedaustraliaparty.org.au



When was the last Queensland State Election?

The last Queensland State Election was held on 25 November 2018. This election saw the incumbent Labor government, led by **Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk**, win a second term in government.

When is the next Queensland State Election?

The next election is to be held on **Saturday 31 October 2020**.

How often is the Queensland State Election?

This election takes place three years after the last election, however Queensland is transitioning to four year fixed-term elections following the 2016 referendum.

How many state electorates are there in Queensland?

There are 93 state electorates in Queensland. Each election the electors in each electoral district vote for one candidate to represent them in the Queensland Legislative Assembly as their Member of Parliament.

Election Q & As

What is a unicameral parliament?

Queensland has a unicameral parliament as it only has one parliamentary chamber, the Legislative Assembly. The upper chamber, the Legislative Council, was abolished in 1922.

How is the election of MP's determined during a Queensland State Election?

Queensland uses a **Full Preferential voting (FPV)** system as the method of voting. This means in a state election all boxes must be numbered in order of the voters' preference. Votes are counted by counting first preferences and allocating the vote to that person. The person with the lowest number of first preference votes is eliminated from the count and their second preferences are allocated to the remaining candidates. This process of elimination continues until just two candidates remain of whom one has the majority of votes. Once the result is clear the Electoral Commission of Queensland declares the successful candidate.

How is the Queensland State Election won?

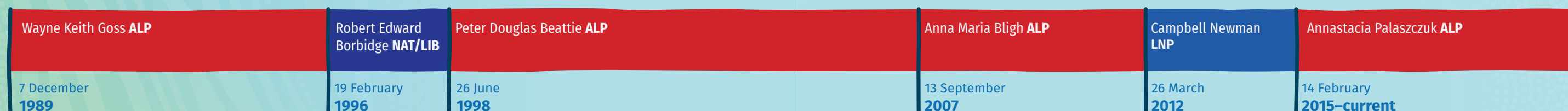
The political party which wins the majority of seats will form the next Government. Political parties that do not hold the majority of seats may choose to join with another party so that, together, they will hold the majority and therefore be eligible to form Government.

What is the current membership of the Queensland Legislature?

48 Australian Labor Party	1 Pauline Hanson's One Nation
39 Liberal National Party	1 The Greens
3 Katter's Australian Party	1 North Queensland First.

Who has historically held power in Queensland?

Over the last 30 years the majority of governments have been Labor in Queensland.



How many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander MPs are there?

There are three Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander MPs currently in the Queensland Parliament:

Leeanne Enoch (ALP), Member for Algeester

Cynthia Lui (ALP), Member for Cook

Lance McCallum (ALP), Member for Bundamba.

What are the election boundaries in Queensland?

There are 93 electorates in Queensland. For maps of each electorate go to the Electoral Commission Queensland website ecq.qld.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/state-electorate-boundaries. See pages 18–19 below for state-wide maps.

Marginal seats

Based on the results from the 2017 state election and relevant by-elections, there are 12 marginal seats in Queensland with a winning margin of less than 5 percent:

