

QFCC YOUTH SUMMIT REPORT



Queensland
Family & Child
Commission

MAY 2024

**QFCC YOUTH
SUMMIT**
10-11 APRIL 2024



Queensland
Family & Child
Commission



Queensland
Government

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Having decision makers present and asked to speak following each category was brilliant on a few levels, I really liked this... most of them seemed to have really heard what was said - I hope they act on their words.

- Sector professional



Message from the Commissioners

We are pleased to present a report detailing the achievements and short-term outcomes of the Queensland Family and Child Commission's (QFCC) inaugural Youth Summit 2024.

The summit, held on 10 and 11 April 2024, brought together a diverse array of stakeholders, including youth leaders, government and non-government decision-makers, community organisation leaders and Queensland Ministers. The two-day event amplified the lived experiences of young people aged under 25 years from across Queensland, providing a platform to voice ideas to improve the safety and wellbeing of children, young people, their families and communities.

Compelling speeches by 38 young Queenslanders on topics that are important to them, were heard by more than 200 attendees. These speakers were selected from an applicant pool of 73 by a panel of judges. Youth-led action planning workshops were held for young people to discuss topics raised on day one and to consider potential solutions and actions to create positive change. We were pleased to see the energy and enthusiasm from participants and attendees maintained over the two days.

Acknowledging the contributions of all speakers and attendees, the summit was successful in achieving its intended objectives including empowering youth voices; validating why youth voices should be embedded in policies and decisions that affect them and their families; fortifying the importance of collaborative partnerships with young people and youth-led initiatives; and identifying the importance of ongoing dialogue and collaboration beyond the summit.

The summit provided a platform for young people to express their views, concerns, and aspirations regarding family and child safety and wellbeing issues in Queensland. Through listening to youth speeches, participating in interactive workshops and brainstorming sessions, participants were encouraged to share their perspectives and ideas for action on several topics, including education, health, youth participation and cultural identity.

A series of insightful recommendations emerged from the speeches and workshops, reflecting the needs and priorities identified by young people. These recommendations encompassed areas such as

improving access to mental health support services, enhancing educational opportunities for vulnerable youth, promoting youth engagement in decision-making processes, and strengthening support networks for families in crisis.

The summit fostered collaboration and networking among stakeholders from government, non-government organisations, academia, and the private sector. By forging new partnerships and strengthening existing, participants explored innovative strategies for addressing the complex challenges facing children, young people and families in Queensland.

Recognising the importance of ongoing dialogue and collaboration, we are committed to sustaining the momentum generated by the summit. Plans are underway to develop an Impact Report to capture how the young people's voices are embedded in decision-making processes related to family and child safety and wellbeing services and policies.

The QFCC Youth Summit 2024 was a resounding success, providing a platform for meaningful dialogue, collaboration and action planning to improve the safety and wellbeing of Queensland children, young people, their families and communities. We are exceptionally proud of the young people who bravely represented their advocacy agendas and look forward to building on the momentum generated by the summit to create a brighter future for all Queenslanders.



Luke Twyford
Principal Commissioner
Queensland Family and Child
Commission



Natalie Lewis
Commissioner
Queensland Family and Child
Commission

Purpose

The purpose of the QFCC Youth Summit 2024 was to establish a platform for Queensland young people to share their thoughts, views and experiences with people in positions of power to create positive impact and influence policies and decisions that affect the safety and wellbeing of Queensland children, young people and families.

The summit aimed to provide an opportunity for leaders in government and non-government organisations to hear stories of young people, told by young people, to enhance the connection, understanding and resonance. The summit also provided an avenue for Youth Advocates and other people to consider and develop their advocacy agendas and connect with like-minded young people.

Theme

To retain a clear focus on the wellbeing of Queensland children, young people and their families, the summit speaker sessions and workshop themes were based on the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) Nest Wellbeing Framework.

The Nest is Australia’s principal national wellbeing framework for children and families. The Nest Wellbeing Framework captures factors that children, families and communities need to thrive across six critical life domains. Each of these domains has a direct impact on childhood development, and family and community wellbeing forms part of an interconnected system around each Queensland child.

Speeches and workshops were grouped into sessions by domain:

- Session 1 – Identity and Culture
- Session 2 – Learning
- Session 3 – Valued, Loved and safe
- Session 4 – Material basics
- Session 5 – Participating
- Session 6 – Healthy



“Speeches were excellent in each domain. It has made a big impact in my life, given the lived experiences.”

- Young speaker



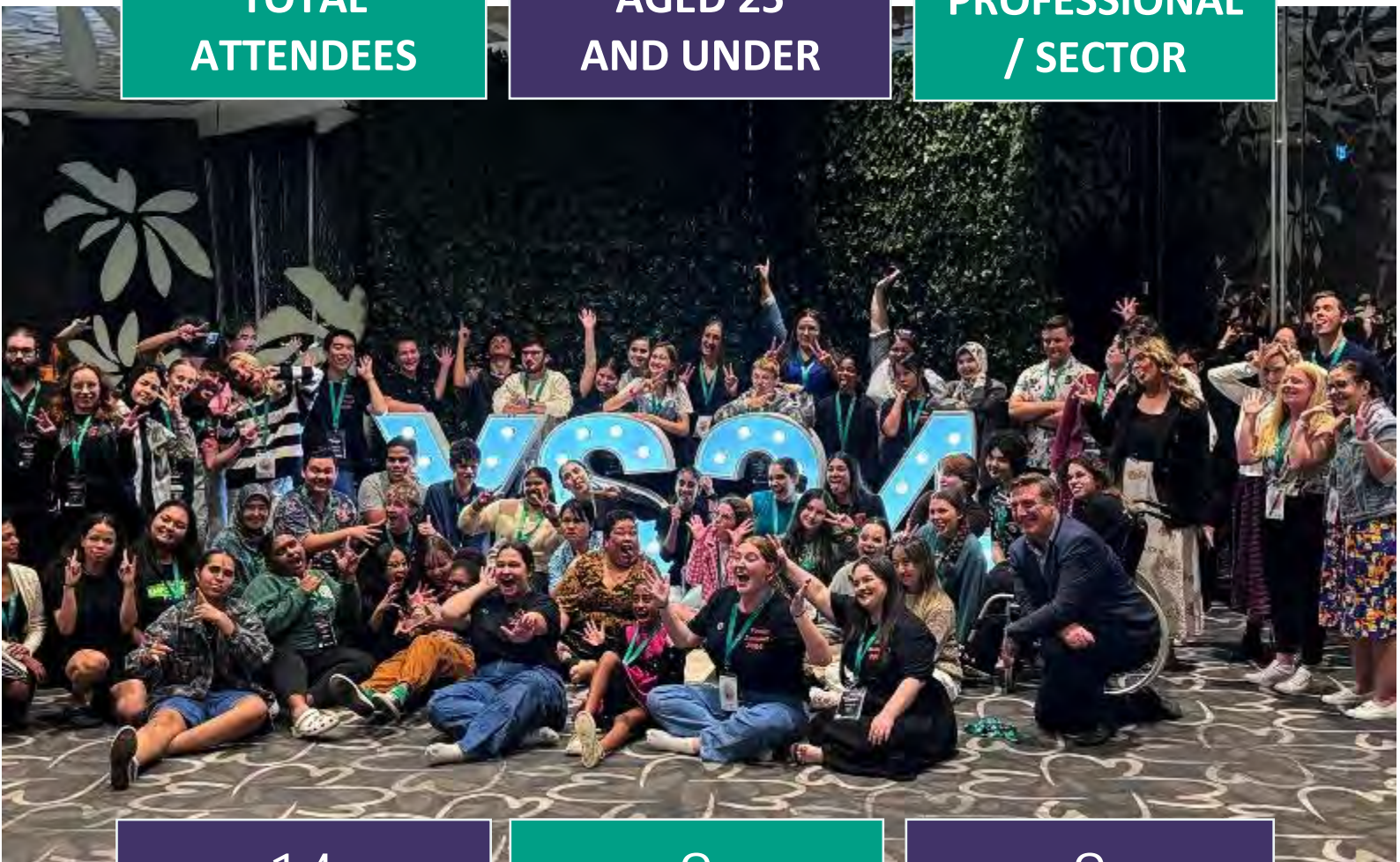
Attendees

The two-day Youth Summit saw an impressive turnout of over 200 participants, reflecting a strong sector and commitment to young people in Queensland. Day one was received as a successful platform for amplifying the views of young people, with day two acknowledged as momentum building, with interactive, youth-led workshops that focused on the common goals of enhancing the safety and wellbeing of children, young people, and their families. The event fostered dynamic discussions and practical strategies, highlighting the vital role of youth in shaping a safer, more supportive community. The enthusiasm and active participation underscored the summit's significance and forecasted impact.

234
TOTAL
ATTENDEES

44%
AGED 25
AND UNDER

56%
PROFESSIONAL
/ SECTOR



14
QFCC YOUTH
ADVOCATES

3
QUEENSLAND
MINISTERS

3
QUEENSLAND
COMMISSIONERS

Our partners

We are delighted to celebrate the remarkable partnership and attendance of our partners at the QFCC Youth Summit. Their unwavering support and active participation were pivotal to the event's success. Our partners brought invaluable insights, fostering an environment of collaboration and innovation. Their engagement not only enriched the summit's discussions but also inspired our youth, empowering them to drive positive change. Together, we have created a dynamic platform that amplifies young voices and addresses critical issues. We extend our gratitude to our partners for their commitment and look forward to continuing this impactful journey together.

THRIVING
QLD KIDS

CHILDREN'S
RIGHTS QLD

The ASE
Group

NAPCAN

KIDS
HELPLINE

QMHC

Media coverage

Journalists from ABC and Brisbane Times attended the Youth Summit. Brisbane Times published an article about Youth Summit speaker Blake, a proud Darumbal and Yiman man from Rockhampton, who spoke about cultural disconnect and loss of identity within child protection agencies and what we can change in the future to allow for future Elders to be connected to culture. The article featured an interview with Blake and QFCC Commissioner Natalie Lewis. This article was published across the national Nine Entertainment digital network (Brisbane Times, The Age, WA Today and Sydney Morning Herald), reaching an estimated audience of 1.8 million readers. The Longreach Leader also published an article featuring an interview with 17-year-old Jozette, who spoke at the Youth Summit about powering the change for youth in 2024.

Blake lost touch with his culture in high school. Then in year 12, something clicked

As a kid growing up in central Queensland, Blake lies remembers feeling very connected to his Yiman and Darumbal culture.

At 12, though, he was removed from his home and sent to live with his non-Indigenous family. His younger brothers, aged two and four, were put into foster care.



After being removed from his home at 12, it took years for Blake to reconnect with his Indigenous culture again. QFCC Youth Summit

"I lost a lot of touch with my culture, and my brothers did as well," he says.

lies, now 19, travelled from Rockhampton to speak at the Queensland Family and Child Commission's Youth Summit in Brisbane last month, where young people shared experiences and ideas on the issues that affect them.

He was the first to step up to the podium, and spoke about the years he spent in out-of-home care, and his feeling of losing his Indigenous culture and identity during his formative school years.

"I was known as the kid who wasn't black enough because I came from a white household," he told this masthead after the summit.

"There were times I felt a lot of shame and that's why I didn't try to get involved in my culture until I was older.

"Through high school, I didn't feel like a proud Indigenous man."

Things changed when lies was invited to do a Welcome to Country at his school in grade 12. He says something in him just clicked.

"I looked for more ways to explore my culture. When I moved schools, I joined a dance group and it just went from there."

lies now works with Groove Co., a company that delivers programs in schools teaching cultural safety, advocacy, knowledge and connection.

"In this general area in Rockhampton, not enough has been done to involve Indigenous kids with their culture, heritage and traditions," lies says.

"Some people are never going to figure out who they truly are, and they're never going to learn about their culture because they haven't been given any opportunity."



