

**Question on Notice  
No. 1  
Asked on 14 July 2021**

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise

- a) how many Queenslanders with a disability continue to receive departmental delivered and/or funded specialist disability support services due to ineligibility for the NDIS,
- b) if the department is continuing to process new applicants and recipients of departmental delivered and/or funded specialist disability support services, in circumstances where Queenslanders with a disability do not meet the NDIS eligibility criteria and
- c) if the department is aware of any instances or circumstances in which departmental delivered and/or funded specialist disability support services or facilities are no longer available to Queenslanders with a disability, and equivalent funding or support services are not available through the NDIS?

ANSWER:

The Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships provides ongoing disability supports for clients aged under 65 years, who previously relied on state funded disability supports, but do not meet National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) access requirements. These supports are provided through the Queensland Government's Continuity of Support (CoS) program.

- a) As at 30 June 2021, 17 clients were funded through the CoS program.

The CoS program aims to:

- ensure that people are able to achieve similar outcomes to the outcomes they were achieving prior to the introduction of the NDIS
  - support clients to access other support systems to meet disability needs
  - support people to build their capacity towards reducing the need for supports
  - ensure supports are provided to people with significant ongoing disability needs to prevent hardship and enhance wellbeing
  - adapt to the changing needs of people over time.
- b) The CoS program is a grandfathered arrangement and is limited to clients:
    - receiving funded disability supports from the former Disability Services prior to Queensland's transition to the NDIS
    - found ineligible for the NDIS
    - determined as having a significant and ongoing need for disability supports that cannot be met by other services and systems
    - whose services were attributed to a program or service that ceased when the NDIS was introduced; and
    - who require ongoing funded specialist disability supports to maintain wellbeing and prevent hardship.

On 1 July 2019, the Queensland Government commenced the Queensland Community Support Scheme (QCSS) to support individuals who experience chronic illness, disability, mental health or other conditions at some point in their lifetime that impacts on their functional capacity to undertake regular day-to-day living activities and participate in the community.

The QCSS is administered by the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy. It sits within the broad framework of care and support options available to Queenslanders, including the NDIS, My Aged Care, Queensland Health, Housing and Homeless Services, as well as other formal and informal support networks and is available to provide supports to applicants who are not eligible for the Commonwealth Government's NDIS.

The Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships also funds the following programs which are available for all people with disability (irrespective of whether they are NDIS participants):

- Disability Advocacy, which supports people with disability to safeguard their rights and overcome barriers that can affect their ability to participate in the community.
  - Disability Peak Bodies, which provides information and referral services, opportunities for greater community and economic engagement and capacity-building initiatives across the disability sector.
- c) The department's specialist disability services transitioned to the NDIS in a phased way across 2016-2019. The department is not currently aware of any instances where individuals eligible for specialist disability services have been denied those services. If this were to occur, the department will and can:
- accept, escalate and resolve complaints about access/entry to the NDIS with the NDIA
  - provide intensive case management and clinical support to access the NDIS through the department's Assessment and Referral Team
  - refer people to the Queensland Community Support Scheme in the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy
  - refer people to other Queensland Government agencies for appropriate mainstream supports.

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 2**  
**Asked on 14 July 2021**

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise how many clients have accessed the government's 11 centre-based respite services (separated by centre) and how the NDIS full scheme agreement has impacted these centres?

ANSWER:

During 2020-21, 303 clients accessed the Government's respite service. The table below shows this by respite centre:

<b>AS&amp;RS Respite Centres</b>	<b>Number of clients who received a respite service during 2020-21</b>
Ashgrove Respite Centre	26
Deception Bay Respite Centre	46
Gold Coast Yalburu Respite Centre	30
Ipswich Thorn Street Respite Centre (Adult)	49
Ipswich Thorn Street Respite Centre (Children)	23
Ipswich Robertson Rd Respite Centre (Jeffs Place)	0*
Loganholme Respite Centre	31
Maryborough Ka'wan Respite Centre	21
Townsville Nangare Respite Centre	28
Toowoomba Respite Centre	18
Yandina Respite Centre	31
<b>Total</b>	<b>303</b>

The implementation of the NDIS into the Disability Sector has allowed clients to exercise choice and control. Client choice and control has always been, and will remain, central to the delivery of the NDIS. Funding is provided to NDIS participants, who can then choose how best to use those funds on the supports and services that will help them to meet their needs and goals.

Due to clients and their decision makers exercising choice and control, AS&RS has seen a decline in respite clients over the past financial year.

\* All client demand for respite services in the Ipswich region has been managed through the Thorn Street Respite Centres, given the decline in client numbers.

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 3**  
**Asked on 14 July 2021**

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise (a) the number of former Disability Services clients who actively sought access to the NDIS and (b) of these, the total number of clients (i) that were successful and (ii) who were unsuccessful?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government has supported former Disability Services clients to seek NDIS access – their data and information were provided to the National Disability Insurance Agency and a special pathway was created to fast-track their access.

As at 30 June 2021:

- (a) Approximately 30,300 Disability Services clients formerly funded or directly supported by the department under the *Disability Services Act 2006* had actively sought to access to the NDIS.
- (b) Of these:
  - (i) Almost 29,450 clients have met NDIS access requirements, with another approximately 150 clients currently seeking access or engaged with the National Disability Insurance Agency.
  - (ii) Approximately 700 clients were deemed by the National Disability Insurance Agency as not having met its requirements for access to the NDIS.

The majority of the former Disability Services clients who did not meet NDIS access requirements were not receiving Disability Services funded supports at the time their NDIS access decision was made. Many former Disability Services clients required intermittent supports only and therefore may not have met the NDIS access requirements. Other former Disability Services clients who did not meet access requirements continue to be eligible to receive state funded mainstream supports, including through the Queensland Community Support Scheme.