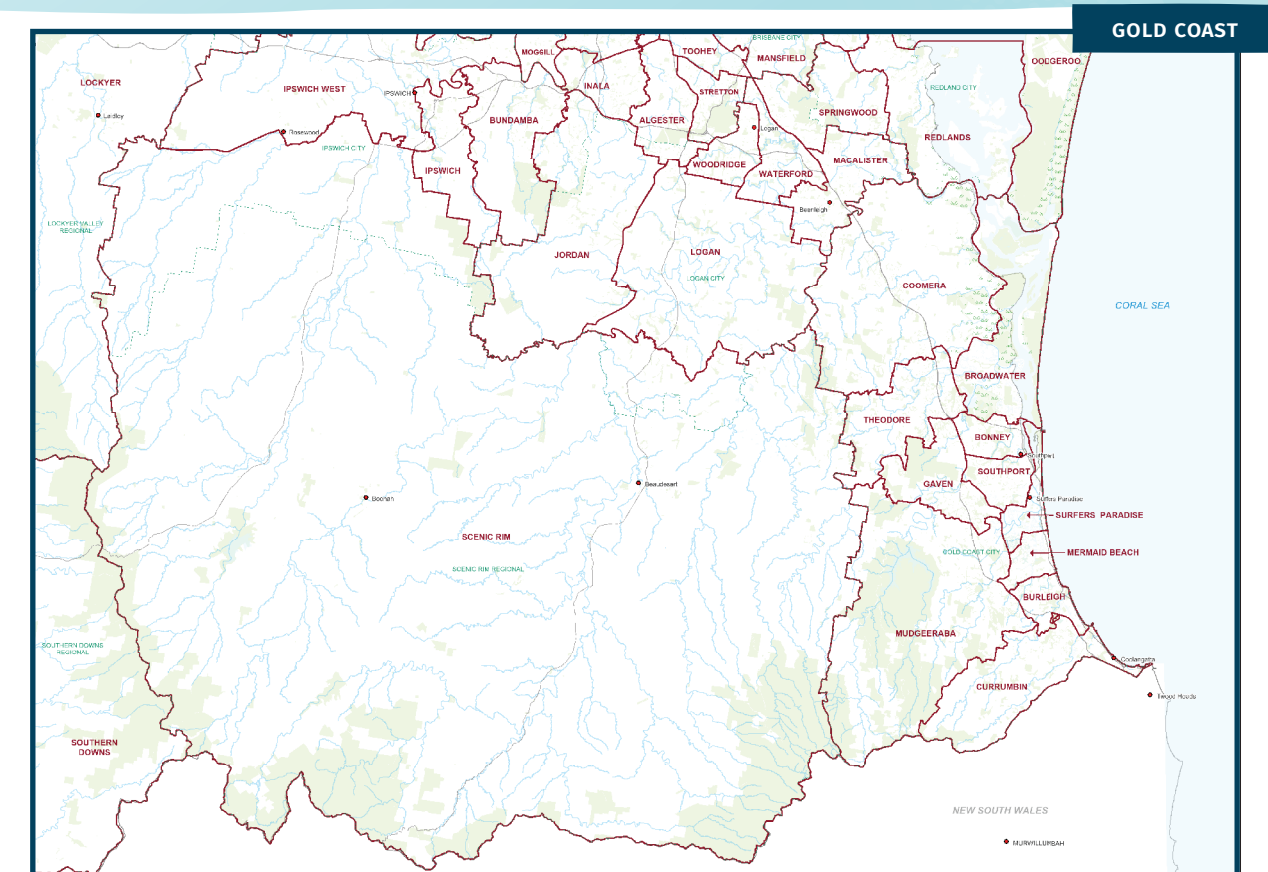
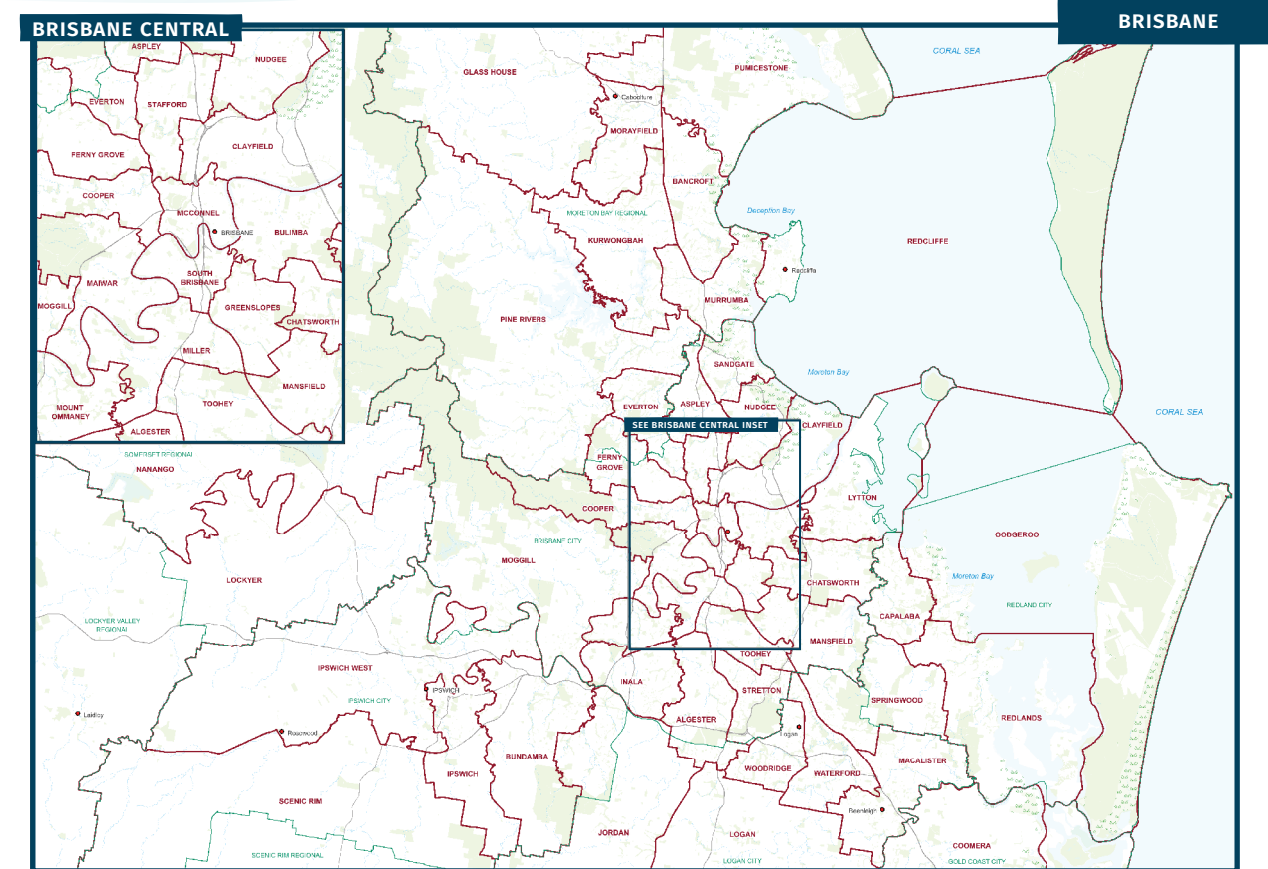
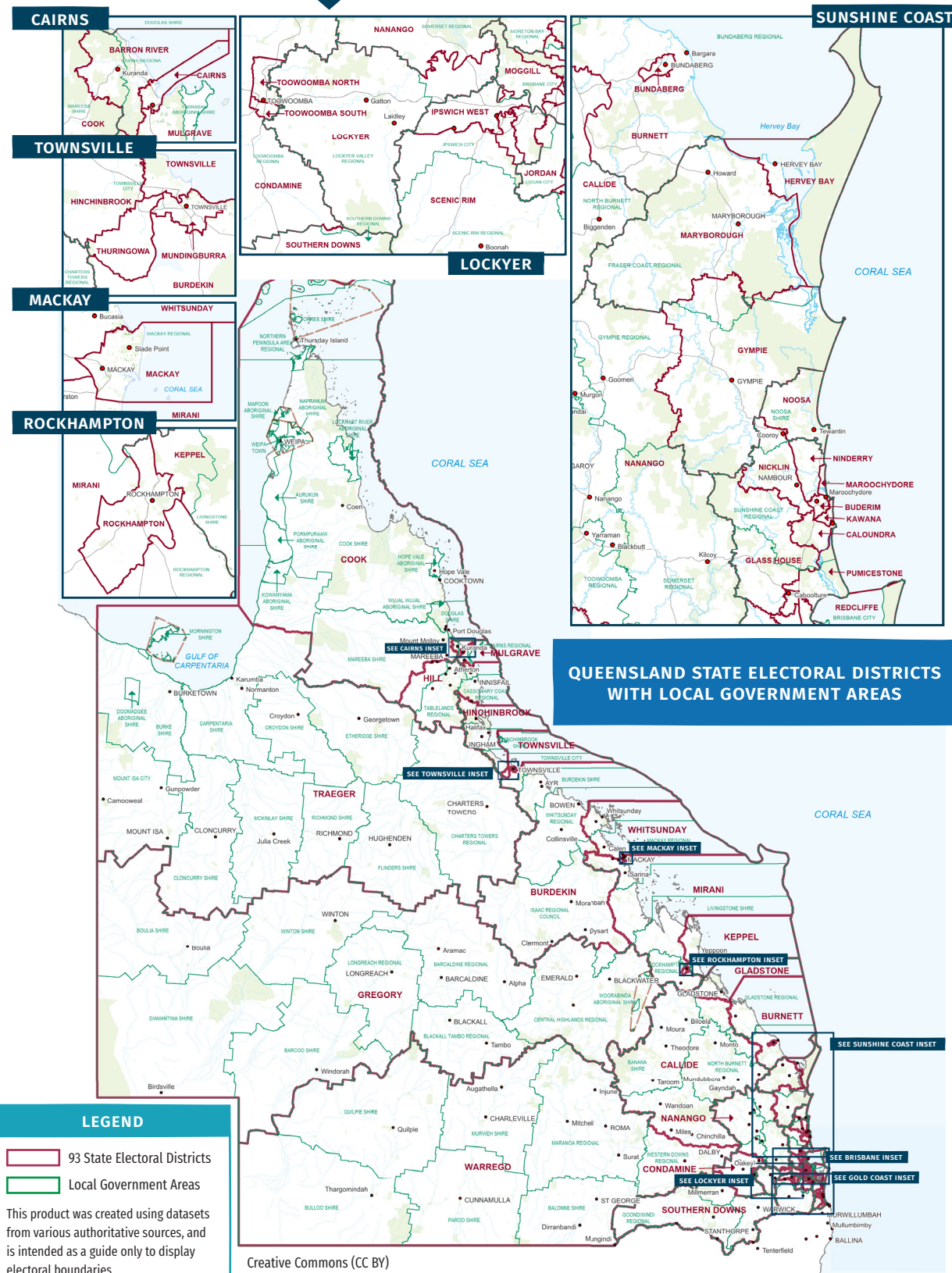
- Six very marginal seats and nine marginal seats are held by the ALP
- Five very marginal seats and 10 marginal seats are held by the LNP
- One very marginal seat is held by The Greens
- One marginal seat is held by One Nation.