Blake lies was the first young person to speak at the inaugural QFCC Youth Summit last month. Courtney Kirk



lies has become an advocate for children in out-of-home care to discover and celebrate their identity. Blake lies

SNAICC's 2023 Family Matters Report found there were 22,328 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children living in out-of-home care. The report also found that fewer than half of Indigenous children in care are living with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander carers.

QFCC Commissioner Natalie Lewis says there's a gross over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in statutory systems like child protection and youth justice – and they have intertwined effects.

"The need for children to maintain that connection with kin, Country and culture is absolutely fundamental for their development of a sense of identity," Lewis says.

"It's a human longing that we all have for belonging and connection to something."

Without this, Lewis says young people, particularly those in early adolescence, are prone to finding connection elsewhere.

"We see that loss of cultural identity and that positive connection to culture can be displaced or replaced by becoming involved in other types of things," she says.

RELATED ARTICLE



Perspective Public housing

This is all for me?: Inside the unit block that overwhelms new tenants



Natalie Lewis, a descendant of the Gamilarayay Nation, was appointed QFCC Commissioner in May 2020. QFCC

"One of the things we grossly underestimate is the significant strength of culture as a protective factor for children becoming involved in youth offending."

It's not an optional extra – it's a proven long-term necessity for children in care.

"If we make decisions to sever the connection that that child has to their family, to their community, to their language, their country, that is going to have lifelong ramifications for that child," Lewis says.

"It has to be a consideration in every decision we make about a child because the moment we compromise their connection to culture and to their family, then we put them on a trajectory for a life course where that identity will be formed by things that might not be as positive."

lies is aware his life could have taken a different turn, had he not reconnected with his culture. It's one of the reasons he's determined to continue advocating in the space.

"I really do love helping people get to experience something like I did. I think giving kids an opportunity to express their culture and be a part of it is a blessing."

Day 1: The conference

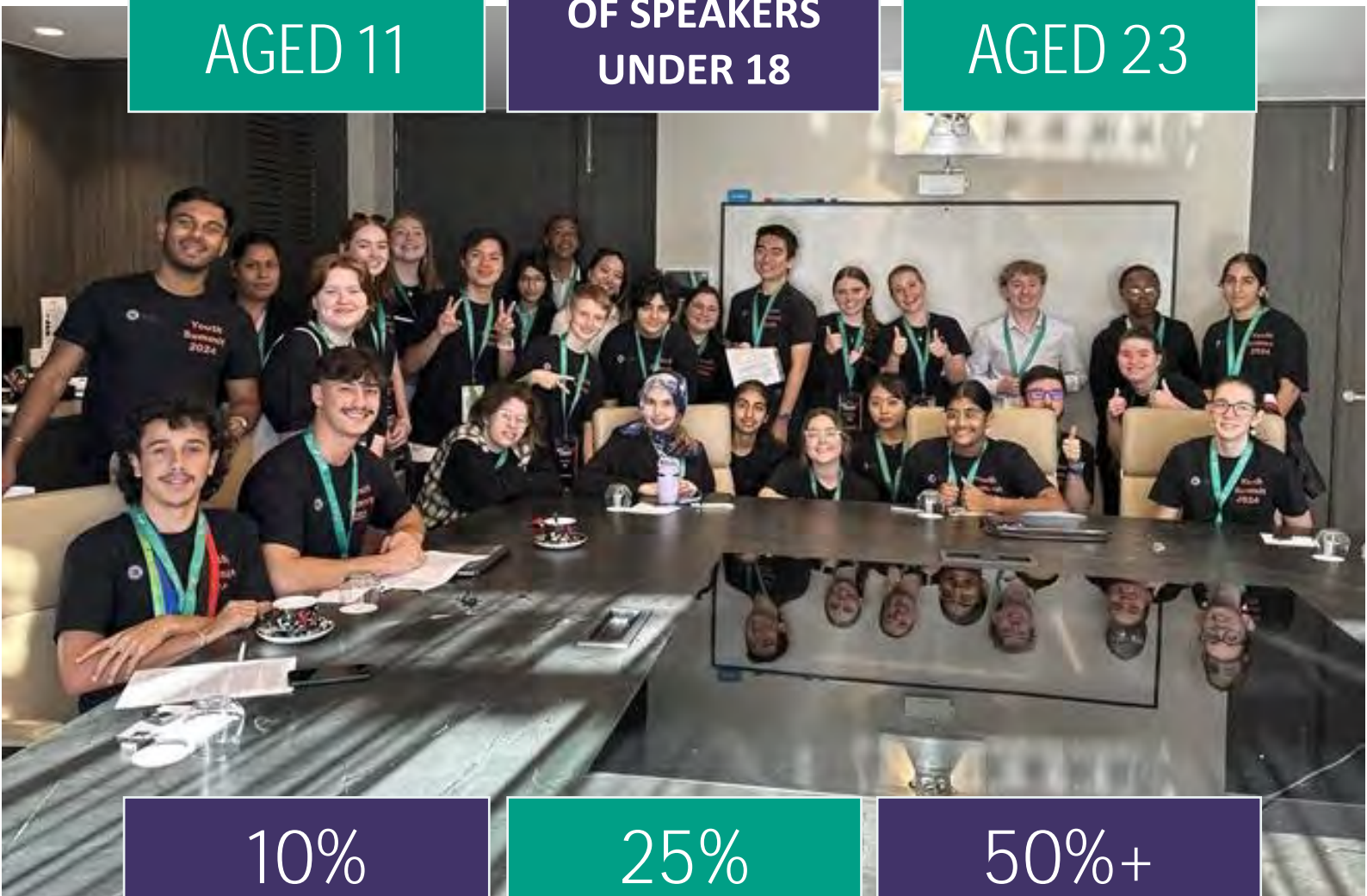
The inaugural QFCC Youth Summit took place at the Emporium Hotel in South Bank on April 10 and 11, in celebration of Queensland Youth Week 2024. This event provided a platform for young people under 25 from across Queensland to share their ideas for positive change. Thirty-five young Queenslanders delivered powerful 6-minute speeches on important topics to over 200 attendees, including Queensland Ministers and community leaders.

The young speakers travelled from as far as Longreach, Rockhampton, Cairns, St George, Horn Island and Bamaga. The furthest location travelled was from Horn Island to Brisbane, at a distance of 2,184 kilometres. The longest car journey, from St George to Brisbane, was 600 kilometres. More than 50 per cent of young speakers travelled from outside the Greater Brisbane region.

**YOUNGEST
SPEAKER
AGED 11**

**30%
OF SPEAKERS
UNDER 18**

**ELDEST
SPEAKER
AGED 23**



**10%
IDENTIFY AS
GENDER DIVERSE**

**25%
IDENTIFY AS
FIRST NATIONS**

**50%+
FROM OUTSIDE
GREATER BRISBANE**



Charis Mullen MP opened the event, followed with heartfelt and considered reflection speeches delivered by Attorney-General Yvette D’Ath MP, Leeanne Enoch MP, Queensland Mental Health Commissioner Ivan Frkovic, QFCC Commissioners Luke Twyford and Natalie Lewis, Deputy Director-General Phillip Brooks, Thriving Queensland Kids Partnerships Convenor Michael Hogan, and Q Shelter Capacity Lead and Child Death Review Board member Murray Benton.

The QFCC Youth Summit provided rich networking opportunities for all stakeholders, including Youth Advocates, young attendees, sector leaders, Queensland Ministers, QFCC staff, and other participants. Informal mingling during breaks and structured networking sessions allowed attendees to establish connections and exchange ideas. The event’s collaborative atmosphere empowered young people to start conversations and build connections with influential people that can support their advocacy journeys.



Jahin Tanvir, CEO of the Australian School of Entrepreneurship and a renowned public speaker, emceed the conference.

Songwoman Maroochy Barambah, an Aboriginal Elder from Brisbane with Turrbal and Gubbi Gubbi ancestry, delivered a memorable Welcome to Country.

Kids Helpline supported the event by providing two counsellors to attend for the full day to assist participants and attendees during times of need.

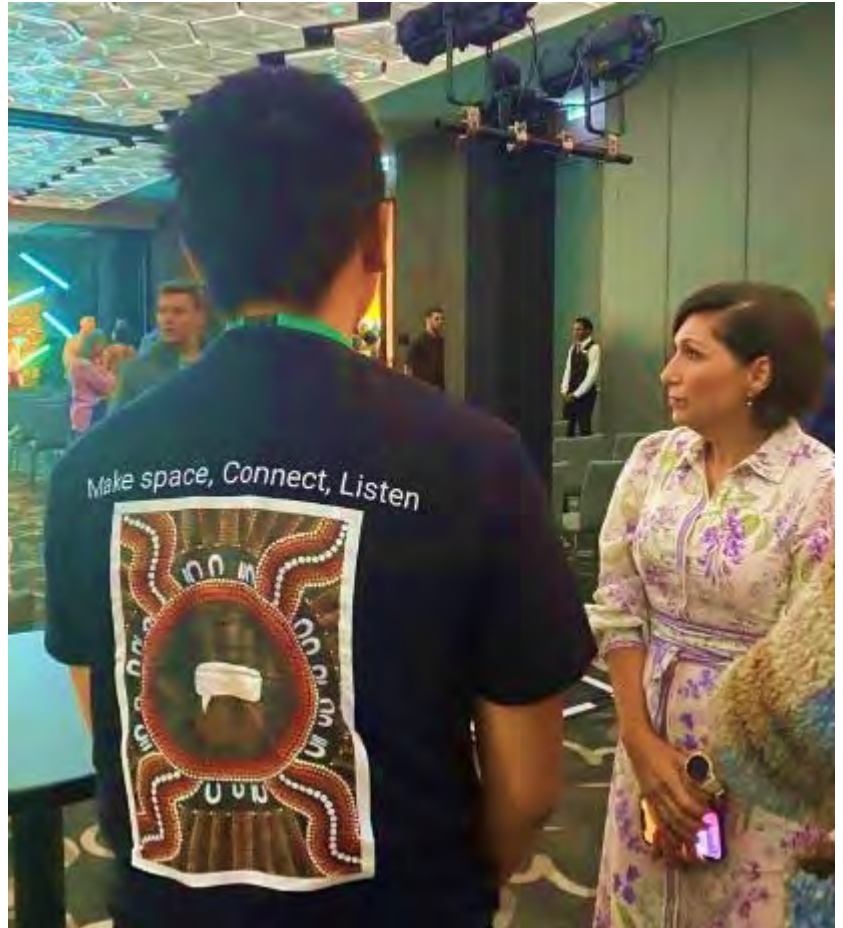


Young people informed this project

The Conference (Day 1) was informed by young people including QFCC Engagement Support Officers and Youth Advocates.

A QFCC Youth Summit T-shirt was donned by all young speakers, the Principal Commissioner Luke Twyford and key QFCC event management team members, to create a sense of community and inspire connectedness among the young speakers. The T-shirt design was selected from a series of designs that were submitted as part of a design competition held prior to the summit as a method for generating awareness of the summit and engaging with young Queensland people, up and coming young artists and Queensland youth advocates to inspire interest, participation and promotion of the event. The winning design was 'Make space, Connect, Listen' by 15-year-old Rockhampton artist Niah Hoffman.

The speeches were documented through various methods for future communication and engagement. A locked camera recorded the full day event, capturing each individual speech. An illustrative recorder provided visual representations of each speaker, presenting the artwork on the main screen at the end of each speaker session. A roaming camera captured organic footage throughout the day and a piece-to-camera studio erected for individual interviews of young speakers, reflection speakers and stakeholders to facilitate vox-pop media.



Speaker Session 1: Identity and culture

IDENTITY AND CULTURE

BLAKE
EMPOWERING CHILD SAFETY THROUGH CULTURAL TRANSFORMATION A PERSONAL JOURNEY
SEPERATION FROM CULTURE → DISASSOCIATION
CULTURE CONNECTION STORY
INCREASE CULTURAL CONNECTION WHEREVER YOU LIVE...

