

Queensland LGBTQIA+ Roundtable

Communiqué

Meeting date: 12 March 2026

The third meeting of the 2025-2027 term of the Queensland Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual+ (LGBTQIA+) Roundtable (the Roundtable) was held on Thursday 12 March 2026 in Brisbane.

The meeting was opened by Ms Bernadette Harvey, Deputy Director-General, Commissioning, Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety (DFSDSCS) as proxy for Ms Belinda Drew, Director-General, DFSDSCS, and Ms Rebecca Johnson OAM, Chief Executive Officer of the Queensland LGBTQIA+ Alliance. Ms Johnson delivered the Acknowledgement of Country and congratulated Roundtable member Mr Ben Bjarnesen BM OAM on receiving the Order of Australia Medal for his work in domestic and family violence (DFV) prevention.

Roundtable members in attendance were: Mx Aaminah Khan (Townsville), Mx Alex Clements, Mx Asha Keegan, Mr Ben Bjarnesen BM OAM, Mx Billie Stimpson representing Queer & Trans Workers Against Violence, Ms Bonnie Hart representing InterAction for Health and Human Rights, Mr Brenton Creed (Townsville), Ms Jennie Toonen representing 2Spirits (Cairns), Dr Li-Min Lee, Mx Matilda Alexander, Ms Pam Barker, Ms Rachel Hinds representing Open Doors Youth Service, Ms Rebecca Johnson OAM (co-Chairperson) representing the Queensland LGBTQIA+ Alliance (Alliance) and Mr Simon Betteridge representing the Queensland Council for LGBTI Health.

Apologies were received from Ms Belinda Drew, Director-General, DFSDSCS (Chairperson), Ms Stephanie Saal (member), and from the representative of the Queensland Public Sector LGBTQIA+ Steering Committee.

Members were joined by senior agency representatives from the Queensland Mental Health Commission (QMHC), Department of Justice, Department of Education, Queensland Human Rights Commission, Queensland Police Service, Queensland Health and DFSDSCS.

The first half of the meeting focused on LGBTQIA+ mental health, with a presentation delivered by representatives from QMHC. The second half of the meeting focused on safe and inclusive housing and homelessness services for LGBTQIA+ Queenslanders, with a presentation delivered by the Department of Housing and Public Works (DHPW).

The QMHC presentation focused on mental health impacts and suicidality risk for LGBTQIA+ communities, emphasising the importance of partnership with lived experience communities and strengthening early intervention and trauma-informed approaches across the mental health system. QMHC noted the need for improved data for LGBTQIA+ communities while recognising the cumulative impacts of stigma and the need for culturally safe, affirming services.

Discussion among members following the presentation included suicidal distress; the need for increased counselling and mental health supports (particularly in regional areas); the importance of culturally adapted language and approaches; the need for improved data collection; the need for holistic, culturally grounded models of care (particularly in remote communities); and gender-informed frameworks that capture DFV-related victimisation and fatalities.

The DHPW presentation emphasised the goal of delivering a seamless and consistent service experience for LGBTQIA+ people across Queensland. DHPW outlined visibility initiatives, including the *Everyone is Welcome Here* campaign, and ongoing work to strengthen inclusive practice through workforce training. The need for improved data collection to inform service design and investment was highlighted, and members proposed that a working group including Roundtable members be established to pursue opportunities to improve data collection.

Discussion among members following this presentation raised Queensland-specific practice guidelines and support for Queensland-led services; how visible inclusion initiatives are evaluated; discrimination experienced in the private rental market; improved data linkages across government and the sector; the importance of place-based training and tailored language and suitable housing options for older LGBTQIA+ people. Members also sought further information on social and affordable housing capacity.

The Honourable Amanda Camm MP, Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, attended the meeting to acknowledge the work of the Roundtable and Alliance, share broader portfolio priorities, and reaffirmed her commitment to the Roundtable and ongoing engagement with the LGBTQIA+ Alliance.

Members endorsed the minutes and communiqué from the 10 December 2025 meeting, with amendments to ensure community feedback was clearly reflected. The importance of future communiqués describing community perspectives in response to agenda items was also raised.

Members and agency representatives provided the following general updates:

- **Queensland Health (QH):** new training materials under the DFV Capability Framework address the intersection of domestic and family violence, complex trauma and suicide and are being piloted across three Hospital and Health Services.
- **Queensland Council for LGBTI Health (QC):** sexual health, wellbeing and prevention services are being delivered across Queensland alongside regional consultations and suicide-prevention-aligned supports.
- **2Spirits:** the organisation is progressing its lived experience framework, strengthening governance and working to ensure financial sustainability.
- **Queensland Human Rights Commission (QHRC):** recent case law developments relating to vilification, updates on hate crime work, Anti-Discrimination Act guidelines and an Anti-Racism Framework for education settings.
- **InterAction for Health and Human Rights (IAHHR):** emerging reforms in other jurisdictions relating to protections for people with innate variations of sex characteristics.
- **Queensland Police Service (QPS):** updates on the LGBTQIA+ Liaison Officer Program and the pilot Hate Crimes Scrutiny Panel in the Darling Downs District.
- **Queensland LGBTQIA+ Alliance:** sector strengthening work, regional priorities and upcoming events, including the Visibility Queensland Mapping project and the Far North Queensland LGBTQIA+ Sector Forum.

The Chairperson and co-Chairperson thanked members and presenters for their contributions.

The next quarterly meeting is being planned for Cairns on Wednesday 17 June 2026, on the day following the scheduled Far North Queensland LGBTQIA+ Sector Forum.