QAIHC Member Statistics

QAIHC Members have clinics in 33 of the 93 electorates in Queensland. Refer to the table on page 20 of this guide.

Some electoral divisions such as Cook, which covers the Cape York region including Mareeba and Chillagoe, have multiple ATSICCHOs within them.

Where are the electorate boundaries?



Current Queensland electorates

#	Electorate	Incumbent party	Incumbent Member of Parliament (MP)	Marginal definition	ATSICCHO (and clinic) in this electorate
1	Algeria	ALP	ENOCH, Leanne*	Safe	
2	Aspley	ALP	MELLISH, Bart	Very Marginal	
3	Bancroft	ALP	WHITING, Chris	Safe	Moreton ATSICHS (Deception Bay)
4	Barron River	ALP	CRAWFORD, Craig	Very Marginal	
5	Bonney	LNP	O'CONNOR, Sam	Very Marginal	
6	Broadwater	LNP	CRISAFULLI, David	Very safe	
7	Buderim	LNP	MICKELBERG, Brent	Safe	
8	Bulimba	ALP	FARMER, Di	Safe	
9	Bundaberg	LNP	BATT, David	Marginal	
10	Bundamba	ALP	MCCALLUM, Lance*	Safe	
11	Burdekin	LNP	LAST, Dale	Very Marginal	TAIHS (Home Hill)
12	Burleigh	LNP	HART, Michael	Marginal	
13	Burnett	LNP	BENNETT, Stephen	Safe	
14	Cairns	ALP	HEALY, Michael	Marginal	Wuchopperen (Cairns)
15	Callide	LNP	BOYCE, Colin	Safe	Goondir (Miles, Chinchilla)
16	Caloundra	LNP	MCARDLE, Mark	Marginal	
17	Capalaba	ALP	BROWN, Don	Safe	
18	Chatsworth	LNP	MINNIKIN, Steve	Marginal	
19	Clayfield	LNP	NICHOLLS, Tim	Marginal	
20	Condamine	LNP	WEIR, Pat	Safe	
21	Cook	ALP	LUI, Cynthia*	Safe	Apunipima (Mapoon, Wujal Wujal, Hope Vale, Mossman Gorge), Mulungu (Mareeba), NPA Family and Community (Bamaga, Injinoo, Umagico), Mamu (Chillagoe)
22	Coomera	LNP	CRANDON, Michael	Marginal	
23	Cooper	ALP	JONES, Kate	Safe	
24	Curumbin	LNP	GERBER, Laura	Very Marginal	
25	Everton	LNP	MANDER, Tim	Marginal	
26	Ferny Grove	ALP	FURNER, Mark	Marginal	
27	Gaven	ALP	SCANLON, Meaghan	Very Marginal	
28	Gladstone	ALP	BUTCHER, Glenn	Very safe	GRAICCHS t/a Nhulundu (Gladstone)
29	Glass House	LNP	POWELL, Andrew	Marginal	
30	Greenslopes	ALP	KELLY, Joe	Safe	
31	Gregory	LNP	MILLAR, Lachlan	Safe	Bidgerdii (Duarina, Blackwater, Woorabinda)
32	Gympie	LNP	PERRETT, Tony	Safe	NCACCH (Gympie)
33	Hervey Bay	LNP	SORENSEN, Ted	Safe	Galangoor (Hervey Bay, Maryborough)

#	Electorate	Incumbent party	Incumbent Member of Parliament (MP)	Marginal definition	ATSICCHO (and clinic) in this electorate
34	Hill	KAP	KNUTH, Shane	Very safe	Mamu (Innisfail, Ravenshoe, Mt Garnet, Tully, Babinda), Mulungu (Midin, Atherton)
35	Hinchinbrook	KAP	DAMETTO, Nick	Safe	Mamu (Cardwell), TAIHS (Ingham, Abergowrie), PCCC (Palm Island)
36	Inala	ALP	PALASZCZUK, Anastacia	Very Safe	
37	Ipswich	ALP	HOWARD, Jennifer	Safe	Kambu (Ipswich)
38	Ipswich West	ALP	MADDEN, Jim	Safe	
39	Jordan	ALP	MULLEN, Charis	Safe	
40	Kawana	LNP	BLEIJIE, Jarrod	Safe	
41	Keppel	ALP	LAUGA, Brittany	Marginal	Bidgerdii (Emu Park, Girudala (Bowen))
42	Kurwongbah	ALP	KING, Shane	Safe	
43	Lockyer	LNP	MCDONALD, Jim	Marginal	Kambu (Laidley)
44	Logan	ALP	POWER, Linus	Safe	
45	Lytton	ALP	PEASE, Joan	Safe	
46	Macalister	ALP	MCMAHON, Melissa	Safe	
47	McConnel	ALP	GRACE, Grace	Safe	
48	Mackay	ALP	GILBERT, Julieanne	Safe	
49	Maiwar	GRN	BERKMAN, Michael	Very Marginal	
50	Mansfield	ALP	MCMILLAN, Corrine	Very Marginal	
51	Maroochydore	LNP	SIMPSON, Fiona	Safe	NCACCH (Maroochydore)
52	Maryborough	ALP	SAUNDERS, Bruce	Marginal	
53	Mermaid Beach	LNP	STEVENS, Ray	Safe	Kalwun (Miami)
54	Miller	ALP	BAILEY, Mark	Safe	
55	Mirani	ONP	ANDREW, Stephen	Marginal	ATSICHS Mackay (Mackay), Bidgerdii (Mount Morgan), Mudth-Niyleta (Sarina)
56	Moggill	LNP	ROWAN, Christian	Safe	
57	Morayfield	ALP	RYAN, Mark	Safe	Moreton ATSICHS (Morayfield)
58	Mount Ommaney	ALP	PUGH, Jess	Safe	
59	Mudgeeraba	LNP	BATES, Ros	Safe	
60	Mulgrave	ALP	PITT, Curtis	Safe	Gurriny (Yarrabah)
61	Mundingburra	ALP	O'ROURKE, Coralee	Very Marginal	
62	Murrumba	ALP	MILES, Steven	Safe	
63	Nanango	LNP	FRECKLINGTON, Deb	Safe	CRAICCHS (Cherbourg)
64	Nicklin	LNP	HUNT, Marty	Safe	
65	Ninderry	LNP	PURDIE, Dan	Safe	
66	Noosa	IND	BOLTON, Sandy	Safe	
67	Nudgee	ALP	LINARD, Leanne	Safe	ATSICHS Brisbane (Northgate)
68	Oodgeroo	LNP	ROBINSON, Mark	Safe	Yulu-Burri-Ba (Dunwich)

The table below shows the 93 electorates, incumbent party and MP and their margin based on the results of the last election. It also shows which ATSICCHOs operate in the electorate.