HUDA
SHIFTING FOCUS
LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE FAMILIES
MISTRUST → WE NEED EMPATHY
EDUCATION RELATIONSHIPS
TRUST + TRANSPARENCY
PROACTIVE STEPS → PREVENT ESCALATION
COLLABORATION
VALUED SUPPORT

PRIYA
DIVERSE CHANGEMAKERS
ENCOURAGE DIVERSITY
170 ANCESTORIES
WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP NOT REPRESENTED
EXPRESS YOURSELF
CULTURAL INTERSECTIONALITY → BARRIERS → MAKES YOU UNEMPLOYED SKILLED

RHEA
WE ARE NOT ALONE
I WAS SCARED → BUT NOW I SHARE MY STORY
YOUTH INNOVATION GRANT
YOU MAY FEEL LONELY BUT YOU'RE NEVER ALONE
ADVOCATE SAFE SPACE
EXPAID INITIATIVE
REMOVE BARRIERS UNDERSTAND

SHRADDA
RACISM AND BULLYING
TOUCHES LIVES OF MULTICULTURAL AUSTRALIANS
PROMOTE HUMAN DIGNITY
RACE AWARENESS
SENSE OF BELONGING
SMILE EMPATHY
SUPPORTIVE DIALOGUE
DEPRESSION ANXIETY INSAFETY

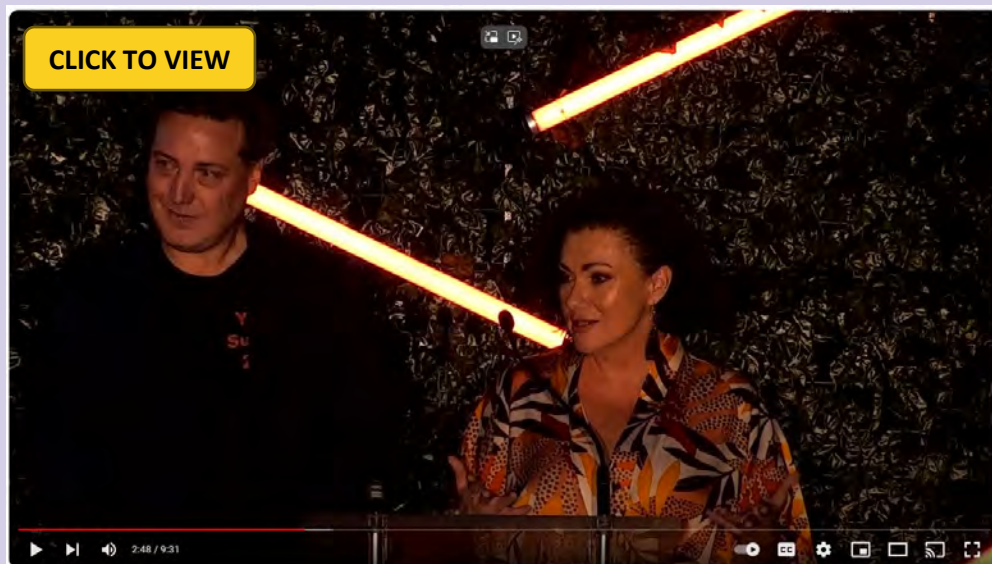
TOBYN
FROM CLASSROOM TO COMMUNITY
CULTURAL LEADERSHIP
REVIVE FORGOTTEN CULTURE
SHAME FOR DANCE + SONG
CHANGE VOICE
VALUED + SAFE + SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES
CONTINUOUS
RECOGNISABLE FACES
EDUCATE
LEADERSHIP PROFOUND + SACRED
RIPPLE EFFECT

REFLECTIONS:
TRUST + TRANSPARENCY
REPRESENTATION = OPPORTUNITY
NOT JUST LISTEN GET BEHIND
REDUCE SHAME
LEADERSHIP IS BIGGER THAN A ROLE
RACE IS CONSTRUCTED
CLEAR ACTIONS
INTERSECTIONALITY = VALUE

THE HON LEEANNE ENOCH MP
BREATHE IN DNA OF STORY
ALL OF US... ENERGY
CROSSROADS OF HUMANITY
MANY OF YOU IN THIS ROOM WILL LEAD THIS CHANGE
1000 YEARS OF CHANCE IN 10
WE STAND WITH YOU.
STORY BRINGS US TOGETHER

SESSION REFLECTION SPEAKER Commissioners Luke Twyford and Natalie Lewis

Queensland Family and Child Commission



BLAKE

EMPOWERING CHILD SAFETY THROUGH CULTURAL TRANSFORMATION A PERSONAL JOURNEY

SEPERATION FROM CULTURE → DISASSOCIATION → CULTURE CONNECTION STORY

PLEASE CULTURAL UNDERSTAND AND UNDERSTAND US LIVE...

QFCC YOUTH SUMMIT 2024

Watch Blake's video: qfcc.qld.gov.au/Blake

to allow for all to be connected with their culture.

Blake is a proud Darumbal and Yiman man, aged 19, from Rockhampton. At the QFCC Youth Summit, Blake drew on his personal experience and spoke about empowering child safety through cultural transformation. He highlighted the cultural disconnect and loss of identity within child protection agencies and made suggestions for future improvements to support cultural connections for future Elders.

HUDA

SHIFTING FOCUS LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE FAMILIES

MISTRUST → WE NEED EMPATHY → PRODUCTIVE STEPS → PREVENT EVALUATION

EDUCATION RELATIONSHIPS → TRUST + TRANSPARENCY → COLLABORATION → VALUED SUPPORT → SUPPORT

QFCC YOUTH SUMMIT 2024

Watch Huda's video: qfcc.qld.gov.au/Huda

of our child protection and family intervention services.

Huda is 19 years of age, from Acacia Ridge and she is a member of the Multicultural Australia Future Leaders Advocacy Group and QPASTT Youth Voice Group. At the QFCC Youth Summit, Huda spoke about transforming our approach towards family safety intervention services when working with culturally and linguistically diverse families. She noted the importance of ensuring culture, understanding, respect and safety are at the core of this process when navigating families through complex and challenging experiences to ensure healing and reunification can take place.

PRIYA

DIVERSE CHANGEMAKERS

ENCOURGE DIVERSITY
Q170 ANCESTORIES
WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP
BARRIERS
NOT REPRESENTED

EXPRESS YOURSELF
CULTURAL INTERSECTIONALITY
WHEN YOU UNINHIBITED

QFCC YOUTH SUMMIT 2024

Watch Priya's video:
qfcc.qld.gov.au/Priya

the true impact that unapologetically expressing your diversity has,

Priya is 18 and from the Gold Coast. She is a passionate intersectional youth advocate studying law. She was the 2023 Youth Member for Southport within YMCA Queensland Youth Parliament, is currently founding the Southport Youth Advisory Council, and was selected as the 2023 Gold Coast Bulletin Young Woman of the Year. At the QFCC Youth Summit, Priya spoke about ‘Diverse Changemakers’ and how we need to change our perceptions and biases to best elevate the voices of intersectional women in our communities and empower them to achieve their potential and their goals, uninhibited.

RHEA

WE ARE NOT ALONE

I WAS SCARED → BUT NOW I SHARE MY STORY
YOUTH INNOVATION GRANT
ADVOCATE LIKE SWOR
EXPAND INITIATIVE
REMOVE BARRIERS UNDERSTAND
EMPOWERED PEOPLE

QFCC YOUTH SUMMIT 2024

Watch Rhea's video:
qfcc.qld.gov.au/Rhea

we are not alone

So how do we make regional Australia a better place for young people

Rhea is 18 and lives in regional Queensland. She’s currently studying veterinary science and is a lead organiser of an initiative called “We are not alone.” At the QFCC Youth Summit Rhea spoke about this youth initiative designed to empower young people with disability, chronic illness and/or who identify as neurodivergent. From pitching it in Queensland Parliament to delivering the event in Toowoomba, it’s been a journey.

SHRADDHA

RACISM AND BULLYING

TOUCHES LIVES OF MULTICULTURAL AUSTRALIANS

PROMOTE HUMAN DIGNITY

SENSE OF BELONGING

DEPRESSION

RACISM

INSTEAD OF UNSAFE

SMILE

EMOTION

SUPPORTIVE DIALOGUE

QFCC YOUTH SUMMIT 2024

Watch Shraddha's video:
qfcc.qld.gov.au/Shraddha

Scared that you'll be bullied.

Shraddha is 14 and lives in Brisbane. What truly drives her is the belief that everyone should feel safe, valued and included. She loves empowering and encouraging others to make a positive change in society and to raise their voice. At the QFCC Youth Summit, Shraddha spoke about how bullying and racist comments are not just words but barriers that inhibit countless individuals from reaching their full potential and having a sense of belonging and self-value. She believes in a world where inclusion is not just ideal, but a reality.

TOBYN

FROM CLASSROOM TO COMMUNITY

CULTURAL LEADERSHIP

REVIVE FORGOTTEN CULTURE

CONTINUES

RECOGNISABLE FACES

EDUCATE

LEADERSHIP

PROFOUND + SACRED

SOME FOR DANCE + SONG

3-4 MINUTE

VALUED UP SAFE

COMPELLING

SUSCEPTIBLE

RIPPLE EFFECT

QFCC YOUTH SUMMIT 2024

Watch Tobyn's video:
qfcc.qld.gov.au/Tobyn

cultural leadership within the Indigenous community.

Tobyn is a proud Gangulu and Iman man from Rockhampton. At the QFCC Youth Summit, Tobyn spoke about how cultural leadership in Indigenous communities is crucial for fostering understanding and empowerment. Tobyn sees cultural leaders as Indigenous people who carry the wisdom, culture and stories of our ancestors, then pass down that knowledge to our young people so that they know who they are and how the country around them was made. Tobyn hopes that his speech helps people to understand some of the struggles Indigenous communities feel.