The Queensland Government negotiated a \$20 million investment from the Commonwealth Government over 3 years (2020–2022) to help Queenslanders with disability to access the NDIS.

As part of this investment the Queensland Government established the Assessment and Referral Team (ART) to accelerate the entry of new participants into the NDIS with a focus on rural, regional and remote areas and other vulnerable cohorts aged between 7 and 65 years.

As at 30 June 2021, ART had successfully assisted 140 former Disability Services clients to access the NDIS, this included 85 people who had previously not finished the application process, 53 people who had previously been deemed ineligible by the NDIA and 2 people who had not previously sought access.

Additionally, ART is also currently supporting a further 12 former Disability Services clients to seek access to the NDIS. Typically, these clients have had complex clinical and social challenges, which has made navigating the NDIS independently very difficult.

Former Disability Services clients who have not meet NDIS eligibility can seek access to the Queensland Government's Continuity of Support Program or the Queensland Community Support Scheme.

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 4**  
**Asked on 14 July 2021**

**QUESTION:**

Will the Minister advise the social characteristics and profile of the Queensland Seniors cohort regarding the future growth projections over the next 20 years, social engagement, health, living arrangements, physical activity and longevity?

**ANSWER:**

To progress towards an age-friendly Queensland, we need to understand the characteristics of Queensland's older population and some of the underlying demographic changes that are contributing to the ageing of Queensland's population.

Older Queenslanders or seniors refers to persons aged 65 years and over, unless stated otherwise.

Our population is ageing

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data from 2019 shows there were approximately 800,000 people in Queensland aged 65 years or over, ie approximately 15.7 per cent of the Queensland population.

ABS projections show that Queensland's population is ageing. As further cohorts of baby boomers (those born between the years 1946 and 1964) turn 65 years over the next decade, this age group is projected to increase more rapidly as a proportion of the total proportion.

The ABS (2019) projects that, over the next 30 years, the number of Queenslanders aged 65 years and over will more than double, reaching around 1.7 million persons by 2049.

The population aged 85 years and older is projected to more than double from 1.8% in 2019 to 4.5% in 2049 (more than 350,000 persons). The age structure and relative share of the cohort of Queensland seniors is important. Queenslanders 85 years and older are more likely to be reliant on health and medical services, including allied health services and other supports to stay active, healthy or to stay living in their own home.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples aged 50 years or older account for around 1 in 6 (16.3% or 39,400 persons) of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in Queensland. In comparison, more than 1 in 3 (34.9%) of the non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population were aged 50 years or older.

Data is reported for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples over 50 years to reflect the fact that, generally, ageing-related conditions affect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders at a younger age than non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders.

Health and longevity

Increases in life expectancy and lower fertility rates are driving population ageing.

The increases in life expectancy at age 65 years are mainly due to improvements in aged care management, a decline in the number of deaths from chronic conditions such as heart disease,

cancer and strokes (because of medical advances), and behavioural changes such as improvements in diet and lower rates of smoking.

Persons aged 65 years and over made the largest contribution of any age group to overall life expectancy gains experienced in Queensland over the 20-year period to 2015. More than three-quarters of recent gains in female life expectancy can be attributed to women aged 65 years and over.

### Living arrangements

Many older Queenslanders express the desire to stay in their own home as they age, to stay close to their family, friends and their community. The 2016 Census showed that, more than 3 in 4 Queenslanders aged 85 years and over were living in private dwellings, reflecting older Queenslanders' desire to age in place. Approximately 1 in 5 Queenslanders aged 85 years or older were living in residential aged care.

One in four older Queenslanders in private dwellings are living alone, and women are more likely than men to live alone.

The trend to age in place, and for a significant proportion of older Queenslanders to live on their own, means the Queensland Government must continue to work with community and key stakeholders to respond to their needs and to challenge stereotypes about senior Queenslanders.

For example, the ABS reports that one in every eight older Queenslanders (65 years and older) were in the workforce in 2016, and one in every four 65 to 69-year olds were still working. However, older Queenslanders in the labour force are increasingly more likely to work part-time as they age.

ABS data also shows that the average age of intended retirement has increased between 2004-05 and 2016-17 – by 2.2 years for older men and 3.0 years for older women.

### Social engagement

Older Queenslanders play an important role in our community. More than one in five Queenslanders aged between 65 and 79 years undertake voluntary work and almost one in every five Queenslanders aged between 65 and 69 years provide unpaid childcare. The same proportion provide unpaid care to another older person or to a person with disability.

Loneliness and social isolation can affect everyone, but older people are particularly vulnerable after the loss of friends and family, reduced mobility or reduced income. Social isolation can have a detrimental impact on health and wellbeing.

As Queenslanders age, they can be at risk of isolation due to mobility and transport issues. The proportion of seniors with a driver's licence falls away from age 70 onwards, with less than 40 per cent retaining a driver's licence in their 80s.

The Queensland Government is committed to supporting older Queenslanders to be more socially connected. Being socially connected and active in the community provides a protective factor for both physical and mental health.

In 2020-21, the Queensland Government committed \$3.7 million to fund 43 social isolation services across the state that help older people stay connected and engaged with their community. This funding is continuing in 2021-22.

Initiatives might be as simple as offering morning tea, but for the 25 per cent of Queensland seniors who live alone these are important opportunities to make new friends and safeguard their wellbeing. They are tailored to the local community and include:

- promoting active ageing
- increasing awareness of healthy lifestyle options
- providing opportunities to extend and strengthen social connectedness
- improving linkages between older people, other agencies and their community.

Activities vary across each location and are tailored to demand and need.

We welcome this year's Parliamentary Inquiry into social isolation, which will help set the direction for the future on this important area.

