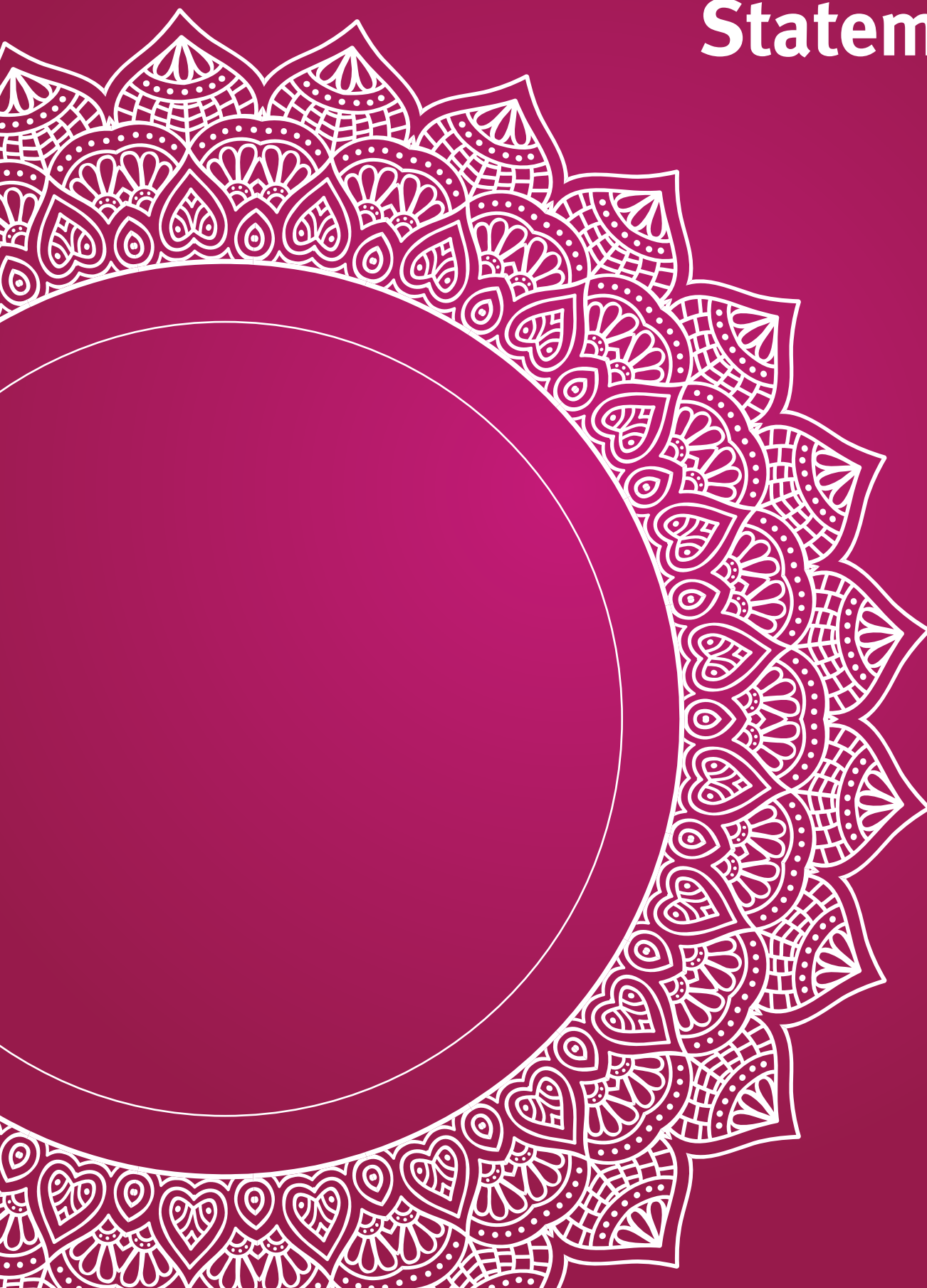


Queensland Budget 2020–21

Women's Economic Statement





Message from the Minister

This is the Palaszczuk Government's fifth Queensland Budget Women's Economic Statement.