Speaker Session 2: Learning

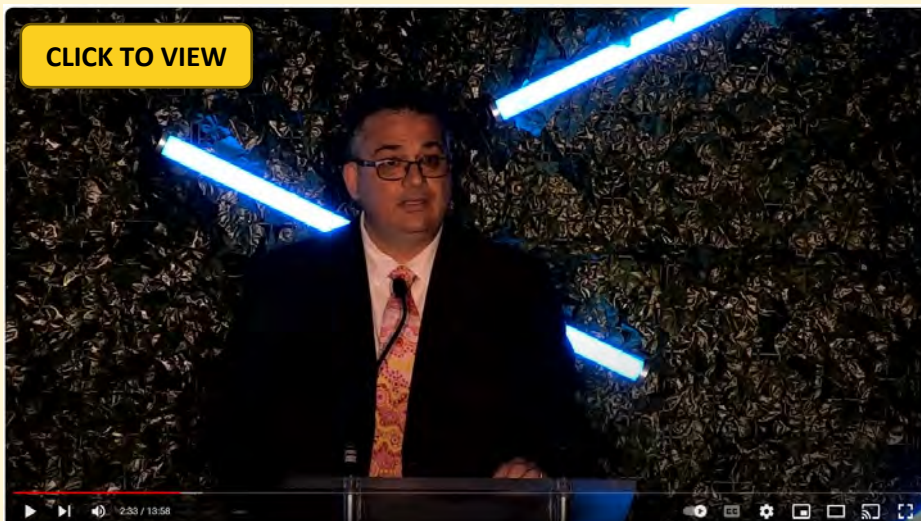
LEARNING

- CASDEN LET'S RECONNECT**
 - FAVOURITE TEACHER MEANS BEING UNDERSTOOD
 - COVID FORCED TECH TO CONNECT
 - WE NEED POSITIVE TECH
 - SUPPORT CONFIDENCE TO LEARN
 - SHOULD BENEFIT STUDENTS (NOT JUST SCHOOLS)
- SARA SCHOOL OR SUFFERING**
 - EFFORT = SUCCESS
 - GRADES ARE NOT THE WHOLE STORY...
 - EXHAUSTING BURDEN
 - HAS IT BECOME A TOOL OF OPPRESSION...
 - ALTERNATE PATHWAY
 - CRITICAL THINKING
 - PROBLEM SOLVING
 - CREATIVITY
 - YOU'RE NOT THINKING ABOUT LEARNING?
 - HAVE WE MISSED THE POINT IF STUDENTS DON'T WANT TO ATTEND?
- LANI A GATEWAY TO A BETTER NATION**
 - EDUCATIONAL GAPS IN REGIONAL CENTRES
 - TEACHER SHORTAGES + UNDER QUALIFIED
 - FUNDING FOR WORK EXPERIENCE
 - RE-DIRECT FUNDS + RESOURCES
 - WE GET FORGOTTEN...
 - FUNDING FOR MATERIALS
- ZEB EDUCATIONAL INEQUALITY**
 - REMOTE REGION
 - OUR EDUCATION IS 3 YEARS BEHIND
 - DISADVANTAGE
 - COME AND SEE FOR YOURSELF
- ANIKA INACCESSIBILITY FOR HUMANITARIAN VISA HOLDERS, REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS**
 - WORKED HARD TO PREPARE FOR COLLEGE BUT THEN...
 - WAR BROUGHT ME HERE
 - MY FUTURE IS IN THE HANDS OF THE GOVERNMENT
 - INTERNATIONAL FEES??
 - SCHOLARSHIPS??
 - STAY
 - GO
- THANK YOU SPEAKERS!**
 - INSIGHTS INTO CHALLENGES
 - OUR SYSTEM MUST ADDRESS...
 - TEACHER SHORTAGES NATION-WIDE ISSUE
 - MORE WORK TO DO...
 - BUT WE HAVE A STRATEGY
 - TECH + DIGITAL
 - TEACHERS ATTRACT SUPPORT GROW
 - WHO ARE YOU? KNOW YOUR CULTURE
 - SUPPORT OTHERS
 - CONNECTION TO CULTURE LANGUAGE ACCESS
 - PATHWAYS SUPPORT

SESSION REFLECTION SPEAKER

Mr Phillip Brooks

Deputy Director-General, First Nations Strategy and Partnerships, Department of Education



CASPEN

LET'S RECONNECT

FAVOURITE TEACHER MEANS BEING UNDERSTOOD

COVID FORCED TECH TO TEACH

SUPPORT CONFIDENCE TO LEARN

WE NEED POSITIVE TECH

SHOULD BENEFIT STUDENTS (NOT JUST SCHOOLS)

QFCC YOUTH SUMMIT 2024

Watch Caspen's video: qfcc.qld.gov.au/Caspen

who aren't being understood, and so they aren't learning the way that they need.

Caspen is 17 and is a proud Dharug person living in Mango Hill. Caspen aims to be a voice for the voiceless and fight for the rights of all young people, regardless of their identity, ethnicity, culture, upbringing, or disability. At the QFCC Youth Summit, Caspen spoke about how the integration of technology into schooling was once a positive enforcement to connect students with teachers, but asked the question, why are we now so disconnected?

SARA

SARA SCHOOL OR SUFFERING

EFFORT = SUCCESS

GRADES ARE NOT THE WHOLE STORY...

EXHAUSTING BURDEN

ALTERNATE PATHWAY

CRITICAL THINKING

PROBLEM SOLVING

CREATIVITY

QFCC YOUTH SUMMIT 2024

Watch Sara's video: qfcc.qld.gov.au/Sara

feel like we are suffocating under such a burden?

Sara is 18, from Merrimac. Sara wants to make society and the world a better place to live in. At the QFCC Youth Summit, Sara spoke about the improvements needed in the Australian education system to help the future generation. Sara's suggestions for improvements include better teacher guidance, increased school funding and better work experience options. Sara believes that these improvements will help the next generation to develop as more blissful human beings.

LANI

LANI A GATEWAY TO A BETTER NATION

- EDUCATIONAL GAPS IN REGIONAL CENTRES
- TEACHER SHORTAGES + UNDER QUALIFIED
- FUNDING FOR WORK EXPERIENCE
- HELLO WE GET FORGOTTEN...
- IMPROVE CONDITIONS
- FUNDING FOR MATERIALS
- RE-DIRECT FUNDS + RESOURCES

COME AND SEE FOR YOURSELF

QFCC YOUTH SUMMIT 2024

Watch Lani's video: qfcc.qld.gov.au/Lani

and the opportunities available to us, or lack thereof, do little to help.

Lani is 16 and from Bargara in regional Queensland. Lani is currently attending high school in Bundaberg. At the QFCC Youth Summit, Lani spoke about education in regional Queensland, the shortage of educators and how she believes better outcomes for regional people can be achieved.

ZEB

ZEB EDUCATIONAL INEQUALITY

- REMOTE REGION
- OUR EDUCATION IS 3 YEARS BEHIND
- DISADVANTAGE
- COME AND SEE FOR YOURSELF

QFCC YOUTH SUMMIT 2024

Watch Zeb's video: qfcc.qld.gov.au/Zeb

The outcome of the education of our children in the NPA is very poor

Zeb is a proud 23-year-old First Nations young person with connections to mobs Geemoiburra Yarraburra, Gunggandji Gurraburra, Djiru, Wagadagam, Kaurareg, Geomu and Italgai. Zeb lives in the remote regional community of Umagico, part of the Northern Peninsula Area. Zeb is passionate about helping young people and spoke about preventing educational inequity at the QFCC Youth Summit.

ANIKA

INACCESSIBILITY FOR HUMANITARIAN VISA HOLDERS, REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

I WOULD LIKE TO PREPARE FOR COLLEGE BUT THEN...

WAR BROUGHT ME HERE

UNCERTAINTY

MY FUTURE IS IN THE HANDS OF THE GOVERNMENT

STAY

GO

SCHOLARSHIPS??

QFCC YOUTH SUMMIT 2024

Watch Anika's video: qfcc.qld.gov.au/Anika

Russian invasion of Ukraine started on the 24th February

0:56 / 4:44

Anika is 16. She lives in South Brisbane and is originally from the Ukraine. She is a year 12 student at Brisbane State School and enjoys playing the piano, drawing and playing games. At the QFCC Youth Summit, Anika spoke about tertiary education inaccessibility for temporary humanitarian visa holders, refugees and asylum seekers. Anika also highlighted the extremely limited pathways refugees face while pursuing tertiary education, and how this inaccessibility will affect this, and future generations' school leavers, and also provided possible solutions.

YOUTH SUMMIT 2024

Speaker Session 3: Valued, loved and safe

VALUED, LOVED AND SAFE

OLIVER CHILD SAFETY REFORM
 MY ABUSE WASN'T ADDRESSED
 NO ONE SPOKE DIRECTLY TO ME
 VOICES HEARD
 MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO REPORT ABUSE
 INFO COMPLAINTS ACCESS

RUBY CLOSING THE GAP
 CHILDREN EXPOSED TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
 TREATED LIKE A SHOCK
 KIDS OF PURPLE
 EDUCATE CONNECT SUPPORT
 BREAK THE CYCLE SUPPORT YOUTH
 5X MORE LIKELY TREATED FOR MENTAL ILLNESS
 NOT ENOUGH SUPPORT

CHARIS RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
 STIGMA
 MENTAL HEALTH IMPACTS
 LEARNED DONALD REPPON
 MADE ME HATE MY CULTURE AND WHERE I AM FROM
 START IN SCHOOLS
 CELEBRATE CULTURES
 BRING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER
 SHARE SPACES
 INCREMENTAL CHANGE

CAROLINE SIBLING CARERS
 I HAD TO ENSURE MY SIBLINGS BEHAVED AND WERE OKAY WHILE IN CARE... AS A TEENAGER
 KINSHIP CARER @ 18
 WHILE MY BROTHER WAS IN MY CARE HE ASSUMED SUICIDE
 I HAD NO SUPPORT
 I AM ANGRY...
 THE PEOPLE WHO WERE SUPPOSED TO PROTECT ME - FAILED ME
 I CAN'T BE A CAREFREE 24 YEAR OLD
 SIBLING

ABBEY FEELING VALUED WITHIN COMMUNITIES
 SHOULD... BUT WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?
 INTERNAL VALIDATION
 LEADERS = CONDUITS FOR CHANGE
 SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE WHO SEE YOUR WORTH
 SELF ESTEEM
 IDENTIFY POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS
 FIND YOUR PLACE
 EVENTS RESOURCES
 FUNDING FOR EVENTS
 SUPPORTS IN SCHOOLS

MUSKAAN SPENDING TIME WITH FAMILY REDUCES CRIME AND CREATES SAFER COMMUNITIES
 PARENTS WORK MORE COST OF LIVING
 MAKE IT EASIER FOR PARENTS TO SPEND MORE TIME @ HOME
 ALSO FINANCIAL GAINING
 HIGHER CRIME RATES
 ONCE THEY COMMIT A CRIME IMPACTS SUBURB
 DETENTION DOESN'T HELP

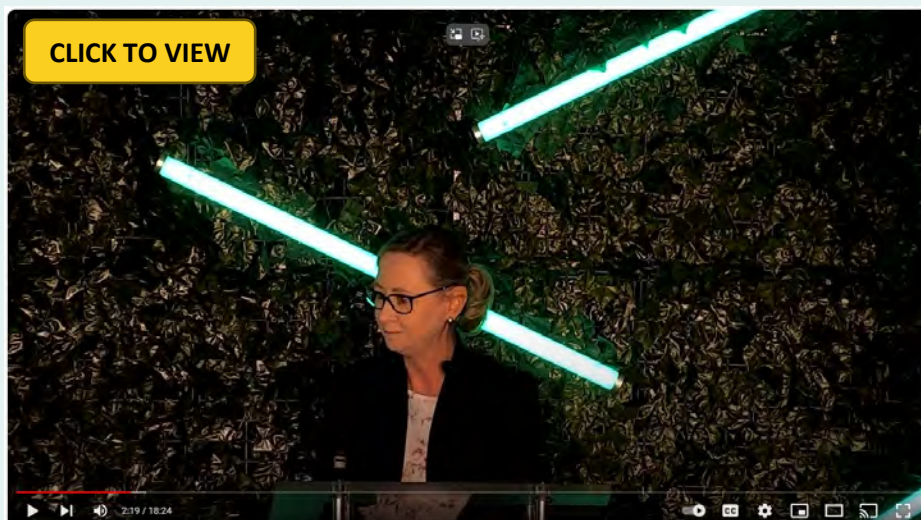
MALAKA MAKE IT HAPPEN TODAY!
 YOU CANNOT CHANGE WHAT YOU CAN'T CONFRONT
 LISTEN TO THE LYRICS INSIDE THEIR SONGS
 KIDS CAN'T CHANGE OVERNIGHT
 KEEP SIBLINGS TOGETHER

THE HON YVETTE D'ATH MP
 THAT WAS INCREDIBLY INSPIRING + BRAVE
 VALUED, LOVED + SAFE
 FUNDAMENTAL
 YOU'VE BEEN LET DOWN AND I AM SORRY
 WE MUST LISTEN OR REPEAT MISTAKES OF THE PAST
 IT STARTS WITH RESPECT
 OUR SYSTEM DOESN'T OFFER HOUSING SUPPORT + CARE WELL ENOUGH
 YOUNG PEOPLE FRONT + CENTRE
 HATE SHOULD NEVER BE ACCEPTABLE
 ONE PARENTS GOOD SUPPORT SO THEY CAN GIVE GOOD CARE
 LOOK AFTER EACH INDIVIDUAL

SESSION REFLECTION SPEAKER

The Hon Yvette D'Ath MP

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence





Watch Oliver's video:
qfcc.qld.gov.au/Oliver

Oliver is 21 years of age, lives in Toowoomba and is a volunteer with the CREATE Foundation. They use their experience of ageing out of the foster system, being queer and disabled, to fight for a better government. At the QFCC Youth Summit, Oliver spoke about Child Safety reform and the negligence of children in the child protection system and the need for more tools for children to advocate for themselves.