The Queensland Government's vision is for a community where older people are supported to lead healthy and productive lives either in work, volunteering or in retirement. It is also important they have access to a range of lifestyle opportunities, and care and support appropriate to their needs.

The demographic trends that shape the social characteristics and population characteristics of older Queenslanders will be an important consideration in how we continue our journey towards being a more age-friendly State.



**Question on Notice  
No. 5  
Asked on 14 July 2021**

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise the five support card schemes that are available to Seniors, their carers and those who provide support to people who have a lifelong need for support to be active in the community?

ANSWER:

<b>Card type</b>	<b>Eligibility</b>
<b>Seniors Card</b>	<p>People aged 65 years or older, or those aged 60 years or older holding a Commonwealth concession card, who are Queensland residents, can access a range of Queensland Government concessions, the free Senior Shopper service and discounts on goods and services at participating business outlets throughout Queensland.</p> <p>People working more than 35 hours a week in paid employment are ineligible.</p>
<b>Seniors Card +go</b>	<p>People aged 65 years or over, or those aged 60 years or older holding a Commonwealth concession card, who reside in Queensland, receive the combined benefits of a Seniors card and a Go Card, including access to discounted fares and a range of Queensland Government concessions.</p> <p>People working more than 35 hours a week in paid employment are ineligible.</p>
<b>Seniors Business Discount Card</b>	<p>Available to people aged 60 and over residing in Queensland with access to discounts on goods and services at participating business outlets across the state.</p> <p>There are no employment restrictions on eligibility for this card.</p>
<b>Carer Business Discount Card</b>	<p>Recognises and supports Queensland carers, including approved foster and kinship carers, by providing discounts on goods and services at more than 4,000 participating businesses throughout Queensland.</p>
<b>Companion Card</b>	<p>Recognises and supports Queenslanders with disability who have a lifelong need for attendant care support to participate in community activities and attend venues. Cardholders receive a second 'companion' ticket at no charge at participating venues and on public transport.</p>

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 6**  
**Asked on 14 July 2021**

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise

How the Queensland Government is working with local leadership, councils and service providers to restore community strength and healing on the ground in Aurukun?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government is committed to reframing the relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders.

Over the past 18 months, since the unrest in January 2020, the Government has worked with the community to develop immediate, medium and long-term initiatives to respond to community unrest.

The whole of community focus is on governance and communication, local leadership, safety and alcohol management, economic engagement and education.

In September 2020, the Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (Department) transitioned the Whole-of-Government Coordinator (Coordinator) from Cairns to Aurukun. The Coordinator is working with the Aurukun Shire Council, local community leaders including Elders, non-government organisations, State Government departments and the Commonwealth Government to support the Aurukun community.

Continuity and consistency of service delivery is an essential component of the Aurukun Recovery Response. The location of the Coordinator in Aurukun has led to improved communication between local services and the delivery of timely and accurate information throughout the service delivery network. The Coordinator helps facilitate monthly Interagency Meetings, co-chaired by the Aurukun Shire Council, to discuss achievements, challenges and opportunities for collaboration. The Coordinator also attends the monthly Aurukun Shire Council Ordinary Meeting to provide updates on progress from the Whole-of-Government response.

Initiatives implemented through the Whole of Government approach

The inaugural meeting of Aurukun Community Coordination Group, now known as Wik Thonam (Wik One Voice), was held on 29 July 2021. Wik Thonam has been established as an interim group for the next three months and Councillor Keri Tamwoy, Mayor, Aurukun Shire Council is a member of this group.

An informal Elders Group has also been established by the Coordinator to provide local intelligence and advice, particularly around justice issues and to assist with decision-making.

A work readiness program has been established with Glencore, Kapani Warriors (a community development organisation) and Cape York Employment to provide training and job placement activities for local people. The department has provided the coordination and facilitation of the work readiness program planning group and development of pathways to employment for 20 participants in mining, local government, construction, and with the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). A second work readiness program planning group has been established with

a further 20 long term unemployed local people identified to participate in the 16-week program.

The Coordinator is also working with the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training to develop a long-term strategic framework to increase economic outcomes and identify future projects. A Work Expo that is a multi-agency initiative that will showcase employment opportunities and pathways for local people is also being planned for the community.

### Local Thriving Communities

The department is working with the community to acknowledge and embrace local community leadership as part of the Whole-of-Government Local Thriving Communities reform. The department continues to work with the Aurukun Shire Council and community around their involvement with the Local Thriving Communities Reform and their preferred leadership model.

A key aspect of the Local Thriving Communities framework is to embrace local leadership and bring decision-making closer to community to better empower communities to identify their priorities and drive locally designed responses that will lead to more meaningful outcomes.

### Community Safety Plan

The Community Safety Plan, that is aligned to the Queensland Government's renewed approach to alcohol, has been developed, led and informed by the Aurukun Shire Council and community, with the support of the Department.

Nineteen Action Areas have been identified in the Community Safety Plan to help improve the safety of community members and the perceptions of safety in Aurukun. The Action Areas will evolve into specific operational and capital actions of the Council and be incorporated formally within Council's strategic plans and budgets.

The Queensland Government recognises that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities know what works for their community and we will continue to embrace local leadership and local decision-making to improve the social, emotional and economic wellbeing of all First Nations people for the Aurukun community.

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 7**  
**Asked on 14 July 2021**

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise

What the Queensland Government is doing to increase the proportion of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples working in the Queensland public sector to the three per cent by 2022?

ANSWER:

The Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships is the lead agency for increasing the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people working in the Queensland public sector to three per cent by 2022.