Who are the political candidates for my electorate?

The QAIHC Policy Team are able to assist you with identifying who the political candidates are in your electorate(s). For further information, please contact the Policy Team at QAIHC by email policyteam@qaihc.com.au or phone **07 3328 8500**.

#	Electorate	Incumbent party	Incumbent Member of Parliament (MP)	Marginal definition	ATSICCHO (and clinic) in this electorate
69	Pine Rivers	ALP	BOYD, Nikki	Safe	Moreton ATSICHS (Strathpine)
70	Pumicestone	LNP	WILSON, Simone	Very Marginal	
71	Redcliffe	ALP	D'ATH, Yvette	Marginal	
72	Redlands	ALP	RICHARDS, Kim	Marginal	
73	Rockhampton	ALP	O'ROURKE, Barry	Safe	Bidgerdii (Rockhampton, Gracemere, North Rockhampton)
74	Sandgate	ALP	HINCHLIFFE, Stirling	Safe	
75	Scenic Rim	LNP	KRAUSE, Jon	Safe	
76	South Brisbane	ALP	TRAD, Jackie	Marginal	ATSICHS Brisbane (Wooloongabba), QAIHC
77	Southern Downs	LNP	LISTER, James	Safe	
78	Southport	LNP	MOLHOEK, Rob	Safe	
79	Springwood	ALP	DE BRENNI, Mick	Marginal	Yulu-Burri-Ba (Capalaba)
80	Stafford	ALP	LYNHAM, Anthony	Safe	
81	Stretton	ALP	PEGG, Duncan	Safe	ATSICHS Brisbane (Acacia Ridge)
82	Surfers Paradise	LNP	LANGBROEK, John-Paul	Very Safe	
83	Theodore	LNP	BOOTHMAN, Mark	Marginal	Kalwun (Oxenford, Bilinga)
84	Thuringowa	ALP	HARPER, Aaron	Marginal	
85	Toohey	ALP	RUSSO, Peter	Safe	
86	Toowoomba North	LNP	WATTS, Trevor	Safe	Carbal (Toowoomba, Warwick)
87	Toowoomba South	LNP	JANETZKI, David	Safe	
88	Townsville	ALP	STEWART, Scott	Very Marginal	TAIHS (Townsville)
89	Traeger	KAP	KATTER, Robbie	Very Safe	Apunipima (Coen, Lockhart River, Kowanyama, Laura, Napranum), Injilini (Mt Isa), Gidgee (Mt Isa, Pioneer, Mornington, Doomadgee, Normanton), TAIHS (Charters Towers), Mamu (Croydon)
90	Warrego	LNP	LEAHY, Ann	Safe	CWAATSICH (Charleville, Mitchell, Roma, Quilpie), CACH (Cunnamulla), Goondir (Dalby, St George)
91	Waterford	ALP	FENTIMAN, Shannon	Safe	
92	Whitsunday	LNP	COSTIGAN, Jason	Very Marginal	
93	Woodridge	ALP	DICK, Cameron	Very Safe	ATSICHS Brisbane (Woodridge, Logan)

KEY			
Very Marginal 0-2%	Marginal 2-5%	Safe 5-15%	Very Safe < 15%

* indicates the MP is an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person

Source: Electoral Commission of Queensland 2020

QAIHC Member Service Guide to campaigning: a local level approach

“...Your MP is your connection to Brisbane, so get them working on the local ATSIICCHO issues you care about...”

Introduction

This section is designed to give QAIHC Members some practical information and ideas about ways that you can have an impact on the next Queensland state election. Several QAIHC Member Services have been able to successfully influence positive change in their community through an understanding of political parties, their different ideologies and the role of an MP.

TIP 1 Understand the system

Although the Queensland Parliament sits in Brisbane, it makes decisions that impact you and your local community on a daily basis. MPs have a responsibility to make laws that reflect the needs and desires of their community.

It is important you are aware that the MP who sits in your local constituency has been elected to represent you and your local community. These MPs are elected by the voters to advocate for the needs of the community they serve and to make decisions and laws that are in line with the overall views of that constituency.

In order to exercise our powers as individuals in a democratic political system, we must first understand it and then we can decide how to make it work for us.

TIP 2 Make your local MP accountable to the community they represent

Your MP is your connection to Brisbane, so get them working on the local ATSIICCHO issues you care about. QAIHC will support you and focus on the state-wide issues that will be of greatest benefit to improving the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders and QAIHC Member Services.

To retain their position, each local MP relies on your continued support. If you are dissatisfied you may vote for someone else, which is why your vote counts. Your local MP is able to advocate for better conditions for your community. Once you raise an issue with your local MP they are able to be aware of it and they can take steps to address the issue with parliament. Each MP is aware that any issue raised in their electorate by an individual may be an issue of concern for many of their potential voters.

What can QAIHC Member Services do?

Here are three simple things that you can do to get your local MP working for you:

- 1 Write a letter to your local MP
- 2 Meet with your local MP
- 3 Use your social media platforms to influence and make calls for action.

Tips for letters to your local political candidates

Here are a few simple tips for maximising the impact of a letter to your candidates.

1 Know your local candidate

It is important to know your local candidate and their platform, particularly if they have previously undertaken work or demonstrated a commitment to an issue you want to raise with them. See page 20 to find out which electorate your service belongs to, then find details about the candidates online or by contacting the QAIHC Policy Team on policyteam@qaihc.com.au.

2 Use the correct title

When writing to your local candidate it is important to use the correct title. Using the correct title is a sign of respect for the person you are writing to and sets a professional tone to the letter. The name should be written as: '[Title] [First Name] [Last Name]'. If the candidate is a current government Minister that is conferred to the title 'The Hon. [Title] [First Name] [Last Name] MP' should be used in the address field and 'Dear Minister' or 'Dear [Title] [Last Name]' used. If the candidate is a Member of Parliament but not a Minister, the letters 'MP' should be written after their name.

3 Introduce yourself and your position

Always start your letter by way of introduction. This should include your name and your position (the Chairperson or CEO of the local ATSICCHO). Highlight some successful programs or services that your organisation has delivered to the local community. If you have testimonials, include them in your letter. Once you have highlighted the service you deliver to your clients, discuss your position within the wider community. For example, if you work with the local university or you are involved in local health committees.

4 Set your expectations and goals for the future

After you have outlined the positive impact your service is having in the local community, begin to discuss the needs of both your service and your community. It is always helpful to include goals such as 'We aim to be the first community to have all women attend an antenatal appointment in the first trimester'. If possible, outline specific actions that the local candidate can take to assist you and the community in achieving these goals. You can even ask the candidate to be an ambassador for your service.

5 Keep the tone professional and respectful

Remember that your letter will be on your organisation's letterhead, and the content of the letter reflects the views of your service as a whole. Your ultimate goal is to generate their support. Your candidate is much more likely to respond to a letter that is positive than a letter of negative comments about them as an individual or their political party's ideology.