Watch Ruby's video:
qfcc.qld.gov.au/Ruby

Ruby is 16 and from Hope Island. She is a student with a passion for social justice advocacy and has developed a not-for-profit organisation for young people affected by domestic and family violence. At the QFCC Youth Summit, Ruby spoke about the need for awareness on domestic violence and support for young people who witness domestic violence in the home.

CHARIS

CHARIS RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

STIGMA I FEEL WANT TO BE IN SCHOOL

MENTAL HEALTH IMPACTS

LINKED SOCIAL UPON

MADE ME FEEL POSSIBLE BY GARDEN AND WARRIE AM FROM

CELEBRATE CULTURES

BEING OPPRESSED

SAFE SPACES

INCREMENTAL

CARACIDE

QFCC YOUTH SUMMIT 2024

Watch Charis's video: qfcc.qld.gov.au/Charis

Children may become unwilling to attend school

Charis is 15 and lives in Yarrabilba. She is a native of Delta State Nigeria. At the QFCC Youth Summit, Charis shared her personal experiences of racism in her school and community.

CAROLINE

CAROLINE SIBLING CARERS

I HAD TO ENSURE MY SIBLINGS BEHAVED AND WERE OKAY WHILE IN CARE... AS A TEENAGER

KINSHIP CARER @ 19

WHILE MY BROTHER WAS IN MY CARE HE ATTEMPTED SUICIDE

I HAD NO SUPPORT

I AM ANGRY...

I CAN'T BE A CAREFREE 24 YEAR OLD

THE PEOPLE WHO WERE SUPPOSED TO PROTECT ME - FAILED ME

QFCC YOUTH SUMMIT 2024

Watch Caroline's video: qfcc.qld.gov.au/Caroline

My experience within the care system was far from ideal.

Caroline is 23 and lives on the Gold Coast. Caroline spoke about sibling carers at the QFCC Youth Summit and how the government can help older siblings to provide care to their younger siblings and to navigate their own lives as young adults.

ABBEY

ABBEY FEELING VALUED WITHIN COMMUNITIES

SHOULD... BUT WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

INTERNAL VALIDATION

LEADERS - CONCEPTS FOR CHANGE

SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE WHO SEE YOUR WORTH

IDENTIFY POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS

EVENTS AS SOURCES FOR EMPLOY OPPORTUNITY IN SCHOOLS

FIND YOUR PLACE

QFCC YOUTH SUMMIT 2024

Watch Abbey's video: qfcc.qld.gov.au/Abbey

I want all young people to feel as though they have a place within society

Abbey is 17 and lives on the Gold Coast. At the QFCC Youth Summit, Abbey spoke about the importance of young people feeling valued within their communities and the importance of making sure young people know they have a place in our society, feel supported and belong.

MUSKAAN

MUSKAAN SPENDING TIME WITH FAMILY REDUCES CRIME AND CREATES SAFER COMMUNITIES

PARENTS WORK MORE COAST OF LIVING

MAKE IT EASIER FOR PARENTS TO SPEND MORE TIME

HIGH PARENTAL COERCION

DETENTION DOESN'T HELP

FAMILY CRIME RATES

ONCE THEY COMMIT A CRIME - IMPACTS SNOWBALL

QFCC YOUTH SUMMIT 2024

Watch Muskaan's video: qfcc.qld.gov.au/Muskaan

But not spending time with your children can make them feel emotionally distressed

Muskaan is 13 and lives in Yarrabilba. She enjoys arts and crafts and spending time with family and close friends. At the QFCC Youth Summit, Muskaan spoke on how spending time with family can reduce crime rates and create safer communities and explored the importance of feeling safe in her school and neighbourhood.

MALAKAI

MALAKAI MAKE IT HAPPEN TODAY!

YOU CANNOT CHANGE WHAT YOU CAN'T CONFRONT

LISTEN TO THE LYRICS INSIDE THEIR SONGS

KIDS CAN'T CHANGE OVERNIGHT

KEEP SIBUNGS TOGETHER

QFCC YOUTH SUMMIT 2024

Watch Malakai's video:
qfcc.qld.gov.au/Malakai

I was in the system from nine months.

Malakai is 20 and from Toowoomba. At the QFCC Youth Summit, Malakai spoke about residential care and the support needed to improve this experience for young people in care. Malakai presented what he believes is a good experience in care as a rap song.

YOUTH SUMMIT 2024

Speaker Session 4: Material basics

MATERIAL BASICS

MAX: FAIRNESS ISN'T GIVING EVERYONE THE SAME, IT'S GIVING PEOPLE WHAT THEY NEED TO HAVE
 NOT ALL INEQUITIES ARE NOTICED. ADULTS TRY TO TREAT US ALL THE SAME - BUT WE ARE ALL DIFFERENT. WHAT ABOUT ME...
 GOVERNMENT SHOULD PROVIDE SCHOOL LUNCHES FOR EVERYONE. FUNDING FOR FEES + TRANSPORT.

HANNAH: ENHANCING COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION
 WAKE UP EXTRA EARLY → 4:30AM SO I'M NOT LATE. MORE FREQUENT BUSES. HADS + TIMEABLES HARD TO UNDERSTAND. TRACKING TO KNOW IF BUS IS ON TIME. SAFE IN THE DARK. DEPENDENT ON UNRELIABLE BUS + LONG WAITS. BETTER NOT PUTTING.

SAMUEL: LIFE LITERACY: WHY WE NEED TO TEACH LIFE SKILLS IN SCHOOLS
 IN HIGH SCHOOL FRIENDS (YR 12) DON'T KNOW WHAT A MORTGAGE IS... FINANCIAL LITERACY. VOTING. FINDING JOBS. CRITICAL THINKING. SOLUB. PROBABLY. EACH SCHOOL DETERMINES THEIR CURRICULUM... OR NOT AT ALL... THE KIDS WHO NEED THIS MOST ARE FROM FAMILIES WHO DON'T HAVE OR CAN'T SHARE THIS KNOWLEDGE. STANDARDISED + MANDATORY.

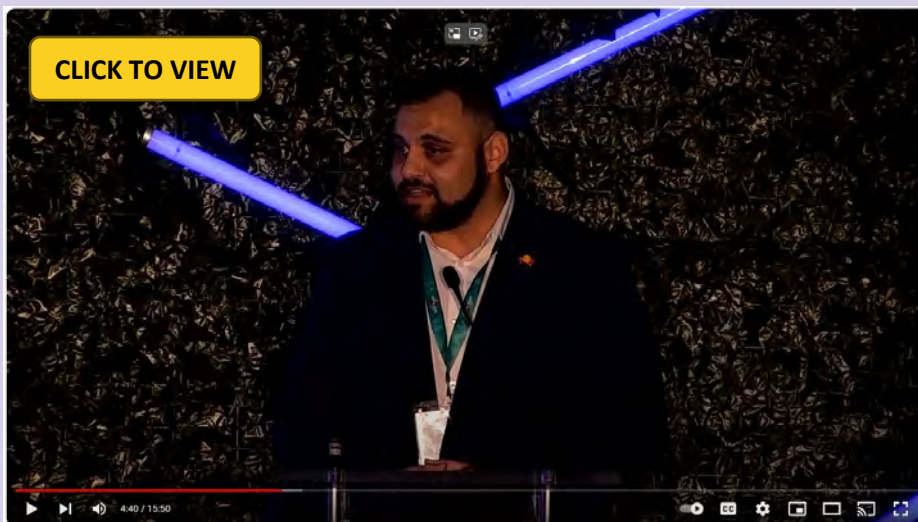
ELMA: HOUSING ISSUES: A HOLISTIC VIEW
 LACKING HOUSING IN MY COMMUNITY. OVER-CROWDING. 3-5 FAMILIES PER HOUSE. HEALTH ISSUES. ENVIRONMENTAL. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE HOUSING. WE NEED MORE. LOCAL CONTRACTORS TO BUILD. PEOPLE PLANET PROFIT. SUSTAINABLE. CO-DESIGNED.

DIYDG GROUP: UPLIFTING OUR YOUTH
 WHAT MAKES ME DEADLY: MY COMMUNITY SUPPORTS ME. MY VOICE. PROUD TO BE AN INDIGENOUS WOMAN. REPRESENTING MY COMMUNITY. BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER LEARN FROM EACH OTHER. SHARE CULTURAL KNOWLEDGE. COMPREHENSIVE. SAFE. WE NEED SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES. SUPPORT FOR WHOLE FAMILY. GRASSROOTS ORGS ARE CRITICAL. WE NEED TO LOOK AT WHO IS BEING FUNDRAISED AND IF THEY ARE HELPING. WE NEED YOUNG PEOPLE @ THE TABLE. SUPPORT + EMPOWER YOUTH. MR MURRAY BENTON. MY BACKGROUND IS IN CRISIS CARE REGIONALLY. I APPRECIATE THIS PLATFORM. ADVOCATES + THOUGHT LEADERS. WE NEED TO FIND NEW + INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS. WITHOUT MATERIAL BASICS CHILDREN CAN'T THRIVE. HUMAN RIGHT. FINANCIAL LITERACY. CRITICAL CONVERSATION TO HAVE. HOLISTIC VIEW. TRANSFORMATION IS CRITICAL TO ACCESSING BASIC SERVICES. BUT OFFICIAL DARK-LOOKED.

SESSION REFLECTION SPEAKER

Mr Murray Benton

Sector Capacity Lead, Q Shelter



MAX

FAIRNESS ISN'T GIVING EVERYONE THE SAME, IT'S GIVING PEOPLE WHAT THEY NEED TO HAVE

NOT ALL INEQUALITIES ARE NOTICED

ADULTS TRY TO TREAT US ALL THE SAME - BUT WE ARE ALL DIFFERENT

WHAT ABOUT ME?

FUNDING FOR FEES + TRANSPORT

GOVERNMENT SHOULD PROVIDE SCHOOL LUNCHES FOR EVERYONE

QFCC YOUTH SUMMIT 2024

Watch Max's video: qfcc.qld.gov.au/Max

Max is 11, the youngest youth speaker at the event, and he lives in Rochedale South. Max is in year 6 and loves to play soccer. As he has seen kids his age being treated unfairly and constantly missing out on opportunities they deserve, nothing would make him happier to see this change. At the QFCC Youth Summit, Max spoke about how fairness isn't giving everyone the same, it's giving people what they need.

HANNAH

ENHANCING COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION

WAKE UP EXTRA EARLY -> 4:30am SO I'M NOT LATE

SAFE IN THE DARK

DEPENDENT ON UNRELIABLE BUS + LONG WALK

BUSES ARE LATE

TRICKING TO KNOW IF BUS IS ON TIME

QFCC YOUTH SUMMIT 2024

Watch Hannah's video: qfcc.qld.gov.au/Hannah

Hannah is 17 and from Coolangatta. Hannah is an international student from China, currently in her final year at Elanora State High School. At the QFCC Youth Summit, Hannah spoke about enhancing community transportation, reflecting on the infrequent bus service from her home to school and she also raised concerns about the safety and punctuality of the buses.

SAMUEL

LIFE LITERACY: WHY WE NEED TO TEACH LIFE SKILLS IN SCHOOLS

FINANCIAL LITERACY
VOTING
CRITICAL THINKING
FINDING JOBS
SCHOOL DETERMINES YOUR FUTURE
... SK. NOT AT ALL...
STANDARDISED + MANDATORY

THE KIDS WHO USED THE MOST PAPER FROM FINALES WHO DON'T WIN OR CAN'T SHARE THE KNOWLEDGE

QFCC
YOUTH SUMMIT
2024

Watch Samuel's video:
qfcc.qld.gov.au/Samuel

Samuel is 17 and lives in Brisbane. He's in year 12 at Brisbane State High School. Samuel is involved in many activities – he coaches and debates in the GPS debating competition, plays violin and is a Student Representative Council Leader and Prefect. He's also a QFCC Youth Advocate. At the QFCC Youth Summit, Samuel spoke about life literacy and why we need to teach life skills in Queensland state schools. Samuel is passionate about life literacy, as the benefit to young people is everlasting, particularly in a cost of living crisis.