The Moving Ahead Strategy launched in 2016 titled *Moving Ahead: A strategic approach to increasing the participation of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people in Queensland's economy 2016–2022* reflects an integrated, whole-of-government approach to improving economic participation outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders. The Moving Ahead Strategy includes 27 actions, to be implemented by Queensland Government departments, and coordinated centrally, to drive targeted, sustainable change.

Action 5 under the Moving Ahead Strategy is a commitment by the Queensland Government to increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people working in the Queensland Public Sector to an aggregate three per cent by 2022. The Moving Ahead Workforce Planning Framework, developed in response to Action 5, assists departments to develop workforce actions that improve attraction, recruitment, retention, and development practices, whilst aligning with their core business human resource needs. Annual whole-of-Government reporting on the implementation of workforce actions ensures that departments are actively implementing Action 5.

To monitor progress towards achieving the target, under the Minimum Obligatory Human Resource Information (MOHRI), it is a requirement for each department to maintain data on employing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and to report that data to the Public Service Commission.

Queensland public service workforce statistics supplied by the Public Service Commission report that as of March 2021, 2.49 per cent of Queensland public sector employees identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Established in 2013, the Cultural Agency Leaders (CAL) committee is responsible for driving and monitoring the Queensland Government's cultural capability agenda, including the implementation of Action 5 under the Moving Ahead Strategy. Facilitated by the Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, the Committee has membership representing all Queensland Government departments, and meets on a quarterly basis. At these meetings the Committee receives updates on implementation actions, MOHRI data progress reports and best practice case studies.

Examples of the Queensland Government's commitment to increasing cultural capability

Queensland Treasury has continued to build cultural capability to improve employment pathways for Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people through the implementation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cadetship program. Developed in partnership with Griffith University, it provides a pathway for Indigenous students into Queensland Treasury and increases economic participation opportunities.

The Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships has partnered with the Public Service Commission to deliver the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Career Pathways Service (the Service). The Service supports the progression of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees into leadership and decision-making roles and works with supervisors and agencies to build a culturally capable sector. To date, the Service has supported 80 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees and their supervisors. More recently, the CEO Leadership Board has also endorsed an expansion of the Service to support more than 200 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees and their supervisors, across 14 partner agencies.

I acknowledge the ongoing efforts of the Queensland Government public sector to maintain steady progress towards the three per cent target despite the ongoing economic challenges of COVID-19 and will continue to monitor improvement towards 2022.

**Question on Notice  
No. 8  
Asked on 14 July 2021**

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise

How the Queensland Government is building cultural capability across Government under the Queensland Government Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Capability Framework?

ANSWER:

The Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships is the lead agency for cultural capability within the Queensland Government.

The Cultural Capability Framework (the Framework), launched in 2014, is the foundation document of the Queensland public sector's cultural capability policy agenda.

Departmental Cultural Capability Action Plans are the key mechanism to implement the Framework in a meaningful way and to achieve consistency across government. It is mandatory under the *Queensland Government's Specific Purpose Planning Requirements* for each department to maintain a current Cultural Capability Action Plan and to report on the implementation of those plans.

The Cultural Capability Action Plans must align with the five principles of the Framework:

1. Valuing Culture
2. Leadership and Accountability
3. Building Cultural Capability to Improve Economic Participation
4. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Engagement and Stronger Partnerships
5. Culturally Responsive Systems and Services.

Oversight of the Framework implementation is the responsibility of the Cultural Agency Leaders Committee (the Committee). Facilitated by the Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, the Committee has membership representing all Queensland Government departments, and meets on a quarterly basis.

There is currently an aggregate of 422 actions being implemented across Queensland Government departments.

Since the launch of the Framework in 2014, the Queensland Government's Cultural Capability agenda has expanded to include the following strategies and policies:

- Moving Ahead: A strategic approach to increasing the participation of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people in the Queensland economy 2016-2022
- Cultural Capability Matters, Queensland Government Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Capability Training Strategy
- Queensland Indigenous (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Procurement Policy (QIPP)
- Queensland Government Reconciliation Action Plan 2018-2021 (RAP)
- Moving Ahead Workforce Strategy and Workforce Planning Framework.

There are positive initiatives being implemented across the Queensland Government to achieve higher levels of cultural capability. For example, the Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships has implemented and successfully promoted the foundational Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Capability training 'Starting the Journey' across government agencies. There has been an 86 percent increase from 3,350 views during 2019-20 to 6,216 views during 2020-21. Recognising, respecting and valuing Aboriginal cultures and Torres Strait Islander cultures is fundamental to the delivery of high-quality services.

The Queensland Police Service (QPS) Cultural Engagement Unit is another example of increasing cultural capability. The Cultural Engagement Unit ensures that QPS employees appointed to discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities have specific cultural training relating to the history of the community, group/family dynamics, traditions, practices and events that impact on community-police relations. This training ensures Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives are embedded into the design, delivery and evaluation of policy, programs and services.

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 9**  
**Asked on 14 July 2021**

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise what the Queensland Government is doing to support master planning in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to best prepare for future residential and industrial growth?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to reframing the relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders. We are partnering with remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, councils and Traditional Owners across Queensland to develop master plans based on their vision for future community, residential, tourism and commercial land use opportunities in their communities.

The department is currently implementing the Master Planning project across all remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

These master plans reflect community-identified themes, aspirations and local decision making around key areas, including economic, housing and infrastructure opportunities, to support strong foundations for their community to thrive now and into future.

The Master Planning Project supports the communities future housing construction, industry, recreational and commercial needs through the identification of suitable land that can be developed. Identifying this land is vital for commercial activity in communities and is one of the key pillars of employment. Councils recognise the need to encourage economic development through having suitable sites available for use by small business which in turn provides diversity in local employment opportunities.

