

Question on Notice

No. 1090

Asked on 5 September 2018

DR C ROWAN ASKED THE DEPUTY PREMIER, TREASURER AND MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PARTNERSHIPS (HON J TRAD)

QUESTION:

With reference to the Queensland Productivity Commission's inquiry into service delivery in remote and discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities—

Will the Deputy Premier provide an update on the progress of (a) the joint community and government oversight committee, established to steer development and implementation of the Commission's reforms and (b) the progress of the Commission's reforms that were to be implemented by July 2018?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Productivity Commission's (QPC) Final Report into service delivery in remote and discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and the Queensland Government's Response, were publicly released on 22 June 2018.

My Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships is leading the whole-of-government implementation of the Queensland Government's response to the report and has undertaken planning and community consultations since the release of the Government's response.

A key element of the response is the establishment of the joint community and government oversight committee, which will ensure the collaboration necessary to implement a reform agenda of this scale. My department is working across government to identify the membership of the committee.

With respect to the progress of the Commission's recommended reforms, the QPC did not specify a timeframe for this large scale reform work. Instead, their Final Report acknowledges that this type of change requires a long term reform commitment, and can only be implemented in partnership with communities.

To achieve this, we have brought together Government, community and other stakeholders to co-design and implement place-based reforms that will create sustainable change informed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders and community.

My department will continue to engage with individual communities to inform the process of co-design by building on the existing strengths of communities to design and implement new actions that align with the reform agenda and the aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The Queensland Government is also continuing our conversations with all of the communities and community leaders to understand their strategic priorities. A major aspect of this engagement is the Queensland Government and Ministerial Champions program, which is a key enabler for this reform agenda. DATSIP is supporting relevant Directors-General and Ministers to undertake a range of community visits in 2018.

We are also working with individual communities to identify key priorities including recently supporting and participating in the Yarrabah Leaders Forum, with Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council and community leaders, at a two day strategic workshop on 13 and 14 September 2018 to plan future actions under key priorities, in line with the QPC model.

Another example of the work we are doing is in Cherbourg and Murgon where we are working with community leaders, across government and with non-Government organisations and private business to progress community priorities and identify and support local leadership.

In terms of a key future next step in the co-design engagement, a joint implementation planning workshop with all remote and discrete Mayors will occur at the Local Government Association of Queensland's Indigenous Leaders Forum in Brisbane on 29 October 2018.

The Palaszczuk Government will continue to work alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders to improve service delivery, economic opportunity and the social and emotion wellbeing.