ELMA

HOUSING ISSUES: A HOLISTIC VIEW

LACKING FINANCIAL IN A COMMUNITY OVER-CROWDING
3-5 FAMILIES PER UNIT
HEALTH ISSUES ENVIRONMENTAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE HOUSING
WE NEED MORE
LOCAL INITIATIVES TO BUILD
PEOPLE PLANET PROFIT
SUSTAINABLE

QFCC
YOUTH SUMMIT
2024

Watch Elma's video:
qfcc.qld.gov.au/Elma

Elma is 22 and lives in Bamaga. Elma is the young mother of two children. Residing in Far North Queensland, Elma lives and works on her traditional country. At the QFCC Youth Summit, Elma spoke on housing issues in her community from a holistic perspective.



Deadly Inspiring Youth Doing Good known as DIYDG are a group of 18-year-olds who live in Cairns. This group spoke about 'Uplifting our youth' at the QFCC Youth Summit.

YOUTH SUMMIT 2024

Speaker Session 5: Participating

PARTICIPATING

RYAN **ECO-ANXIETY AND THE NECESSITY OF YOUTH VOICE**

WE ARE FACED WITH SO MUCH UNCERTAINTY ESPECIALLY CLIMATE CHANGE

DEPRESSIVE ISSUE (BERRY GARDEN)

YOUNG PEOPLE NEED AGENCY

CAUSES ECO-ANXIETY

LISTENED TO WE MUST TAKE REAL ACTION! IT'S CRITICAL TO YOUNG OLDS

FOR THE YOUTH FACING INHERITING A SICK PLANET

JACK **WAR ON WASTE**

I TAKE PRIDE IN MY TOWN

WE NEED TO BETTER MANAGE WASTE

REDUCE PLASTICS

USE BETTER MATERIALS

DISPOSE CORRECTLY

EDUCATE FAMILIES

HOMES WITH MULTIPLE BINS ARE 8% SUCCESSFUL WITH THEIR RECYCLING HABITS

WE ARE DESTROYING THE ENVIRONMENT !!

BE THE CHANGE !!

MADDIE **A YOUTH-CENTRIC APPROACH TO YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

THERE ARE TIERS OF ENGAGEMENT

THE YOUTH ARE THE **FUTURE**

DOESN'T HAVE TO BE DIFFICULT

YOU CAN'T TALK ABOUT US WITHOUT US!!!

DON'T JUST GET INPUT - LET YOUTH LEAD THE EXECUTION

AARON **RAISING OUR VOICES FOR OTHERS TO RAISE THEIRS**

BUSES DESIGNED BY ADULTS WHO DRIVE AND THEN COMPLAIN ABOUT HOW WE USE THEM...

YOUTH FORUMS

BE YOURSELF

RAISE YOUR VOICE

YOUTH ARE HUNGRY TO ENGAGE BUT NEED OPPORTUNITIES

UNDER REPRESENTED

SOZETTE **POWERING THE CHANGE FOR YOUTH IN 2024**

LONGREACH STATE HIGH SCHOOL

MENTAL HEALTH

CAREER PROGRESSION

LOST AGE BRACKET

CONSISTENCY OF SUPPORT

WE CANNOT BECOME WHO WE WANT BY REMAINING WHO WE ARE

MR MICHAEL HOGAN

GREAT IDEAS AND EXAMPLES TODAY

KEEP INSPIRING CHANGE

THANK YOU FOR THE NUDGE

CLIMATE CHANGE IS IMPACTING YOUTH DEEPLY

ACTION ON WASTE

SHINE A LIGHT

GIVE A VOICE

MAKE CHANGE HAPPEN

REAL ENGAGEMENT

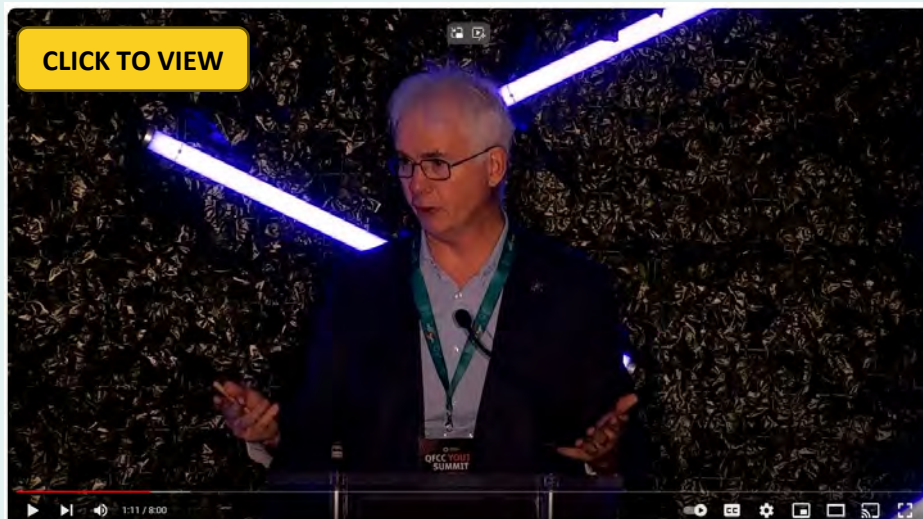
SOMETIMES MEANS GETTING OUT OF THE WAY...

