



DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE **Implementation Council**

MEETING COMMUNIQUÉ

**29 and 30 May 2018
Cairns and Yarrabah**

On **29 and 30 May 2018**, the Domestic and Family Violence Implementation Council (the Council) travelled to **Cairns** and **Yarrabah** to observe local initiatives to address domestic and family violence in Far North Queensland. Council members met with a range of local representatives, including:

- **Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council and community representatives** – Council members travelled to Yarrabah where they met with representatives from the Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council, the Yarrabah Leaders Forum, school leaders and students from Yarrabah State School, staff of the local women’s shelter, and members of the Yarrabah Community Justice Group and Elders Group.
- **Cairns coordinated responses to domestic and family violence** – Council members met with representatives from the two multi-agency responses to domestic and family violence operating in Cairns: the recently established Cairns High Risk Team, which has been receiving referrals since March 2018, and the Cairns Collective Impact on Domestic and Family Violence, a group of 23 government and non-government agencies that has been working to provide an integrated response to domestic and family violence in Cairns since 2007.
- **Cairns Regional Council** – Council members met Mayor, Cr Bob Manning, and Cairns Regional Council to discuss action against domestic and family violence.
- **James Cook University** – Council members visited representatives from James Cook University and the Cairns Regional Domestic Violence Service to learn about a program to educate dentistry students on how to respond to patients impacted by domestic and family violence.
- **School responses** – Council members met with leaders from Smithfield State High School, Cairns West State School, the Clontarf Foundation and representatives from the Department of Education to learn about school responses to domestic and family violence in the Cairns area.
- **Queensland Police Service** – Council members travelled to Cairn Police Station to learn about various local initiatives being pursued by the Queensland Police Service in Cairns, including the school-based officer program, the work of the cross-cultural liaison officers, the ‘Speak Up, Be Strong, Be Heard’ program, the ‘A

Powerful Minute' initiative, the work of officers on the Cairns High Risk Team and the work of Inquiries and Prosecutions areas.

- **Mossman Community Justice Group** – members of the Mossman Community Justice Group travelled to Cairns to meet with Council members and showcase their achievements as the first of 18 groups to be funded as part of the Domestic and Family Violence Community Justice Group enhancement program. This meeting was also attended by the Honourable Yvette D'Ath, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice.
- **Youth initiatives** – Council members visited **The Streets Movement** at its Cairns community gym and learned about its community development efforts to engage disconnected young people in positive behaviours through sports. Council members also visited **AFL Cape York House** to learn about the support it provides to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from Cape York communities attending high school in Cairns.
- **Wuchopperen Health Service** – Council members visited the Manoora campus of the Wuchopperen Health Service to learn about the holistic services that Wuchopperen provides to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Cairns, including services to address and support people impacted by domestic and family violence.

Following meetings with local stakeholders, the Council held its meeting in Cairns. Reflecting and reporting on the meetings conducted over the visit, Council members noted that those responsible for responding to domestic and family violence in **Cairns, Yarrabah and Mossman Gorge** are pursuing their work with **personal dedication and a number of well-designed, well-realised local initiatives**. Innovation and the willingness of local champions to go beyond the call of duty have allowed these communities to achieve **impressive results in a challenging environment**, although it was noted that such efforts are reliant on the contributions of individuals.

Council members reported on activities that have occurred since its last meeting, including a meeting with **Australian Law Reform Commission** on 27 March and participation in a range of events including a **Queensland College of General Practice Forum** on 5 May, the **Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board Forum** on 8 May, the **ANROWS National Conference** on 15-17 May and the **Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research's Indigenous Family Violence Forum** on 16-17 May.

The progress of the engagement and communication strategy was discussed, with the Council noting **the launch of the bystander campaign**, the roll out of **the second stage of the Stop the Hurting youth campaign**, and the **May 2018 media campaign** organised by the Chair and supported by Council members.

The Council noted the progress of the **implementation of Not Now, Not Ever report recommendations**, with a report from the Director-General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet indicating that **90 of the 121 government-led recommendations had been completed at 28 February 2018**.

The Council discussed the outcomes of the 14 May 2018 meeting of its **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group** which focused on referral pathways through the service system for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people impacted by domestic and family violence.

A **six monthly activity report** provided by the **Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board** was considered by the Council. The Board has conducted three case review meetings and published an updated statistical overview since its last report to the Council. The case review meetings focused on three themes: cases involving people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, homicides in families and homicides and suicides.

Updates in government representation on the Council were noted, with **Deputy Commissioner Steve Gollschewski** of the **Queensland Police Service** and **Ms Leigh Roach** of the **Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women** joining the Council.

The Council also noted the departure of **Natalie Lewis**, a member of the Council since 2015 and the co-chair of the Council's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group. Natalie's **dedicated and valuable contribution** over this period was acknowledged by the Council.