By identifying suitable developable land, the department is assisting opportunities for economic growth, reducing overcrowding, better recreational facilities, social needs infrastructure to improve services in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. This will contribute towards improving locally owned and led social and economic outcomes and closing the gap.

Each council and community are working on developing this long-term framework which brings together the area's statutory planning scheme with local aspirations, priorities and needs to guide future growth, planning and development across each community.

These master plans provide councils with a framework to guide future investment and support live funding applications through specialised precinct plans to develop community-identified priorities.

This local, community-led approach reflects the Queensland Government's commitment to reframing the relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by working together as part of the Local Thriving Communities agenda.



**Question on Notice**  
**No. 10**  
**Asked on 14 July 2021**

QUESTION

Will the Minister provide an update on the current Indigenous population profile in Queensland and how this informs the allocation of resources across the state?

ANSWER:

Queensland has the second largest population of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australia.

According to Census figures prepared by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, in 2016 there were an estimated 221,280 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people residing in Queensland, comprising 4.6 per cent of Queensland's total population. Projections indicate this figure will increase to 246,320 people at 30 June 2021, 40 per cent of whom are estimated to be aged under 18 years.

The Queensland Government Statistician's Office has advised that the population of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders is more widely distributed across the state compared with the non-Indigenous population.

At 30 June 2019, almost half (48.3 per cent) of First Nations Queenslanders lived in regional Queensland compared with around one-third (32.4 per cent) of non-Indigenous Queenslanders.

At 30 June 2019, 27,063 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders lived across 17 discrete Indigenous communities (local government areas (LGAs)) in the state, mainly concentrated in Queensland's north on Cape York Peninsula and across the Torres Strait region. Other significant populations of First Nations Queenslanders lived in Cairns (17,149 people) and Townsville (16,501 people) LGAs.

The size and structure of estimated and projected population profiles are some of many factors that the Government takes into consideration when making decisions about how to direct and allocate resources to ensure optimal social, economic and cultural outcomes for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders.

Importantly, these decisions are increasingly made in partnership with First Nations peoples, industry, businesses and communities, and under some service delivery initiatives and programs, in partnership with the Commonwealth Government.

This includes decisions about how to target investment in the delivery of mainstream services, such as hospitals and health, early childhood, schooling and housing services across the state, including in rural and remote communities of Queensland experiencing higher levels of disadvantage.

The Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships has seven regions, and 12 regional offices located throughout the state with teams that deliver key programs to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Queensland, including in the 19 remote and discrete communities; and they support Queensland Government service providers to deliver their services in a culturally appropriate manner.

The Department also provides leadership, coordination, and support for a number of whole of government programs, including:

- key initiatives under the whole-of-government Moving Ahead economic strategy, which seeks to maximise employment, skills and training opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and advance First Nations business growth throughout Queensland.
- jobs, skills and training, and business development opportunities delivered through the statewide rollout of the Government's \$52.2 billion capital works program, and dedicated initiatives including \$130.4 million for social housing dwellings in Indigenous communities and \$120 million for the Indigenous Councils Critical Infrastructure Program.
- working with First Nations peoples to support opportunities in sectors such as tourism, arts and renewable energy across the state. For example, in the 2021-22 Budget, \$5.6 million is provided to continue revitalising and investing in new visitor infrastructure (including trails and amenities), with opportunities to support the growth of regional small businesses and the employment of First Nations people in Queensland's national parks.

**Question on Notice  
No. 11  
Asked on 14 July 2021**

**QUESTION**

With reference to page 1 of the Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships SDS, which refers to improving the lives of people with a disability –

Will the Minister advise, between 2020-21 to 2021-22 to date, (a) the total number of FTE staff employed in the Forensic Disability Service (FDS), including position titles (reported separately per year), (b) the total number of times staff have called police to attend the FDS, (c) the number of investigations carried out by a statutory body and (d) of those, the total number of unlawful conduct/breaches identified by the investigations?

**ANSWER:**

The Forensic Disability Service is a specialist medium security residential service that provides rehabilitation and habilitation programs and services to up to 10 adult clients with a cognitive impairment or intellectual disability who have offended and are subject to a forensic order disability.

*(a) the total number of FTE staff employed in the Forensic Disability Service (FDS), including position titles (reported separately per year) is detailed below.*

<b>Position</b>	<b>1 July 2020 to 20 June 2021 FTE</b>	<b>21/06/2021 to date <sup>(1)</sup> FTE</b>
Administrator	1	1
Senior Service Manager	1	1
Principal Clinician	1	1
Principal Program Officer		1
Principal Project Officer (Non-recurrent) <sup>(2)</sup>	1	
Clinical Team Leader	3	2
Clinician - Program Specialist	4	4
Business Officer	1	1
Senior Administration Officer	1	1
Administration Officers	2	2
Administrative Officer	1	1
FDW Clinician	15	11
FDW Clinician backfill	1	1
Operational Team Leader		6
Shift Coordinator	6	
Forensic Officer	18	22
Forensic Officer backfill	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>56</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> New structure implemented from 21 June 2021.

<sup>(2)</sup> The Principal Project Officer was created temporarily and has ceased with implementation of the new structure.

The new structure at the FDS has been implemented in response to the Queensland Ombudsman's report, *The Forensic Disability Service report: An investigation into the detention of people at the Forensic Disability Service*.

*(b) the total number of times staff have called police to attend the FDS*

In response to significant issues involving risk of harm to clients and/or staff, FDS sought Queensland Police Service assistance on nine (9) occasions in 2020-21 and one occasion in 2021-22 to date. Of these 10 occasions during this period, there was only one instance in 2020-21 where there was direct police involvement assisting FDS staff in supporting a client. Of the remaining nine (9) occasions, QPS were advised their assistance was no longer required.