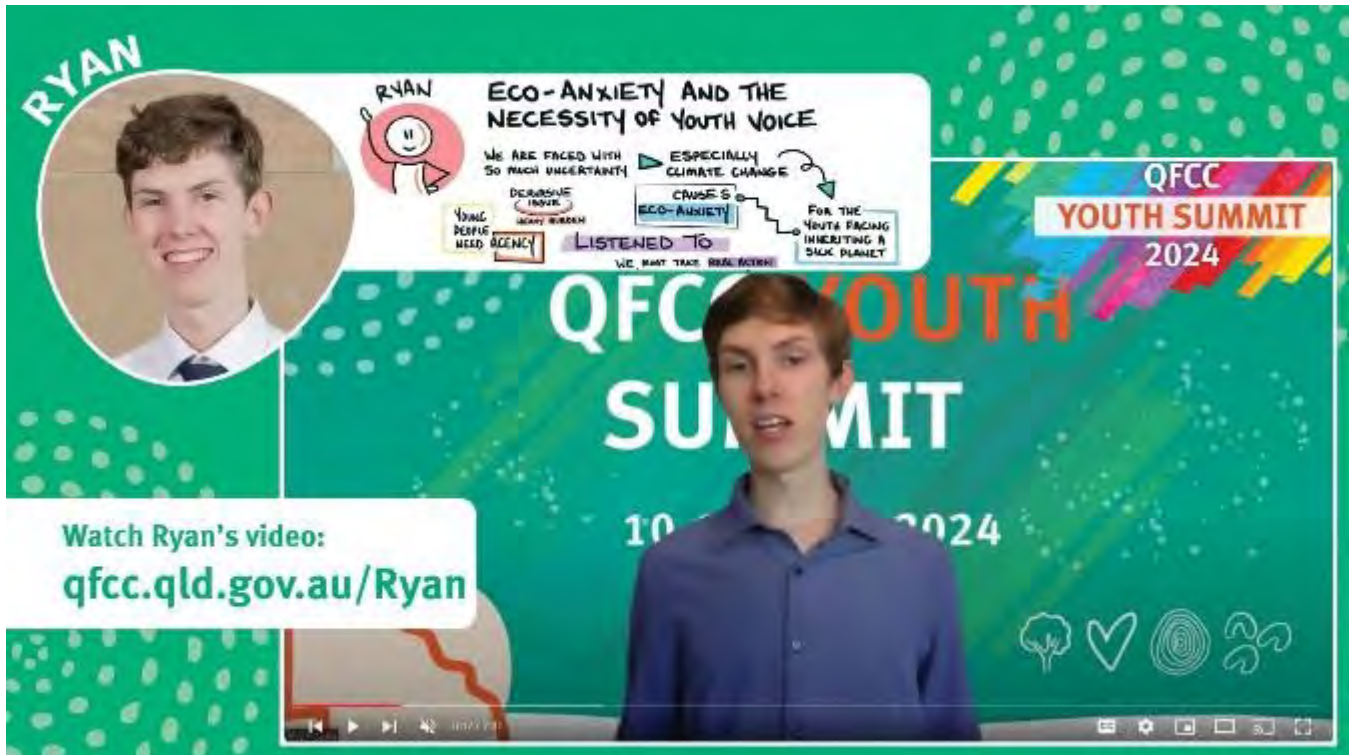
BRINGING US BACK TO LIVED EXPERIENCE

SESSION REFLECTION SPEAKER

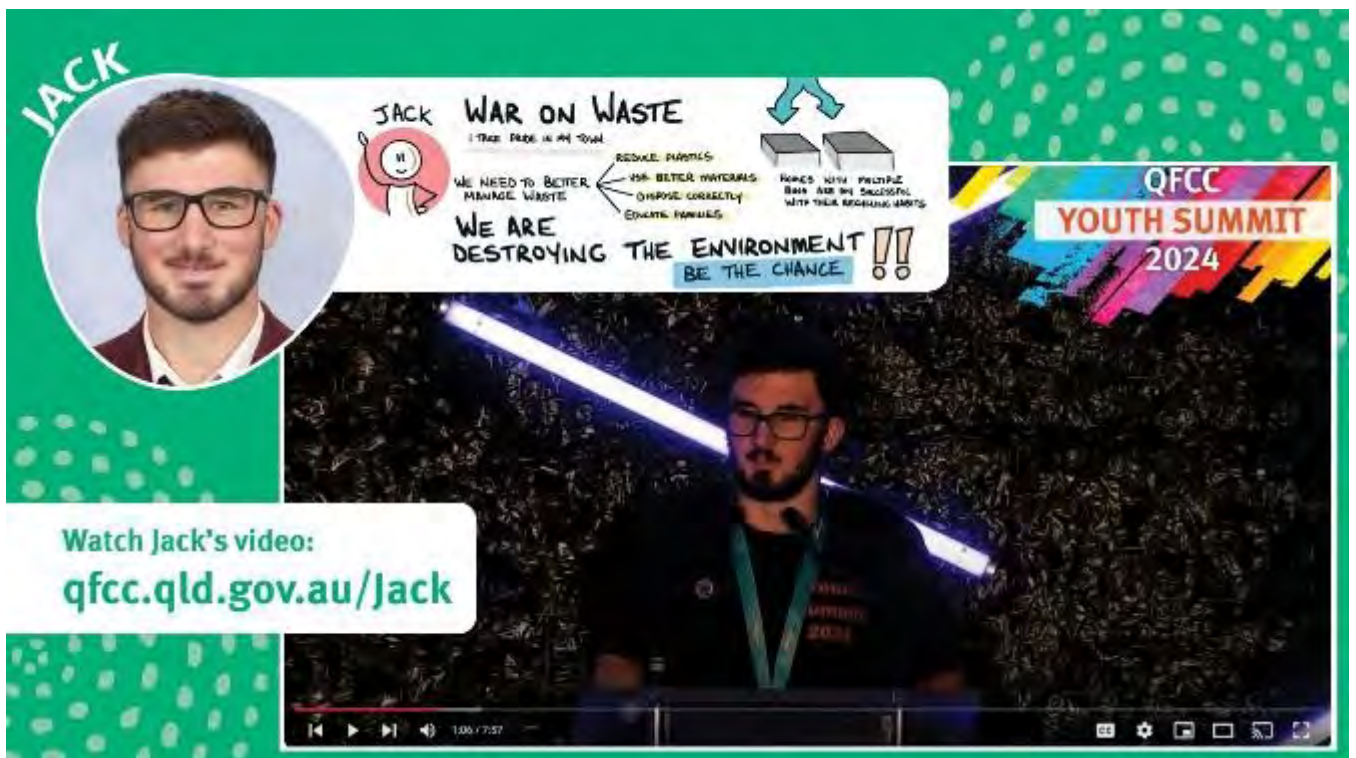
Mr Michael Hogan

Convenor, Thriving Queensland Kids Partnership

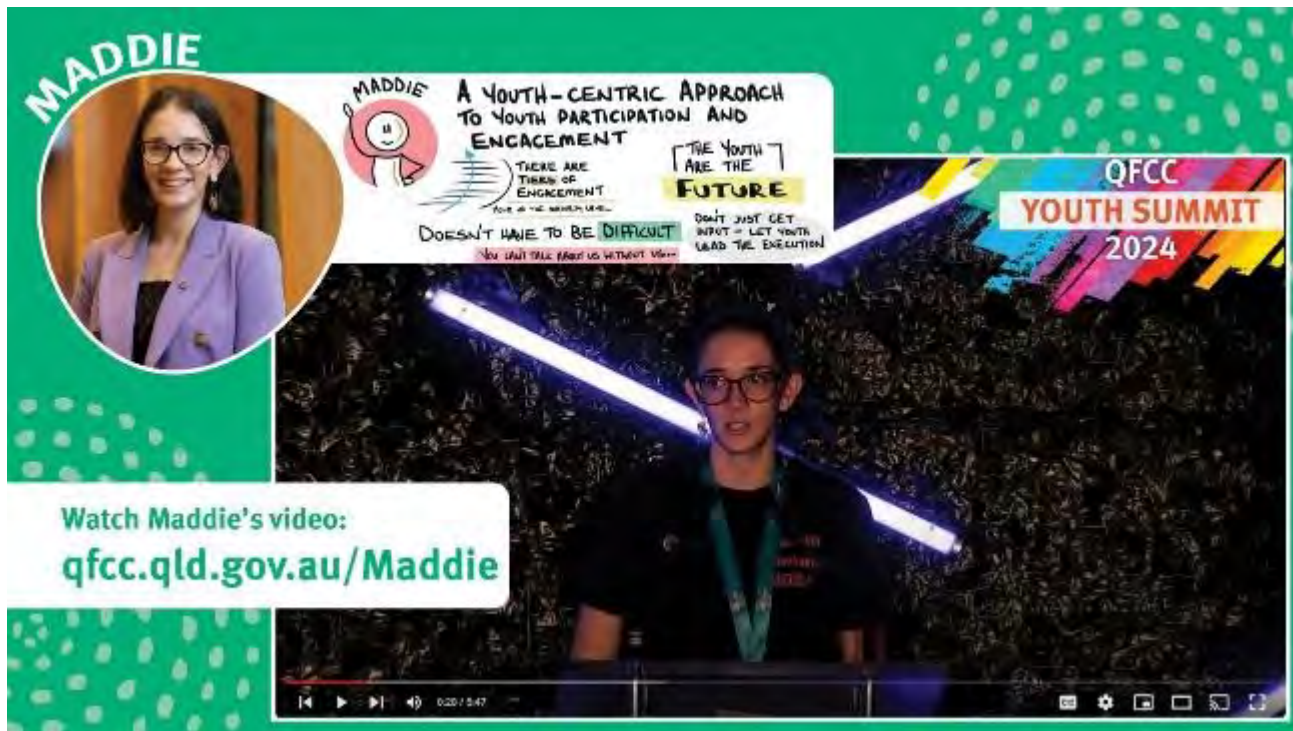




Ryan is 18 and lives in Varsity Lakes. He's a first-year student at Bond University, studying a Bachelor of International Relations and Bachelor of Laws. Ryan is proudly involved in his local community and has a strong desire to see our natural environment preserved. At the QFCC Youth Summit, Ryan spoke about eco-anxiety and the increasingly uncertain future faced by young Queenslanders and the impact on psychological distress amongst youth due to the climate issue.

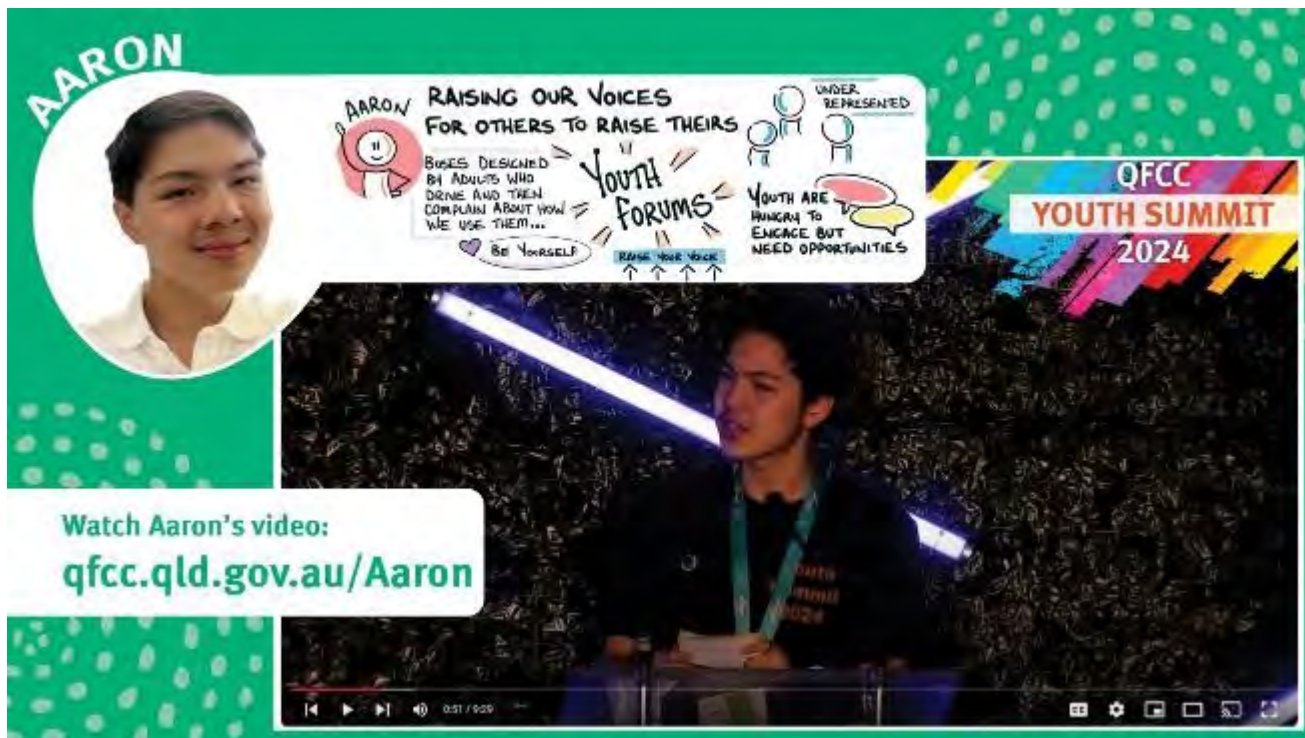


Jack is 17 and lives in St. George. He is a senior student at the St George State High School where he is the vice-captain. At the QFCC Youth Summit, Jack spoke about war on waste and the issue of waste pollution within Australia providing possible solutions on how to work towards a brighter and cleaner future.



Watch Maddie's video:
qfcc.qld.gov.au/Maddie

Maddie is 21 and from Zillmere. She is a Youth Advocate for women, mental health and First Nations issues. Maddie is also a mentor for Queensland Youth Parliament. At the QFCC Youth Summit, Maddie spoke about a youth-centric approach to Youth Participation and engagement. She highlighted the need for organisations to change Youth Participation to youth engagement by ensuring their frameworks and policies focus on young people and organisations working collaboratively to allow genuine participation.



Watch Aaron's video:
qfcc.qld.gov.au/Aaron

Aaron is 15, from Pullenvale and is a year 11 student who loves buses, trains, dystopian fiction, Taylor Swift, and Hamilton. At the QFCC Youth Summit, Aaron spoke about a Youth Forum that he organised that brought together 52 young people from 14 schools around Brisbane, along with representatives from the UN and six politicians. He discussed that as young leaders, they need to raise their voices to open opportunities for others

The diagram titled "POWERING THE CHANGE FOR YOUTH IN 2024" includes the following text and flow:

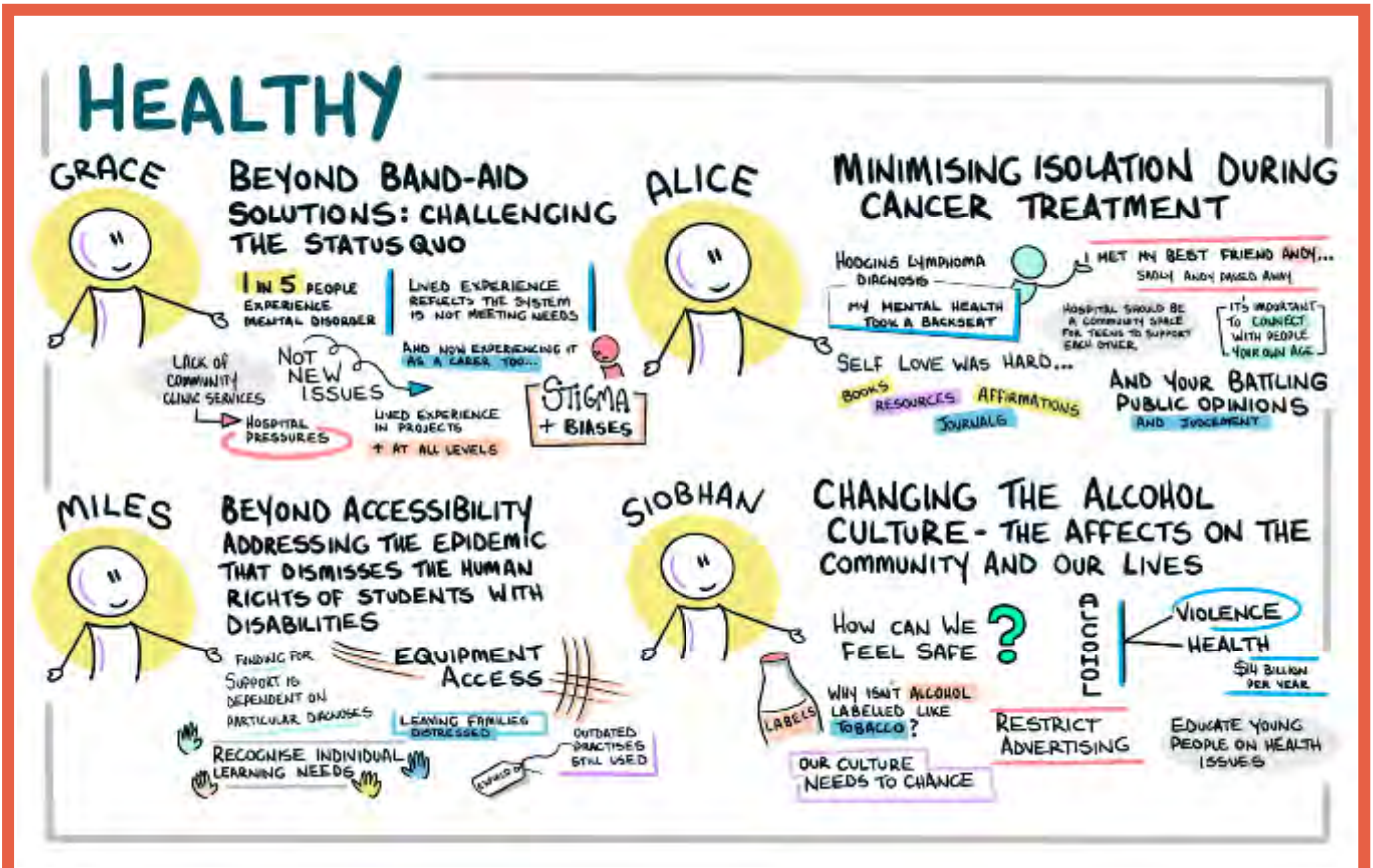
- LONGREACH STATE HIGH SCHOOL
- MENTAL HEALTH
- CAREER PROGRESSION
- LEAVE THE COUNTRY
- CONNECTIONS OF SUPPORT
- INTERVIEW
- EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
- TRICKY PART FOR OPPORTUNITIES
- CONNECTED
- WE CAN'T BECOME DISADVANTAGED BY REMAINING

Watch Jozette's video:
qfcc.qld.gov.au/jozette

Jozette is 17 and lives in Longreach. She loves all types of activities including sports and writing. She wants to be involved and make a difference on topics that she cares about. At the QFCC Youth Summit, Jozette spoke about the day-to-day problems that youth face in outback Queensland and across the state, and the importance of rural issues being shared with the urban population. She plans to take the solutions discussed back to her hometown to work towards a better future for youth.