Our vision is for a community that respects women, embraces gender equality and promotes and protects the rights, interests and wellbeing of women and girls.

But we know that the COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted women.

As Sex Discrimination Commissioner Kate Jenkins notes, Australian women make up the majority of health workers on the frontline, as well as those industries heavily impacted by social distancing restrictions, such as tourism and hospitality. At home, women are also primarily responsible for the care of children and domestic work, both of which have increased during the pandemic.

With more women than men having lost their job during COVID-19, it has never been more important to focus on supporting women's economic participation and resilience.

We are committed to reducing the barriers that prohibit women's economic participation by creating skills pathways. Programs like our Skilling Queenslanders for Work (SQW), Free TAFE and Free Apprenticeships are providing thousands of women the opportunity to upskill and reskill.

The Palaszczuk Government is continuing to implement policies to support more women into male dominated industries such as STEM and construction. Women have been supported to thrive in business, including through the Advancing Women in Business initiative and the Advance Queensland Female Founders program.

Tragically the COVID-19 pandemic has also seen an increase in violence against women in Queensland. Almost 1 in 10 women in a relationship experienced domestic violence during the COVID crisis, with two-thirds saying attacks started or became worse.

To keep women and girls safe, we delivered all 140 recommendations made in the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence report, *Not Now, Not Ever: Putting an end to domestic and family violence in Queensland*.

But we know that despite this progress, there is much work to do across all sectors of our community to continue our work towards achieving gender equality in Queensland.

The Queensland Budget 2020-21 continues to deliver on this commitment to support women and promote gender equality.

Shannon Fentiman MP

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

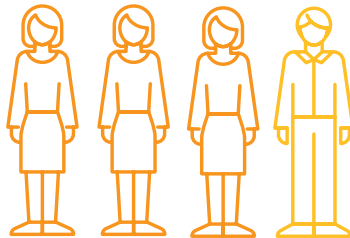


Key Statistics

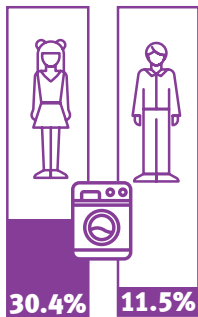
In **every age group** on average **females have lower superannuation balances**, with those aged 70 years and over showing the largest gap.



Females are over **three times**



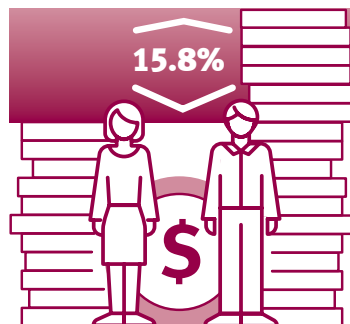
more likely than males to be killed by a partner.



Females aged 15 years and older spend 15 hours or more every week **on unpaid activities.**

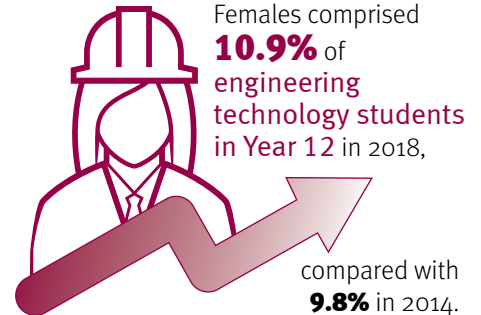
Gender pay gap

On average, **females earnt \$270.90 per week less than males** in November 2019,



resulting in **15.8% gender pay gap**, compared with **17.6%** in November 2015.

Year 12 student's enrolments in engineering technology



85.3% of **victims of sexual assault** are females.



Females account for **74.7%** of all Queensland clients seeking government-funded **specialist homelessness services**, due to **domestic and family violence** as a main reason.

Females comprise

56.5% of all **public rental housing tenants** and



56.7% of all **state-owned and managed Indigenous housing tenants.**

Achievements

The Queensland Government has a strong record delivering for Queensland Women.

