



The LGBTI Roundtable is inclusive of all sexually and gender diverse people

Queensland LGBTI Roundtable Communiqué

The third meeting of the Queensland LGBTI Roundtable for 2019 was held on 3 December 2019.

The Honourable Coralee O'Rourke MP, Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors thanked members for their time and efforts in 2019, expressing her appreciation for their valuable insights and contributions.

At the previous meeting held in August 2019, members had advocated the importance of LGBTI domestic and family violence awareness training for court staff, hospital staff and police to ensure they receive the appropriate support. As a result, the Director-General, Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors (DCDSS), wrote to the Directors-General of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG), Queensland Health (QH) and the Deputy Police Commissioner (Regional Operations), Queensland Police Service. Responses from these agencies outlined their commitments to supporting the LGBTI community, individuals and their families and included details of their existing and proposed training and resources to build the capacity of their staff.

The Director-General, DCDSS wrote to the Director-General, QH following the April 2019 meeting where members expressed concerns about the physical and psychological implications resulting from surgeries on intersex infants. QH advised that intersex people can access a range of mainstream and specialist services, including paediatric and adult services. They are awaiting on the outcomes of consultation and policy developments in other Australian jurisdictions and the results of the current Australian Human Rights Commission project which is considering how best to protect the rights of people born with variations in sex characteristics in the context of non-consensual medical interventions.

The Department of Premier and Cabinet provided an update on the 12-month domestic and family violence LGBTIQ+ campaign that was launched on 6 December 2018. Members heard about the media channels through which the campaign was delivered, its key messages and how people can find support via the website, located online at www.qld.gov.au/LGBTIQendDFV.

It was agreed that mental health will be the focus of the next meeting.

The meeting was attended by community representatives: Ben Bjarnesen, Dallas Pitt, Nicole Whitmore, Phillip Santiago, Rebecca Johnson, Rob Nielsen, Sarah Walbank and Vicki Ogilvie. They were joined by seven senior government representatives from: Department of Education; Queensland Human Rights Commission; Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women; QPS; DJAG; QH; and DCDSS. Observers included Camille Bowman, Queensland Youth Engagement Panel, and Assistant Commissioner Sharon Cowden, Ethical Standards Command and Executive Champion of the LGBTI+ Support Network, QPS.

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

Roundtable members represent Queensland's diverse LGBTI communities and bring rich expertise in LGBTI matters, including in the fields of education, youth, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and rural and remote experiences.