*(c) the number of investigations carried out by a statutory body*

The Queensland Ombudsman is the only statutory body to have undertaken an investigation in relation to the FDS.

The Queensland Ombudsman's report, *The Forensic Disability Service report: An investigation into the detention of people at the Forensic Disability Service*, has been tabled in Parliament on 22 August 2019 (#1347).

*(d) of those, the total number of unlawful conduct/breaches identified by the investigations*

I refer the Committee to the Queensland Ombudsman's report.

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 12**  
**Asked on 14 July 2021**

QUESTION:

With reference to page 1 of the Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships' SDS, which refers to improving the lives of people with a disability –

Will the Minister advise, in relation to departmental accommodation support services, (a) the total number of people with a disability who (i) applied for accommodation support services and (ii) had their application approved, (b) the reason for the department not reaching its target of providing 882 accommodation support services, (c) the reasons for the downward trend and (d) of those 796 who received accommodation support services, how many were participants of the NDIS?

ANSWER:

Accommodation Services and Respite Services (AS&RS) has been providing supports to Queenslanders with a disability for many years.

a)

(i) Between 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2021, 32 new referrals were received by AS&RS from support coordinators and other sources on behalf of NDIS participants for Supported Independent Living arrangements.

(ii) Four of the 32 referrals were offered places within Supported Independent Living arrangements.

b) AS&RS has committed to the NDIS principles of choice and control.

The target of 882 clients was the maximum number that could be supported, based on built capacity of service over the last five years, under the in-kind funding agreement reached between the State and Commonwealth in July 2019.

While the actual number of clients supported throughout the year is less than the target in the SDS, this largely reflects client's ability to exercise choice and control in selecting service providers, consistent with the principles of the NDIS.

c) One of the key principles of the NDIS is choice and control. As a result, a client's family or guardian can choose to receive supports from another provider.

As the NDIS support market grows and there are new services and new options, clients and their families or guardians have more choice in who provides their supports and how they access these supports.

The 2020-21 estimated actual figure and 2021-22 target figure included in the SDS reflects the nature of current service demand, given clients ability to exercise choice and control, rather than total capacity.

d) The 2020-21 estimated actual figure of 796 included in the SDS was estimated having regard to the client numbers who had accessed AS&RS supports in the period to 31 March 2021.

Throughout 2020-21, AS&RS supported 824 clients across both accommodation and respite services. Of the 824 clients who received accommodation support during 2020-21, 786 were NDIS participants, 38 were funded under Commonwealth Disability Support for Older Australians program for over 65s.

**Question on Notice  
No. 13  
Asked on 14 July 2021**

**QUESTION:**

With reference to page 1 of the Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships SDS, which refers to improving the lives of people with a disability –

Will the Minister advise, of the 796 people with a disability who received accommodation support services during 2020-21, (a) how many received (i) supported independent living services (accommodation support) and (ii) short-term accommodation support (centre-based overnight respite), (b) the total number of FTE residential care officers dedicated to providing this service between 2018-19 and 2021-22 to date (broken down by year) and (c) the total number of independent contractors the department engaged between 2018-19 and 2021-22 to date?

**ANSWER:**

The 2020-21 estimated actual figure of 796 included in the SDS was estimated having regard to the client numbers who had accessed AS&RS supports in the period to 31 March 2021.

Throughout 2020-21 AS&RS supported 824 clients across both accommodation and respite services. Of the 824 clients:

- a) (i) 504 accessed Supported Independent Living (SIL) support.  
(ii) 320 accessed short-term accommodation support.
- b) The table below includes the total number of FTE Residential Care Officers delivering Accommodation Support and Respite Services over the requested time period.

	Full Time Equivalent Residential Care Officers
2018-19 (Pay Period Ending 21 June 2019)*	1,145.62
2019-20 (Pay Period Ending 19 June 2020)	1,085.44
2020-21 (Pay Period Ending 18 June 2021)	1,062.98
2021-22 to date (Pay Period Ending 16 July 2021)	1,060.61

\* The Public Service Commission introduced a revised Minimum Obligatory Human Resource Information (MOHRI) ruleset effective from 1 July 2019. Given different FTE rules were used prior to 1 July 2019, caution should be used when comparing figures prior to this date.

- c) The table below includes all contracted services engaged by Accommodation Support and Respite Services over the requested time period.

	Labour Hire	Other Contractors
2018-19	1	19
2019-20	2	19
2020-21	1	15
2021-22 to date	0	1

This table includes each engagement of labour hire as well as each engagement of other contractors in relation to AS&RS.

The use of labour hire, on these occasions, involved administrative support and project management around accommodation projects supporting disability accommodation services. No labour hire was used in the direct delivery of accommodation services to clients.



**Question on Notice**  
**No. 14**  
**Asked on 14 July 2021**

QUESTION:

With reference to page 1 of the Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships SDS, which refers to improving the lives of seniors –

Will the Minister provide (a) an update on the progress of the Queensland: an age-friendly community strategy and action plan, (b) the total number of initiatives implemented, (c) the total number of outstanding initiatives not yet implemented and (d) an estimate of when all initiatives will be addressed?

ANSWER:

The first Queensland Age-Friendly Strategy was launched in 2016 to provide a plan of work and action across Queensland Government agencies.

The Strategy and the annual Action Plans support the Queensland Government's vision for a community where older people are supported to lead healthy and productive lives either in work, volunteering or in retirement, and where they have access to a range of lifestyle opportunities, and care and support appropriate to their needs.

All Queensland Government agencies have committed to delivering age friendly communities under the Strategy and Action plans.

**(a) update on the progress of the Queensland: an age-friendly community strategy and action plan**

The Strategy's Implementation Schedule, showing progress and planned work across the 2019-21 financial years was last published on 13 January 2021 on the department's website at [Queensland: an age-friendly community - implementation schedule \(dsdsatsip.qld.gov.au\)](https://www.dsd.satsip.qld.gov.au).