Queensland exceeded our target of 50 per cent representation of women on Queensland Government boards by 2020 – at June 2020, women comprised 54 per cent of Queensland Government board members up from 31 per cent when the target was set.

Women have been supported to thrive in business, through the Mentoring for Growth program, the Advancing Women in Business initiative and the Advance Queensland Female Founders program.

We have inspired women to pursue excellence in a range of fields such as Women in STEM, Women in Media, Women in Music, Women in Tourism and Women in Mining and Resources.

We are listening to young women's voices through the Queensland Youth Engagement Panel and Queensland Indigenous Youth Leadership program.

More than half of the Queensland Youth Engagement Panel Members are women and more than 350 First Nations women have participated in the Queensland Indigenous Youth Leadership Program since it began in 2009.

We have ignited ideas and connected leaders through sponsorship of the Women of the World Festival, held in Queensland.

Annual Queensland Women's Week celebrations have allocated over \$750,000 in grants since 2015 to more than 280 organisations celebrating the diversity and contribution of women and girls.

To end violence against women and girls, we have now invested more than \$500 million since 2015. This includes funding to open 7 new women's shelters, the first opened in Queensland in over 20 years.

Queensland also led the nation, becoming the first state to legislate 10 days' paid domestic and family violence (DFV) leave for Queensland Government employees.

In 2018 the Queensland Government passed historic laws so that Queensland women can now legally access termination of pregnancy services, removing it from the criminal code.

Women have been supported to gain employment and the skills required to re-enter the workforce.

So far, more than 28,000 women have benefited from Skilling Queenslanders for Work (SQW), with more than half securing a job as a direct result of participating in SQW.

The Back to Work Program has supported over 10,000 women back into employment since 2016.

Since commencement of the National Disability Insurance Scheme transition over 40,000 new workers have been attracted to NDIS-related jobs. Of these, it is estimated 70 per cent are women.

We have delivered, through the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy: improved female sport and recreation facilities; equitable pathways to success in high performance sport; and improved capability to drive gender equity on boards and in pay across the industry.

More than \$400 million COVID-19 rebates helped around 2.1 million Queensland households with their power and water bills providing much needed financial relief.

We are implementing historic legislation to enable legal recognition of Torres Strait Islander traditional child rearing practices which will help remove identification barriers to participation in important areas such as education, health and housing.

45 projects received more than \$15 million under round 1 of the Female Facilities Program in 2018.



Increasing economic security and workforce participation

The Queensland Government aims to create and protect secure jobs for women as we strengthen and grow Queensland's economy.

The Queensland Government is committed to supporting the skills and training needs of Queensland women to grow the skills for the jobs of the future.

The 2020-21 budget includes an investment of more than \$1 billion for training and skills:

- **\$200 million** investment in the future skills requirements of Queenslanders, including: funding for TAFE facilities; priority skills; capacity building in manufacturing; digital workforces; and a social enterprise job fund.
- **Pre-apprenticeship support** and other initiatives to support women and girls to engage and succeed in male dominated industries such as STEM and engineering, where there has been a 32% increase in women commencing an apprenticeship.
- **\$21 million** to extend the Free TAFE for year 12 graduates and Free Apprenticeships for under 21s programs to young Queenslanders under 25.
- **\$25 million** in small business grants with a focus on regions as well as young Queenslanders, women, social enterprises, culturally and linguistically diverse people and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.
- **\$70 million** to extend the Back to Work Program.
- **\$90 million** for the Skilling Queenslanders to Work Initiative.
- Programs which **support and facilitate women's leadership and participation** across a variety of fields including, local government, film and television, music and media, agriculture, emergency services.

- Continued partnership with the Australian Government to deliver the **JobTrainer Fund** to prioritise no or low fee training places for jobseekers, school leavers and young people to support them into jobs as part of the economic recovery from COVID-19.
- **\$8 million** has been provided over four years for the establishment of new Homework Hubs in 120 Queensland state schools where children will be supervised by teacher aides to alleviate pressure on parents.