YOUTH SUMMIT 2024

Speaker Session 6: Healthy



SESSION REFLECTION SPEAKER

Commissioner Ivan Frkovic

Commissioner, Queensland Mental Health Commission



GRACE

BEYOND BAND-AID SOLUTIONS: CHALLENGING THE STATUS QUO

1 IN 5 PEOPLE EXPERIENCE MENTAL DISORDER

LACK OF COMMUNITY CLINIC SERVICES

HOSPITAL PRESSURES

NOT NEW ISSUES

LIVED EXPERIENCE REFLECTS THE SYSTEM IS NOT MEETING NEEDS

AND AM EXPERIENCING IT IN A CAREER TOO

LIVED EXPERIENCE IN PROJECTS + AT ALL LEVELS

STIGMA + BIASES

QFCC YOUTH SUMMIT 2024

Watch Grace's video: qfcc.qld.gov.au/Grace

970,000 will attempt suicide during their lifetime.

Grace is 22 and lives in Logan. Grace combines her lived experience of mental illness with her psychology background to advocate for systemic and social change. She advocates for embedding lived experience knowledge in education, research and policy, and advises government and NGOs on policy and service delivery. At the QFCC Youth Summit, Grace spoke about challenging the status quo in mental health and the need for the mental health sector to challenge itself and think beyond short-term solutions as the rates of people experiencing mental ill-health and mental illness rise.

ALICE

MINIMISING ISOLATION DURING CANCER TREATMENT

HODGKIN LYMPHOMA DIAGNOSIS

MY MENTAL HEALTH TOOK A BACKSEAT

SELF LOVE WAS HARD...

RESOURCES

AFFIRMATIONS

SUPPORTS

I MET MY BEST FRIEND (AND)... SHE'S AWAY SINCE AWAY

IT'S IMPORTANT TO CONNECT WITH PEOPLE YOUR OWN AGE

AND YOUR BATTLING PUBLIC OPINIONS AND TREATMENT

QFCC YOUTH SUMMIT 2024

Watch Alice's video: qfcc.qld.gov.au/Alice

leading me along through the rough seas for the cancer treatment.

Alice is 16 and lives in Camp Mountain. She is in remission after undergoing chemotherapy for Hodgkin's lymphoma. She found during her treatment that community and self-love helped her to minimise the loneliness. At the QFCC Youth Summit, Alice spoke about minimising isolation during cancer treatment and the need to eliminate social isolation and loneliness during treatment through promoting resources within the community and self-love.

MILES

MILES BEYOND ACCESSIBILITY ADDRESSING THE EPIDEMIC THAT DISMISSES THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

SUPPORT FOR DISCREET OR PARTICULAR DISABILITIES

EQUIPMENT ACCESS

RECOGNISE INDIVIDUAL LEARNING NEEDS

LOGGING FEELINGS

QFCC YOUTH SUMMIT 2024

Watch Miles's video: qfcc.qld.gov.au/Miles

in fighting for human rights provision in regard to students with disabilities,

Miles is 16 and from the Gold Coast. Miles is a passionate youth advocate for LGBTQ support, mental health and disability rights. As a young person with lived experience, he has firsthand knowledge of the challenges. At the QFCC Youth Summit Miles spoke about listening to the voices of youth as a first step to gaining the resources to properly safeguard the welfare of people with disabilities.

SIOBHAN

SIOBHAN CHANGING THE ALCOHOL CULTURE - THE AFFECTS ON THE COMMUNITY AND OUR LIVES

HOW CAN WE FEEL SAFE?

VIOLENCE HEALTH

RESTRICT ADVERTISING

EDUCATE YOUNG PEOPLE ON HEALTH ISSUES

QFCC YOUTH SUMMIT 2024

Watch Siobhan's video: qfcc.qld.gov.au/Siobhan

experienced verbal abuse by someone under the influence of alcohol?

Siobhan is 14 and lives in Redlands. Siobhan is a young entrepreneur, three-times published author, philanthropist, public speaker and presenter. She is a QFCC Youth Advocate and is passionate about health, and changing the lives of people with disabilities, alcoholism, and people experiencing domestic violence and trauma. At the QFCC Youth Summit, she spoke about changing the alcohol culture, the effects on the community and our lives and the impact on crime, road incidents, assaults, the consumer's health and wellbeing, as well as it being a drain on the economy and health care system.

Reflection speakers and Ministerial attendance

The Youth Summit was designed to provide an opportunity for senior government and non-government leaders to hear the stories of young people. At the end of each session a senior government official was invited to provide a 10-minute summary of what they heard, and their response to each young speaker.

The Hon Charis Mullen MP

Minister for Child Safety, Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Multicultural Affairs

Delivered the Opening address



The Hon Leeanne Enoch MP

Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts

Delivered a Youth Week address



Commissioners Luke Twyford and Natalie Lewis

Queensland Family and Child Commission

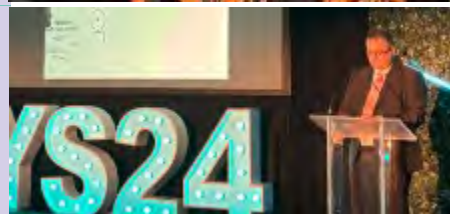
Reflective Speakers for the 'Identity and Culture' Session



Mr Phillip Brooks

Deputy Director-General, First Nations Strategy and Partnerships, Department of Education

Reflective Speaker for the 'Learning' Session



The Hon Yvette D'Ath MP

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence

Reflective Speaker for the 'Valued, Love and Safe' Session



Mr Murray Benton

Sector Capacity Lead, Q Shelter

Reflective Speaker for the 'Material Basics' Session



Mr Michael Hogan

Convenor, Thriving Queensland Kids Partnership

Reflective Speaker for the 'Participating' Session



Commissioner Ivan Frkovic

Commissioner, Queensland Mental Health Commission

Reflective Speaker for the 'Healthy' Session



Day 2: Youth-led action planning workshops

Day two of the summit comprised youth-led action planning workshops with youth-facilitated activities. Participants discussed the potential outcomes suggested by speakers and the individual wellbeing domains. Participants were encouraged to reflect on their learnings, voice their desires for action and suggest approaches to realise outcomes. Action cards were provided to participants to encourage action-focused thinking and takeaway reminders of commitments made on the day.

Zhanae Dodd from Project Groove Co and Semara Jose from Deadly Inspiring Youth Doing Good (DIYDG) facilitated the workshops. Zhanae is a proud Ghungalu, Birri, Widi and Kaanju woman from Rockhampton, Central Queensland. She is passionate about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander advocacy, specifically self-determination, understanding and addressing intergenerational trauma and lateral violence, reducing over-representation in government systems, and promoting cultural safety. Semara is a proud Gudjula, Eastern-Kuku Yalanji and Darnley Island woman. Born and raised in Cairns, she is a co-founder of DIYDG with a passion for youth leadership. Zhanae and Semara encouraged attendees to participate in an all-in group corroboree to kick things off.



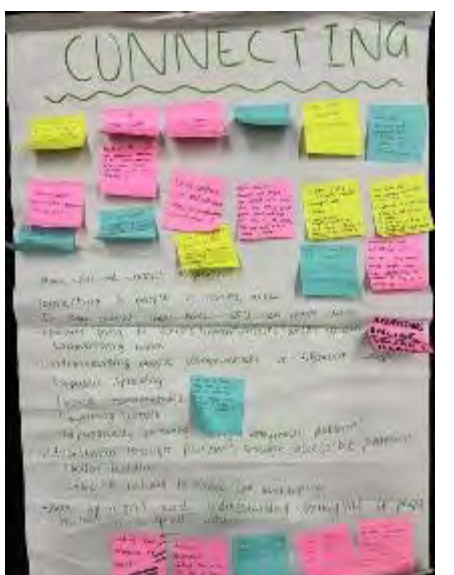
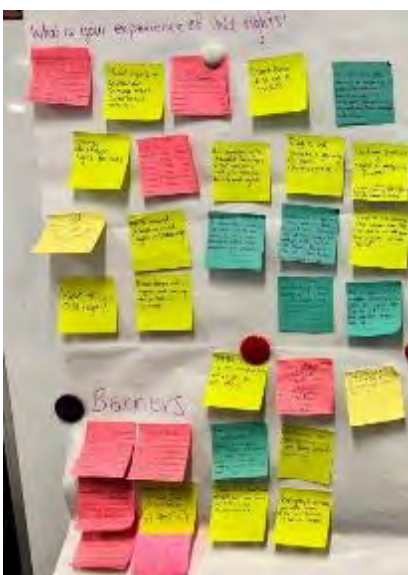
Young people engaged actively and enthusiastically in the full program, developing connections with peers and sector leaders. Feedback has been received from participants and a comprehensive Impact Report is underway. The content generated from the young participants was captured and collated. This information will be distributed to key stakeholders with the intention of influencing positive change for the safety and wellbeing of Queensland children, young people, their families and communities.





Young people collaborated on this project

Young people including QFCC Engagement Support Officers and Youth Advocates collaborated to design and deliver the Workshop (Day 2).





What's next...

Following the QFCC Youth Summit, the next steps focus on embedding youth voices into decision-making processes affecting the safety and wellbeing of Queensland children, young people, and families. The compelling speeches delivered by young speakers have been released publicly and will continue to be elevated over the coming year to ensure their ideas and perspectives reach a broader audience, including additional policymakers and community leaders. This compilation will serve as a valuable resource for government and non-government organisations committed to making informed, youth-centred decisions.

We will continue to empower children, young people and their families to influence decisions that affect their lives, by:

- amplifying the perspectives and lived experience of Queensland children and their families, especially those experiencing inequity, vulnerability or marginalisation; providing children and families with meaningful opportunities to influence systemic change and advocate for action;
- assisting others to build their capability to consult with, and act on the views and experiences of children and young people;
- increasing engagement by using the communication approaches children and their families prefer; and,
- actively celebrating and promoting the achievements and contributions of young Queenslanders and their families.

In the coming months, we will publish an Impact Report that synthesises the recommendations from the young people and the commitments from government and non-government stakeholders. This report will highlight key themes and actionable strategies proposed by stakeholders, providing a vision for impactful integration of their voices into ongoing and future initiatives. The report aims to hold organisations accountable and encourage them to adopt practices that reflect the priorities and concerns of young Queenslanders.

The advocacy speech videos, consolidated youth-led workshop summaries and the Impact Report will be disseminated to relevant stakeholders, including government departments, Queensland Ministers, sector leaders and community organisations. This will facilitate continuous dialogue and collaboration, ensuring that youth perspectives are not only heard but actively shape the futures of young Queenslanders.

“ **Keep encouraging young people to have a voice.** ”
- Sector professional





“ Out of all the conferences/summits etc. I have attended in my career I found this summit to be exceptional. It was a great experience and next year I am going to ensure that managers of programs attend. ”
- Sector professional