The Implementation Schedule gives an account of all of the actions that have been completed, as well as actions where the Queensland Government's commitment is continuous and/or ongoing.

**(b) the total number of initiatives implemented**

The implementation schedule (when last published on 13 January 2021) shows that 36 actions were completed between 2016 and 2019 with the remainder on-track and ongoing until the end of 2020-21. The department is currently seeking updated advice from all relevant agencies to confirm that the remaining actions had been completed as at 30 June 2021. This will enable an updated implementation schedule to be compiled.

**(c) the total number of outstanding initiatives not yet implemented**

The implementation schedule shows that 78 actions were ongoing across the 2019-21 financial years. The department is currently seeking updated advice from all relevant agencies about their implementation activities during the year to enable a further update to be compiled.

**(d) an estimate of when all initiatives will be addressed**

The department is currently seeking updated advice from all relevant agencies about the status of the remaining initiatives as at 30 June 2021, to enable a further update to be compiled.

In addition, in 2021-22 the department will review and update the strategy to ensure that it is contemporary and addresses the priority needs and issues of Queensland's seniors. The review has already started, with a statewide program of forums commencing in late 2020-21.

As part of the review we will consider any initiatives that were not fully completed as at 30 June 2021, including those of an ongoing nature.

This review will provide an opportunity to:

- give older Queenslanders a voice about current issues and concerns that are important to them and their community
- embed the *Human Rights Act 2019* considerations into the next strategy
- consider any changes to government services or the way they are delivered as a result of COVID-19.

The Queensland Government will release a new contemporary strategy for senior Queenslanders, that is informed by senior Queenslanders, in 2022.

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 15**  
**Asked on 14 July 2021**

QUESTION:

With reference to page 1 of the Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships SDS, which refers to improving the lives of people with a disability –

Will the Minister advise, in relation to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), (a) the total number of requests made to access the NDIS between 2020/21 and 2021/22 to date (broken down by year) and (b) the total number of requests approved?

ANSWER:

The Commonwealth Government administers and is responsible for the effective operation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) publishes quarterly reports to Disability Ministers. The reports include broad information in relation to NDIS performance and operations nationally and by jurisdiction and are available online at [Quarterly Reports | NDIS \(https://www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/publications/quarterly-reports\)](https://www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/publications/quarterly-reports). The latest report published by the NDIA is the Quarter 4 report for 2020/21.

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 16**  
**Asked on 14 July 2021**

**QUESTION:**

Will the Minister advise, between 2020-21 and 2021-22 to date (reported separately), the total number of people aged over 65 and therefore ineligible to access the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) who (a) contacted the department to access the NDIS, (b) of those, the number of people who were subsequently offered assistance through other departmental services and (c) a list of services accessed?

**ANSWER:**

- a) There are 17 recorded instances from 2020-21 of people advising that they had not been able to access the NDIS because they were over 65.

There are no recorded instances of this for 2021-22 to date.

- b) Every person's circumstances are different, and the Department will provide referral advice that is tailored to their circumstances.

Advice was provided to each of the 17 people as appropriate to their individual needs and circumstances to access other Commonwealth and State Government services, community organisations and advocacy services, including the Commonwealth's My Aged Care and State health services.

- c) Records of services that may have been accessed by people following advice from departmental officers is the responsibility of the provider of the service not the Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships.

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 17**  
**Asked on 14 July 2021**

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise

With reference to page 1 of the Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships SDS, which refers to improving the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders, and the \$5,310 cost to conduct an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family history request search – Will the Minister (a) provide a breakdown of the costs associated with conducting the search and (b) detail the number of searches conducted between 2020/21 and 2021/22 to date?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government is one of the key custodians of historical information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Queensland. This information exists because of the control past Queensland governments had over Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's lives, which led to a high volume of records being created up until the mid-1980s.

Providing access to personal information held in those records is extremely important to individuals, families and communities who were impacted by previous policies, supporting them to reconnect and heal.

The costs associated with responding to a request include: administration costs relating to the lodging, triaging and filing of the request; researching the records, collating, digitising and redacting the records; preparing the research report; and quality assurance of the research and redacting by senior staff. Also included in the calculation of the average cost of a request are costs associated with records management and the maintenance of a range of databases which are used to search for records and information.

The average request takes between one and six weeks to complete depending on the complexity of the request. It is not unusual for clients to receive over 500 pages of records and research reports can vary between five and 100 pages in length.

- a) It is not possible to associate a direct dollar value to specific requests or elements of requests due to the complexity and individuality of each request, and the reliance on existence of relevant historical records.
- b) The Community and Personal Histories unit responded to 609 requests for information and records in 2020-2021. The requests include requests for general family history information, for genealogical information required for Native Title claims or kinship mapping for children in care.

Of the 609 completed requests in the 2020-2021 period, Community and Personal Histories completed 17 requests for work history and 30 requests for birth and death confirmation relating to information required for the Wages and Savings Class Action (Hans Pearson v State of Queensland). These requests were not related to the Queensland Government Reparations scheme which closed in 2018 but came about as a result of the Class Action.

- c) To date, the unit has responded to 27 requests in the 2021-2022 period.

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 18**  
**Asked on 14 July 2021**

QUESTION:

With reference to the infrastructure upgrades at state special schools, such as Narbethong State School –

Will the Minister advise (a) the department's criteria for determining whether state special schools are eligible for infrastructure upgrades, for example are these based on infrastructure needs or enrolment growth and (b) apart from Education Queensland's Building Future Schools program, what other programs would provide for such upgrades, including those administered by the Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships?