The Queensland Government recognises that keeping the costs of living down, contributes to women's economic security and success.

- From September 2020, a further **\$100 million** is being provided to households to reduce their electricity bills, through the Government's \$50 asset ownership dividend payment.
- Ticket prices on all TransLink and QConnect public transport services across Queensland have been frozen for 2021, because every little bit back into the pockets of commuters supports Queenslanders, which in turn supports the state's economy.



Women's Health and Wellbeing

Women's health and wellbeing is also vital for economic security and participation in the workforce. The budget includes a range of initiatives to support women to be healthy:

- Continued investment in women's health services including **\$60 million** for breast screening services.
- Over the next four years Queensland Health will hire 5,800 nurses and midwives, 1,500 doctors, 475 paramedics, and 1,700 new allied health professionals.
- Continued investment to assist the Endometriosis Association QLD Inc to develop an endometriosis mobile app to provide more resources and support.
- **\$4.7 million** for COVID support for the community with \$3.6 million psychosocial support through the Red Cross and \$1.1 million for UnitingCare Queensland Services and Care Army Volunteers.
- **\$8.4 million** allocated to 21 Women's Health and Wellbeing Services.

Preventing and responding to sexual, domestic and family violence

The Queensland Government is committed to taking action to eliminate violence against women which has increased in frequency and complexity during the COVID-19 pandemic.

While the full impacts are still not yet known, early insight indicates in Queensland 81 per cent of domestic and family violence practitioners saw an escalation of controlling behaviour and manipulation and 49 per cent reported an escalation of perpetrators using COVID-19 as a reason for abuse.

This highlights the continuing need to address domestic violence within Queensland communities.

The 2020-21 budget delivers:

- **\$139 million** to provide housing and support to vulnerable people, particularly those experiencing DFV, young people and First Nations people, mainly through investing in specialist homelessness services across Queensland.
- **\$48.5 million** to respond to DFV, including counselling and crisis responses, court-based support to victims and perpetrators and specialist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander support.
- **More than \$34 million** for women's shelters, mobile and centre based support services to support women and their families escaping violence.
- **\$11.8 million** to support sexual violence services to provide informed counselling and support to people who have experienced sexual violence.
- **\$4 million** to deliver priority actions to respond to young people who have experienced sexual violence or child sexual abuse.
- Additional funding of **\$6 million** over four years will be provided to support the prevention of domestic and family violence in culturally and linguistically diverse communities.
- **\$5 million** to raise awareness of elder abuse and to assist victims and at-risk seniors.



Engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women

The Queensland Government is committed to assisting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to have economically secure independent futures.

- **Over 1000** students were actively engaged in the Female Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Engagement Program in 2020, which aims to provide targeted engagement incentives such as mentoring and extra-curricular activities to encourage young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander female students to remain actively engaged in education until the completion of Year 12.
- **\$241 million** has been allocated in 2020–21 to improve housing outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across the State.

This includes:

- **\$18 million** is being provided in 2020–21 to support community members to access home ownership opportunities.
- **\$21.8 million** is being allocated in 2020–21 to progress new housing across 17 local councils.
- **\$9.3 million** over four years has been provided to build the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community sector to support implementation of the new National Agreement on Closing the Gap and improve outcomes for Indigenous Queenslanders.

Supporting success for young women

- **\$220,000** sponsorship of the Townsville Fire Community Youth Program aiming to address youth unemployment, obesity and youth suicide.
- **\$512,000** for the Gendered Response to Bail Support Service.
- **\$2.5 million** is being invested to give students free access to sanitary products at 120 state and non-state schools.
- Encouraging leadership and young women's participation through continued support for the **Queensland Youth Engagement Panel** and the **Queensland Indigenous Youth Leadership Program**.

Women's Sport

- **\$15 million** contribution to the Ballymore Precinct redevelopment including facilities for the National Women's rugby team.
- The development of targeted facilities to support female participation in sport and active recreation continues under the *Active Community Infrastructure program – an initiative under the Activate! Queensland 2019–2029 strategy*.



