**Chris Sarra:**

My name's Chris Sarra. I'm the Director-General of the Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships for the Queensland government.

Through the Local Thriving Communities reform, the Queensland Government is reframing the relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

We as government, we need to get better coordinated. We want to do this to stop the over consultation and duplication that occurs in our communities and bring greater coordination by ensuring that there's a central point of accountability, and a central point of engagement for each of our communities. One table of local community leadership who is respected, where we can sit down and negotiate how we can better invest in your community to get better outcomes for our people. Our community leaders have known for a long time what is needed to improve our own wellbeing, our own economic opportunities, and our own community outcomes.

Local Thriving Communities is not a program, but it's a holistic and systemic reform. It's the kind of systemic reform that our people have been calling out for years and years and years. By doing things with people and not to them, the Local Thriving Communities’ agenda ensures that our communities have a greater say in the design and the delivery of services that affect our communities.

Local Thriving Communities embraces and strengthens existing local authority and engages community leadership in a more coordinated way. Ultimately, this is about your community building on its existing authority as we move forward in this reframed relationship, so that your community is empowered to make decisions about its own future. In some ways, this is a new of doing business and conducting relationships, but in many ways, this is the old way that we did business before other people got here. It's about building upon and embracing the leadership that is existed upon this land for many centuries.