ANSWER:

The Department of Education is responsible for infrastructure upgrades at state schools in Queensland. There are no programs funded or administered by the Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships that provide for upgrades to state special schools.

It would be appropriate to refer this question to the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing, The Honourable Grace Grace MP, as this falls under the Education portfolio.

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 19**  
**Asked on 14 July 2021**

QUESTION:

With reference to supports for Queenslanders with disability since the establishment of the NDIS –

Will the Minister advise (a) which state government programs have had their eligibility criteria narrowed, or funding reduced, (b) what supports have been established for people with disability who are not eligible for the NDIS, particularly those with psychosocial disability, (c) how the \$7.332 million over the forward estimates for disability services clients ineligible for the NDIS will be spent and (d) how the \$5.063 million over the forward estimates for disability services functions will be spent?

ANSWER:

(a)

On 8 May 2013, the Heads of Agreement between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments on the National Disability Insurance Scheme was agreed. This committed Queensland to an escalating contribution of over \$2 billion to enable specialist disability services, previously provided by the Queensland Government, to be provided under the NDIS.

Queensland's implementation of the NDIS, which commenced in 2016, involved a fundamental shift for the Queensland Government from provider of specialist disability services to investor and purchaser of specialist disability services from the Commonwealth Government, through the NDIS. As a result of Queensland's transition to the NDIS a wide range of services and supports are now available, based on person-centred assessment of life goals and individual needs.

The full terms of the *Bilateral Agreement between the Commonwealth of Australia and Queensland on the National Disability Insurance Scheme* commenced on 1 October 2020. In addition to Queensland's financial and non-financial commitments to the NDIS, Queensland has also committed under the Bilateral Agreement to provide continuity of support to people not eligible for the NDIS and ensure the interaction of the NDIS with other mainstream service systems in line with the National Disability Strategy and the Applied Principles and Tables of Supports.

The transition of former state disability clients to the NDIS occurred between July 2016 and June 2019. The existence and eligibility of Queensland government programs, across a range of portfolios were adjusted in-step with Queensland's phased geographical transition to the NDIS and the transition from the Queensland Government being a provider to a purchaser of specialist disability services under the NDIS. This is consistent with the agreed Queensland and Commonwealth obligations under the Bilateral Agreement, including its Applied Principles and Tables of Supports, and the Transition Operational Plan. These documents all remain accessible online: <https://www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/governance/intergovernmental-agreements#queensland>.

Overall, from the commencement of Queensland's NDIS transition in 2016, through to 30 June 2021, 50,138 Queenslanders were receiving a specialist disability support for the first time, highlighting the significant growth in services and supports available since NDIS transition commenced.

(b)

Continuity of support for people ineligible for the National Disability Insurance Scheme is provided under the *Bilateral Agreement between the Commonwealth and Queensland: Transition to a National Disability Insurance Scheme (Bilateral) – Schedule D – Continuity of Support Arrangements in Queensland*.

The Queensland Government is responsible for providing ongoing disability supports for clients under 65 years of age who did not meet the access requirements at the time the NDIS rolled out in their area. The Commonwealth Government is responsible for clients 65 years of age and older and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients 50 years and older.

On 1 July 2019, the Queensland Government also commenced the Queensland Community Support Scheme (QCSS) to support individuals who experience chronic illness, disability, mental health or other conditions at some point in their lifetime that impacts on their functional capacity to undertake regular day-to-day living activities and participate in the community.

The QCSS is administered by the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy. It sits within the broad framework of care and support options available to Queenslanders, including the NDIS, My Aged Care, Queensland Health, Housing and Homeless Services, as well as other formal and informal support networks and is available to provide supports to applicants who are not eligible for the Commonwealth Government's NDIS.

The Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships also funds the following programs which are available for all people with disability (irrespective of whether they are NDIS participants):

- Disability Advocacy, which supports people with disability to safeguard their rights and overcome barriers that can affect their ability to participate in the community.
- Disability Peak Bodies, which provides information and referral services, opportunities for greater community and economic engagement and capacity-building initiatives across the disability sector.

(c)

Funding of \$7.332 million over the forward estimates has been committed to the Continuity of Support program. This program funds a range of direct supports delivered to eligible clients (eligibility as discussed under (b) above) by contracted service providers.

The department contracts with service providers to provide supports to eligible clients that are reasonable and necessary to assist them to achieve their goals.

These supports may include:

- Respite Services
- Personal Care
- Case Management
- Shared Supported Accommodation
- In-home Support
- Behaviour Support
- Therapy Support
- Community Access

(d)

The Department's role is to support and advocate for people with disability, working in partnership with the disability sector to create an all-abilities Queensland and monitoring the NDIS to ensure it delivers the outcomes we all expect for Queenslanders with disability.

The \$5.076 million over the forward estimates (identified in Budget Paper 2, Budget Strategy



and Outlook, Chapter 7, page 140) will be spent over four years on the following functions:

- developing and implementing the state disability plan with a focus on employment of people with disability
- administering funding programs for disability advocacy and peak disability bodies
- managing complaints for people with disability
- administering the *Guide, Hearing and Assistance Dogs Act 2009*
- supporting sector development.

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 20**  
**Asked on 14 July 2021**

QUESTION

With reference to the Aboriginal Land Act – Will the Minister advise (a) how much is set aside for the administration of the Act, including for consultation with title holders, (b) what the department’s work plan is under this Act and (c) if the government is considering increasing the funding available to freehold title holders under the Act who cannot access commercial finance because of the inalienability of their title?

ANSWER:

This question should be directed to the Honourable Scott Stewart MP, Minister for Resources as the Minister with portfolio and administrative responsibility under Administrative Arrangements Order (No.1) 2021) for the *Aboriginal Land Act 1991* and the associated requested data.