6 Note that you will follow up

Ensure you conclude your letter with an invitation for further discussion. If you have not received a response after one week, telephone your local MP's office to remind them about your letter and check when your organisation is likely to receive a response. If you do not receive a response within one week of your call, try again. Continue to make contact until you receive a response. Keep a record of your efforts to contact the candidate and refer to the previous attempts each time you try again.

This is an example letter which QAIHC has sent to all candidates:

4 September 2020

The Hon. Steven Miles MP
Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and
Minister for Ambulance Services
PO Box 538
KALLANGUR QLD 4503

1 KNOW YOUR CANDIDATE

2 USE THE CORRECT TITLE

Dear Deputy Premier

3 INTRODUCE YOURSELF AND YOUR POSITION WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

As the peak body of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Health Organisation (ATSICCHO) Sector in Queensland, QAIHC implores you to make health equity a priority in this State Election.

I'm sure you will agree that every Queenslanders should be able to access lifesaving care when they need it, that every Queenslanders should be diagnosed for illness as early as possible and that every Queenslanders should receive treatment based on their symptoms and needs, and not based on assumptions made about them.

4 SET YOUR EXPECTATIONS AND GOALS FOR THE FUTURE

Sadly, health inequity is the everyday lived experience for many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The inequities that exist in the health system are reflected in the statistics: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Queensland die younger, have substantially higher levels of co-morbidities, have higher instances of preventable disease, have lower socio-economic wellbeing, and live with lower levels of social and emotional wellbeing.

The Queensland Government has been working with QAIHC to improve Queensland's Hospital and Health Services and reduce institutional racism. But the problem is bigger than just Hospital and Health Services – our current system and society work to keep inequity in play—and we can't do it alone; we need your help.

We ask you to publicly commit to create equity in health

Enclosed is a brochure highlighting our six asks this election, a booklet providing information about QAIHC and the ATSICCHO Sector, and a copy of our Sector Leader magazine.

I welcome a meeting with you to discuss equity in health and my office will make contact to arrange a suitable time.

5 KEEP THE TONE OF YOUR LETTER PROFESSIONAL AND RESPECTFUL

Yours sincerely

6 NOTE THAT YOU WILL FOLLOW UP

Cleveland Fagan
Chief Executive Officer (Acting)
Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council

Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council ABN 97 111 116 762
Level 3, 36 Russell Street, South Brisbane QLD 4101 | PO Box 3205, South Brisbane QLD 4101 | T 07 3328 8500 | F 07 3844 1544

www.qaihc.com.au

bsi ISO 9001 Quality Management

Tips for meetings with local MPs and candidates

Here are a few simple tips for maximising the impact of your meeting with a local candidate. Given their busy schedule, securing a meeting could be quite a challenge, but not impossible. Here are some suggestions to get you started.

1 Put your request in writing

If you are seeking a meeting, always put the request in writing. As previously mentioned, your written request should always include key points you wish to discuss to allow the candidate to attend the meeting prepared for the discussion.

2 Know your candidate and the electorate they represent

It is important for you to be well prepared in order to get the most out of your meeting. Start by doing some background research on your candidates. Simple pleasantries like knowing how to pronounce their name, knowing how they prefer to be addressed, and understanding the policies that they are passionate about will go a long way to establishing a good rapport.

Information on all Members of Parliament is available from the Queensland Parliament website. Many candidates will also have their own websites.

3 Know your issue

Undertake some background research specific to the key points of the discussion you would like to have. Have relevant data ready to demonstrate your key points. Be able to reference what programs and support systems are available and what you believe is needed.

If you have access to some experts in the area, have them involved in the meeting and go into the meeting with a shared plan of discussion points. Remember, if your candidate asks you a question that you can't answer on the spot, you can 'take the question on notice', and agree to send particular information to them once you have had explored the topic further.

Pages 30–37 of this guide may assist you with preparing for the meeting.

4 Make the most of the meeting

Some electorates in Queensland have a number of ATSI CCHOs within their boundaries. If you know other local ATSI CCHOs who care about the issue that you want to raise, organise for them to come with you. This allows a number of services to have a voice and reinforces the message as being more widely relevant to the community. If there are a number of people attending, ensure you have a pre-agreed agenda for the meeting.

5 Be organised and have resources

For any issue that you wish to raise with your candidate supplying handouts with background information, either before the meeting or for the MP or candidate to take away from the meeting are always a good idea. This means they can quickly refer to the information you raised in future discussions by simply checking the handout. Ensure that the information you provide in the handout is factual and accurate, inaccuracies may damage your credibility in future meetings.

6 Listen

Regardless of how passionate you are about an issue, you are meeting with this candidate to garner their support. Therefore, you should be prepared to listen to their point of view, even if you do not agree. Establishing a relationship of mutual respect is the goal here. Additionally, their perspective or advice may offer insight that is valuable to your organisation.

7 Ask for specific action

If possible, predetermine what specific actions you and your service would like to see the candidate undertake if elected to parliament. You may need to consult with your staff or your community members to inform your request. When you make your request, ensure that the actions you are asking for are feasible and realistic. Where there is current available evidence which demonstrates that the action you are requesting improves outcomes, ensure you have this readily available on the handout.

Page 6 of this guide provides details of QAIHC's election message. See the QAIHC election page qaihc.com.au/resources/2020-queensland-state-election for further information, resources and brochures.

8 Follow up

Post-meeting, it is important to send a follow up letter or email to the candidate. Ensure that in the follow up you have included a summary of the key points of discussion. If the candidate has offered to connect your service with certain people or organisations be sure to include that in the letter. Thank them for taking the time to meet with you and indicate that you look forward to hearing back from them.

What else can QAIHC Member Services do?

QAIHC urges all Members to lobby political parties and to engage in a constructive health policy debate ahead of the next Queensland State Election.

In addition to sending letters and meeting requests with your local candidates, you can:

- invite the candidates to tour your organisations*
- invite the candidates to meet your executive and Board of Directors*
- invite the candidates to your work functions*
- attend functions and rallies where candidates will be*
- call talk back radio with questions when the candidates are on
- build long term relationships outside of election campaigns
- understand political party ideologies, policies and platforms
- post a message on the candidates' social media pages
- keep up to date on their social media accounts
- subscribe to their electorate newsletter.

**Please ensure you remain COVID-19 safe in all of your interactions through meeting virtually where appropriate and maintaining good physical distancing practices.*

QAIHC Member Service Guide to campaigning: a state-wide approach

“QAIHC encourages Member Services to undertake local campaigning and to support the message of the QAIHC 2020 state election campaign”

QAIHC will undertake the following campaign activities for each target group:

Political candidates

- Write to political candidates setting out QAIHC’s 2020 state election priorities (see page 6).
- Follow up with phone calls to selected influential candidates to arrange a meeting with the QAIHC CEO to advocate for the sector, highlighting successful programs led by Member Services and seeking an election commitment for health equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Member Services

- Provide Member Services with a guide to the 2020 State Election.
- Provide Member Services with a local campaigning guide and campaign resources including social media tiles.
- Encourage Member Services to undertake local campaigning and to support the message of the QAIHC 2020 state election campaign.
- Provide support and advice as required.

