



MEETING COMMUNIQUÉ

17 July 2019
Brisbane

On **17 July 2019**, the Domestic and Family Violence Implementation Council held its third meeting of the year.

The meeting started with Council discussing its priorities for the remainder of 2019, including arrangements for its regional visit to the Gold Coast on 10–11 October 2019.

The Deputy Director-General, Policy in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC), Mr Mark Cridland attended the meeting to provide an update on Queensland Government activities arising from the Council's powerful **Open Conversation with survivors of domestic and family violence** on 3 May 2019, including:

- the launch the **new domestic and family violence portal** on 29 May 2019
- further work to **simplify government forms** relating to reporting and accessing services for domestic and family violence
- **incorporating key issues from the Open Conversation event** into strategies and resources being developed under the **draft Third Action Plan of the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy** for the period 2019–20 to 2021–22.

The **Honourable Di Farmer MP, Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence** joined the meeting to be part of a briefing and discussions on the future program of reforms, including the development of the draft Third Action Plan of the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy for the period 2019–20 to 2021–22.

Minister Farmer then facilitated a discussion with the Council about **the future role, structure and operation of an independent Council** as part of the governance arrangements for the Third Action Plan.

Minister Farmer also invited representatives from the Council to attend a **DFV Prevention Corporate and Community Forum** she will host on 10 September 2019.

Following this, representatives from the **Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC), the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women (DCSYW), and the Queensland Police Service (QPS)**, provided a briefing on Queensland **responses to support members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender diverse, intersex and queer**

(LGBTIQ+) communities in relation to domestic and family violence. Among other things, the briefing noted the:

- December 2018 launch of the **Queensland Government LGBTIQ+ communication campaign** to raise awareness of domestic and family violence and remove stigmas around reporting and accessing support services
- delivery of 26 face-to-face **Queer Without Fear training** sessions to 63 DCSYW-funded domestic and family violence services across the state to **build their capacity to understand and respond to the needs of people from LGBTIQ+ communities**, and the extension of funding to focus on rural and remote locations
- significant steps taken by QPS to embrace and celebrate LGBTIQ+ inclusion by developing its internal LGBTIQ+ network, raising awareness of police support and referral services for members of LGBTIQ+ communities – including the inaugural QPS forum on domestic and family violence in LGBTIQ+ communities in May 2019 – and focusing on **an empathetic and person-centred approach to domestic and family violence that makes every police contact count**.

Representatives from **DV Connect, QNews and a QPS LGBTI liaison officer** shared their insights with the Council about supporting LGBTIQ+ communities, and developing the public conversation about domestic and family violence in Queensland's LGBTIQ+ communities.

A representative from the Council's **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group** joined the meeting to provide an update and observations on the Council's visit to the Torres Strait and Cairns from 16–20 June 2019. Observations about domestic and family violence in the Torres Strait include:

- the **unique geographic, cultural and other characteristics of the Torres Strait** that make its domestic and family violence needs fundamentally different from the needs of other locations, including other remote Indigenous communities
- additional and significant challenges on the outer Islands **due to a lack of services, and the distance of the islands from local service hubs**
- a perception among Thursday Island community members that the incidence of domestic and family violence in the Torres Strait is increasing
- the need for a concrete, **coordinated plan to address domestic and family violence in the Torres Strait**.

The visit to Cairns included an address by:

- Council Chair, Kay McGrath, to the Indigenous Mayors Summit
- Council member, Karni Liddell, to the QPS Executive Leadership team about the identification of disability in domestic and family violence.

The Council expressed their thanks to QPS Assistant Commissioner Brett Schafferius and Advisory Group members, Charles Passi, Heron Loban and Ed Mosby whose local knowledge contributed greatly to the success of the visit.

Before closing the meeting, the Council noted the resignation of Council member, Professor Annabel Taylor, from 30 August 2019 due to relocation internationally, and **acknowledged her contribution and commitment to the work of the Council** since her appointment in May 2017.