Members of the public

- Launch a Facebook campaign to increase awareness of the existence and impact of racism on health and to encourage individual action to make their voice count in achieving health equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, to influence political candidates.
- Utilise social media to highlight the successful work undertaken by the Sector and the need for further resourcing.
- Distribute media releases promoting campaign messages with a call to action.
- Email mailouts to QAIHC stakeholder groups advising of the QAIHC 2020 state election campaign message and asking for their public support.

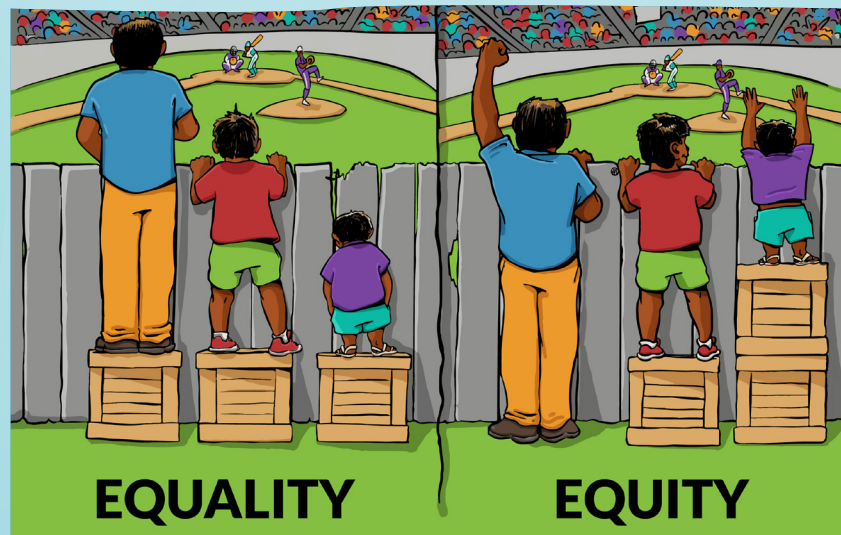
Equity and racism FAQs

What is the difference between equality and equity?

Equality is about everyone being treated **equally**. Sometimes this doesn't lead to the best outcomes as everyone is not always starting from the same place.

For example, two people may need access to health services and they are offered appointments on the same day. One person has a car and can afford to drive there so attends the appointment as planned. The other person cannot physically get to the appointment so misses the appointment. Both people were afforded the same service, and equal service, by the health service (an appointment), however only one person was able to utilise that service because they had the ability to do so.

Illustrated example is provided by the Interaction Institute for Social Change³ (Artist Angus Maguire)



Equity is about everyone being treated **fairly**. What constitutes fairness is a matter guided by individual personal values, and values are, in part, guided by knowledge and world-views.

An equitable solution to the scenario above is for the individual who was unable to travel to be offered transport to assist their attendance at the appointment. This additional support is not offered to the first patient because they do not need it. The additional aid means both people have a fair opportunity to attend the health appointment.

What is racism?

Racism is the belief of one's ethnic superiority over other ethnic groups. It is experienced through **interpersonal** (relationships, behaviours, words) and **institutional** (structural, systemic, organisational) racism.

How does the law protect people from racism?

Freedom from discrimination (which includes racism) is a fundamental human right enshrined in the *Racial Discrimination Act 1975* and in the recently passed *Queensland Human Rights Act 2019*.

What is interpersonal racism?

Interpersonal racism is discrimination perpetrated by one individual against another individual because of their race. It can be seen through relationships, behaviours and words.

What is institutional racism?

Institutional racism is discrimination perpetrated through systems, structures and organisations which discriminate against a group based on their race. It is characterised as the intentional or unintentional absence or insufficiency in addressing racial disadvantages, such as management turning a blind eye to incidents of racial bias.^{4,5}

Institutional racism:

- is evident in the Australian health care system.
- has a profound impact on the health and wellbeing outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- impedes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' access to the same quality of healthcare services available to other Australians.⁶
- is a confronting and complex concept that is different to interpersonal racism. It can be entrenched within the fabric of an organisation, and may appear in different forms within the system.
- can be covert and passive, almost invisible, as the beliefs and misconceptions are embedded in an organisation's policies, structures, attitudes, hierarchies and perspectives.
- like interpersonal racism, it is difficult to identify, monitor and report on, which makes it complex to address and dismantle. Institutional racism can be so entrenched in an organisations culture that it is often occurring without malicious intent and perpetrators are often unaware of the impact it is having.

What evidence is there that interpersonal and institutional racism exists in Australia today?

The academic evidence shows that racism has, and continues to permeate Australian life:

- In 1991, the Commonwealth National Inquiry into Racial Violence in Australia found that "...the climate of racist violence against Aboriginal people permeates Australian social life".⁷
- In 2006, a study by Pederson et al. found one third of respondents reported a negative view of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.⁸ Many respondents' answers involved "the belief that Indigenous people are advantaged through handouts, through educational assistance, through special treatment in the legal system, and through housing". The authors referred to these as "false beliefs" and identified a direct correlation between individuals who held false beliefs and negative attitudes towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- In 2019, a research study of 47 grade eight students found that all 47 held negative perspectives about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, largely influenced by family members.⁹

- Dr R. Mahoney found in his professional doctorate thesis that “racism at an interpersonal, individual, organisational and societal level contribute, interact and conspire to influence the Indigenous patient journey within mainstream health services”¹⁰
- Current Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage is also strongly associated with “historical and contemporary racism, colonisation and oppression”¹¹ and it is proven that disadvantage leads to poorer health outcomes.
- QAIHC and its Members experience the impact of institutional racism every day and are witness to the direct impact that systemic bias has on health outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

What is the evidence of institutional racism in the health sector in Queensland?

Institutional racism can be directly or indirectly present in service delivery, examples include:

- a lack of consideration for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples’ needs when designing policy.
- an assumption that what is suitable for non-Indigenous people will be suitable for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients with no regard for cultural considerations (for example, requirements to travel off country to a major city to give birth).
- an assumption that equal treatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is fair (for example, with waiting lists).
- a lack of understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and a lack of cultural safety by service providers resulting in avoidance of mainstream service providers.

Institutional racism can be seen through the health data, for example:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have, in general, longer elective surgery waiting times than other Australians.¹²
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients receive, on average, fewer coronary diagnostic investigations and procedures compared with other Australians with the same condition.¹³
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have 1.6 times higher mortality for cancers compared with other Queenslanders with the same condition¹⁴ and substantially lower survival years post diagnosis than other Queenslanders.¹⁵
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have, on average, high death rates for cardiovascular disease after leaving hospital compared with other Australians.¹⁶

How can we measure institutional racism?

Marrie and Marrie undertook a study of Queensland’s Hospital and Health Services (HHS) and the extent of institutional racism. They developed a tool known as the Matrix, to provide a set of data based on publicly available information, against which progress could be measured.¹⁷ In 2017, the Matrix was used to assess all 16 HHSs in Queensland and the results highlighted high levels of institutional racism within Queensland Health.

Media speaking points

Who are the ATSICCHO Sector and why are they important?

- We are professional organisations that provide health and wellbeing support to our communities.
- We are community controlled, that means that we are governed by a board of directors who are elected from our community, and we are accountable to our community.
- We operate a family-centred, holistic model of care which ensures that every client’s holistic health needs are met.
- The Sector consists of 26 ATSICCHOs in Queensland, two regional bodies, 14 associate members and one affiliate member of the peak body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council (QAIHC).
- We operate from more than 60 clinics across the state.
- We are central to the solution for health advancement of our people.
- We are effective. Evidence shows that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples must have the ability to develop and determine health programs affecting them and administer such programs through their own institutions. When Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples take charge of developing their own strategies, it is proven that they better reflect their interests, values, vision and concerns, increasing ownership and accountability. The ATSICCHO Sector embodies self-determination.
- We are knowledgeable, we know our community, we know health needs and the best solutions, and we have operated in some parts of the state for 40 years.

ASK 1 Speak up in support of Equity

Advocate for equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; support legislation that will ensure health equity; and address institutional racism in the health system by holding hospitals accountable to Health Equity Strategies.

Why is equity important for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people?

- Health equity will ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have a fair chance at being healthy and well.
- Queensland’s history has meant that many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples do not have the same opportunities and privileges as other Australians.
 - The impact of intergenerational trauma is very real.
 - The burden of disease and high rates of death have a heavy impact on individual health and wellbeing.
- While positive steps have been taken towards equality, equality is not enough to overcome the obstacles that face Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Queensland. We are not asking for the same treatment because the same treatment will mean that we are always lagging behind. To Close the Gap we need equity—fair treatment that means we can join everybody else at the start line and have the same opportunities, despite our disadvantage, as other Queenslanders.

How will equity make a positive change in health?

The best way to demonstrate this is through an example:

- The mortality rate for cancer is 1.4 times higher for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples than for other Queenslanders. We know there are a variety of reasons that feed into this, including late diagnosis. Late diagnosis may take place because the individual does not trust the health system due to past injustices and bias experienced from health professionals. It could also occur because the individual does not have good health literacy. Health equity measures will mean that:
 - a) the individual, family and community is able to develop their health literacy in a way that is appropriate to them and
 - b) the system is accessible to the individual.

Why do we need legislation that will ensure health equity?

- Improvements made to date in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health have been the result of current stakeholder relationships, innovation, keen advocacy and organisational and political goodwill. We all know that these are heavily dependent on the opinions and views of individuals. Systemic change will require legal protection to ensure that the commitment can be sustained in the long run.
- On Thursday 13 August 2020, Queensland Parliament passed the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 with cross-party support for the element relating to Health Equity.
- The Bill mandates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation on Hospital and Health Service (HHS) Boards and ensures that all HHSs have a Health Equity Strategy that they are held accountable to which must ensure genuine partnership with ATSI CCHOs.
- The passing of this Bill and the accompanying regulation is a vital step to tackling institutional racism in our HHSs and improving the health of Queenslanders.
- We need more regulation like this, across the social determinants of health, to ensure equity for our people.

How will Health Equity Strategies address institutional racism?

- Health Equity Strategies will be developed by each Queensland HHS in partnership with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. This means that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are now legally supported to be included in decision-making roles that have influence over policy and program delivery, service design, workforce structure and importantly, expenditure.

- The strategies will build on existing policies to:
 - increase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce programs. There has been some positive movement on that front in terms of board representation and increase of senior executives within Queensland Health and in HHSs and a general increase in clinical workforce
 - increase cultural education and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander immersion.
- However, more than this, these strategies will dismantle the systemic barriers that exist through true co-design and through public accountability.

“Improvements made to date in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health have been the result of current stakeholder relationships, innovation, keen advocacy and organisational and political goodwill”

ASK 2 Champion the new National Agreement on Closing the Gap

In partnership with Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and the community-controlled sectors, implement the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

What is the new National Agreement on Closing the Gap?

- A policy document that sets out four priority reform areas and targets and 16 socio-economic targets for Closing the Gap.
- It was written and agreed in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peak organisations across Australia (the Coalition of Peaks) through a Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap.
- All parties are jointly accountable for the outcomes and targets (for the first time in history).
- The agreement can be found at closingthegap.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/national-agreement-ctg.pdf

How can politicians champion the National Agreement?

- Understand the need for formal partnerships and shared decision making and ask questions of government to ensure they are doing this.
- Supporting formal agreements for partnership.
- Fund the ATSI CCHO sector.
- Increase the proportion of services delivered by the ATSI CCHO sector.
- Transform government systems by eliminating racism, embedding cultural safety, delivering services in partnership with ATSI CCHOs, increasing accountability through transparent funding allocations, supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and improving engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Who are the Queensland Members of the Coalition of Peaks?

The Queensland Members of the Coalition of Peaks are:

- QAIHC
- the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service
- Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak
- the Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Legal Services.

QAIHC is supporting the establishment of a Queensland Coalition of Peaks to provide governance for the implementation of the National Agreement in Queensland.

ASK 3 Foster a culture of diversity in your community

Eradicate interpersonal and institutional racism.

What is the problem?

- Research shows that interpersonal racism continues to exist in Australia [see section: What evidence is there that interpersonal and institutional racism exists in Australia today? on pages 31–32].
- Myths that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are alcoholics, happily unemployed, have poor hygiene standards or are bad parents exist in Australia. Myths and false perceptions often shape discrimination in service delivery.

What is the solution?

- Education and understanding is key to changing perceptions.

How can someone foster a culture of diversity in their community?

- Be conscious of your own bias and prejudice
- Acknowledge difference
- Value all diversity and surround yourself with it
- Be alert for inappropriate behaviours and address them appropriately.

ASK 4 Demand health reform

Create a health system that delivers high value, family centred care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders that is free from racism.

What is health reform

In June 2020, the Deputy Premier Hon. Steven Miles, commissioned a Reform Planning Group to report on health reform options in Queensland Health.

Why is it important?

COVID-19 showed us that there are some things we could be doing more efficiently in health and there are better ways to work.

We can create a health system that delivers high value, family-centred care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders that is free from racism.

What would health reform mean to the ATSIICCHO sector?

There would be many benefits from health reform, which include:

- better relationships and partnerships with Hospital and Health Services
- better designed systems and procedures
- opportunity to be at the decision-making table when discussing health system design.

What would health reform mean to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples?

- A streamlined health system from ATSIICCHO through to hospital where you only need to tell your story once, you can access the treatment you need as close to home as possible (or with transport provided) and you feel safe at all times.

How would health reform create a system free from racism?

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their organisations co-design the systems, removing racism and ensuring equity.

ASK 5 Keep Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples out of hospitals where possible

Devolve non-acute care to the ATSIICCHO Sector and other culturally safe health care providers.

What does this mean?

This means that:

- 1 where there are hospital services that can be operated in community, they should be devolved to community, such as non-acute care like renal services, allied health services, specialist appointments etc.
- 2 we want to stop people from getting so ill that they need to go to hospital (through investment in preventative health).

What evidence is there that preventative health investment works?

- The Queensland Government website states: *“An important aim of any health system is to prevent disease and reduce illness so that people live long, healthy lives.”* And this principle is recognised in the Queensland Prevention Strategic Framework 2017 to 2026 which can be found at publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/health-and-wellbeing-strategic-framework-2017-to-2026.
- The benefit of preventative health programs can be demonstrated through the national Tackling Indigenous Smoking program, which was reviewed in 2018. The report found: *“In meeting its short-term outcomes, the TIS program is well on track to achieving its medium-term and long-term outcomes, which include the reduction in exposure to second-hand smoke and a reduction in the gap in prevalence of smoking between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and non-Indigenous people. The current iteration of the TIS program, through its flexible design and place-based, population health approach has been found to be appropriate in reducing the high smoking rates among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.”*¹⁸

What capacity does the ATSIICCHO Sector have for non-acute care?

- Each individual ATSIICCHO will have different response timeframes to any proposal for transitioning services to community control. This will depend on the ATSIICCHO's circumstances, community interest and the nature of any proposal.
- Broadly speaking, some services align very closely with the ATSIICCHO holistic Model of Care—such as the provision of allied health services from the ATSIICCHO clinic, where ATSIICCHOs are able to increase attendance rates, reducing the need for longer term treatment (such as a podiatrist being able to treat a patient with diabetes preventing the need for amputation). This also prevents the individual having to go on a long hospital waiting list, potentially disengaging with the health system and not receiving the care that they require.
- Other services can also be transferred, such as renal dialysis services—this has been a success in Yarrabah with Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service and Gurriny Yealamucka Health Service Aboriginal Corporation.

“COVID-19 showed us that there are some things we could be doing more efficiently in health and there are better ways to work”

ASK 6 Create structures to ensure accountability

Ensure accountability and transparency of health reform through creating structures such as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Equity Board to develop and oversee health equity strategy accountability measures.

Why is this needed?

QAIHC's Members have raised there is a need to ensure accountability and transparency of health reform in Queensland. Formalised structures, such as Boards and Committees, could be used to meet this need. Reform will not be effective unless there is a re-distribution of decision-making authority on matters that pertain to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. In the case of Hospital and Health Services (HHSs), decision making and resource allocations currently lie entirely within the HHSs with little transparency or requirement for HHSs to demonstrate that these decisions have the support or approval of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people or their representative bodies, even though the matters directly impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

What would such a Board do?

This Health Equity Strategy Board would consist of representatives from QAIHC and the ATSIICCHO Sector and Queensland Health, including subject matter experts, to guide the amendment and implementation of the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, specifically Health Equity Strategies in HHSs, to ensure overarching state-wide consistency and accountability.

The Board would ensure:

- the relevance and impact of the strategies
- community-driven decision making
- high-level co-design of the regulation's framework
- strategies are not HHS strategies but community strategies
- state-wide consistency, transparency and accountability for the implemented strategies.

Establishment of such a Board will support Queensland Health's commitment to the guiding principles of partnership and community decision-making as identified in the Making Tracks Policy and Accountability Framework.

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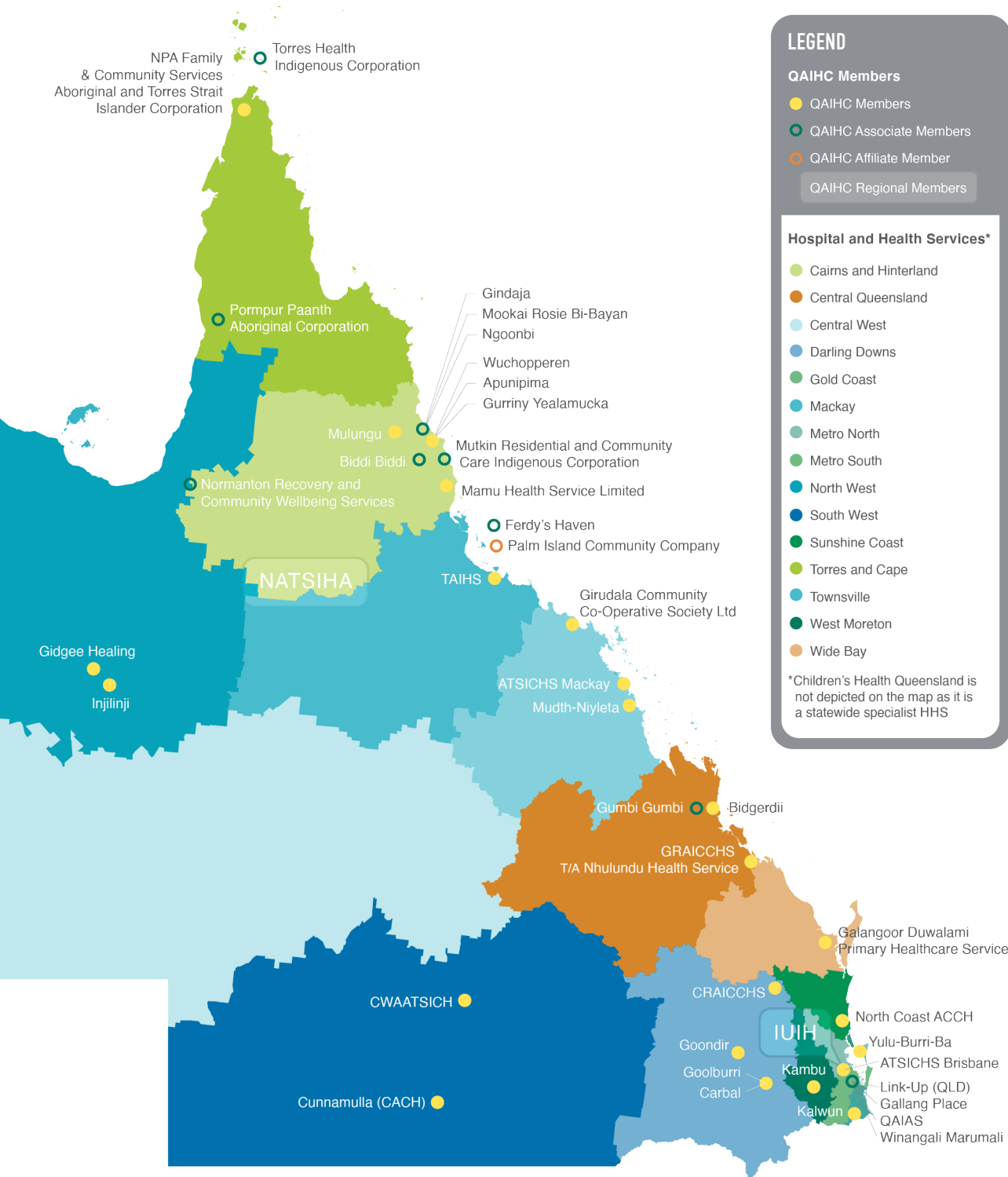
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Health equity

for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

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