



Toward **2**

Tomorrow's Queensland



Community consultation
Government response

Introduction

Queenslanders have submitted more than 4500 ideas since *Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland*, the government's blueprint for the future was launched in September 2008.

Toward Q2 covers our economy, environment and lifestyle, education and skills, health and the community, outlining 10 targets for 2020 under five broad ambitions – strong, green, smart, healthy and fair.

The Q2 targets tackle some of the biggest challenges Queensland faces, including climate change, population growth, preventable diseases and entrenched disadvantage.

Recognising that government cannot reach these targets in isolation, Queenslanders were consulted to get their views and ideas so they can play their part in shaping our future.

Last year 3444 people attended 30 public forums across the state and 133,177 *Toward Q2* web pages have been viewed.

Of the 4513 ideas received through public forums, emails and letters, 1215 related to the green ambition, 988 to the smart ambition, 904 to the strong ambition, 888 to the healthy ambition and 518 to the fair ambition.

Joy from Strathpine wanted to bring back dancing at school:

"This is a life long skill. Many young people thoroughly enjoy this activity and it's proven that there are health and social benefits."

Heidi from Brisbane proposed a foster grandparent program, as exists in America:

"The older volunteer helps disadvantaged children, mentors troubled teenagers, young mothers and care for premature infants and children with disabilities."

A forum participant at Airlie Beach called for more flexible work arrangements for parents:

"Industry could look at allocating some free time to allow parents to be involved in daytime school functions."

The ideas highlight our shared responsibility in reaching the Q2 targets. Some require Queensland Government action while the success of others relies on Commonwealth or local governments, businesses, communities, and individuals.

All ideas submitted are on the Q2 website and will continue to inform the Queensland Government programs, policies and initiatives that contribute toward meeting the Q2 targets. The Q2 website will continue to be updated with new ideas as they are received.

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2020 ambitions and targets

Strong – Creating a diverse economy powered by bright ideas

- Building Australia’s strongest economy with infrastructure that anticipates growth.
- Increasing by 50 per cent the proportion of Queensland businesses undertaking research and development or innovation.

Green – Protecting our lifestyle and environment

- Cutting Queenslanders’ carbon footprint by one-third with reduced car and electricity use.
- Protecting 50 per cent more land for nature conservation and public recreation.

Smart – Delivering world class education and training

- All children have access to quality early childhood education so they are ready for school.
- Three out of four Queenslanders to hold trade, training or tertiary qualifications.

Healthy – Making Queenslanders Australia’s healthiest people

- Cut obesity, smoking, heavy drinking and unsafe sun exposure by one-third.
- Reduce public hospital waiting times to the shortest in Australia.

Fair – Supporting safe and caring communities

- Halve the proportion of Queensland children living in households without a working parent.
- Increase the proportion of Queenslanders involved in their communities by 50 per cent.

Community forums

Between September and November 2008, a total of 3444 people attended 30 forums held throughout Queensland. Seven forums were hosted by the Premier, seven were hosted by the Deputy Premier, six were hosted by the Treasurer, and 10 Ministerial regional forums were held.

Location	Date	Host
Southport	15 September 2008	Premier
Strathpine	16 September 2008	Premier/Deputy Premier
Longreach	18 September 2008	Deputy Premier
The Gap	22 September 2008	Treasurer
Manunda	22 September 2008	Deputy Premier
Cleveland	22 September 2008	Treasurer
Boonah	22 September 2008	Minister Robertson
Nerang	22 September 2008	Minister Mickel
Landsborough	22 September 2008	Minister McNamara
Gayndah	22 September 2008	Minister Roberts
Airlie Beach	22 September 2008	Minister Shine
Smithfield	22 September 2008	Minister Pitt, Minister Boyle
Mount Morgan	22 September 2008	Minister Nelson-Carr
Hughenden	22 September 2008	Minister Wallace
St George	22 September 2008	Minister Mulherin
Gladstone	23 September 2008	Deputy Premier
Emerald	24 September 2008	Deputy Premier
Mackay	24 September 2008	Treasurer
Sippy Downs	29 September 2008	Treasurer
Ipswich	30 September 2008	Treasurer
Hervey Bay	30 September 2008	Premier
Thursday Island	3 October 2008	Treasurer
Rockhampton	3 October 2008	Premier
Wynnum	6 October 2008	Deputy Premier
Toowoomba	6 October 2008	Treasurer
Townsville	10 October 2008	Premier
Springwood	15 October 2008	Premier
Bundaberg	24 October 2008	Deputy Premier
Yeronga	3 November 2008	Deputy Premier
Mount Isa	5 November 2008	Premier

Strong ambition

Overview: 904 responses, 20 per cent of total

The global financial crisis has begun to make its mark on the Queensland economy and on the lives of every Queenslander. To remain competitive we must find new ways to work smarter and faster and produce more with less in an uncertain and competitive global market.

Listening: what you said

We learnt that Queenslanders share our belief that infrastructure and planning are vital for our state's future development and prosperity.

People living in Queensland's regions in particular want to contribute to the achievement of the strong and green ambitions through planned and sustainable development and population growth, and they want access to affordable housing. In Gladstone it was suggested that economic growth should be linked to a community's ability to pay for the services it needs. At St George, sustainable infrastructure with minimal carbon footprint was discussed.

Decentralisation of services and industry to regional areas was a common theme raised by people living in Queensland's regions. Regional Queenslanders also raised the need to find new and better ways to recruit and retain people to live and work in regional and rural areas. The need to create diverse economic bases in our regions, and support industry development opportunities for Indigenous communities was also raised.

Queenslanders told us of the importance and value of incentives, funding and promotion to encourage and support research and development and business innovation. Ideas presented at the Bundaberg forum included targeting research and development to specified industries, while at Rockhampton it was proposed that local workshops could be held on innovation to harness national and international ideas.

Action: what the government is doing

Jobs jobs jobs

The government's number one priority is maintaining employment during these difficult times. Measures to help maintain employment and skilling activities include the creation of the Premier's Employment Taskforce to provide expert advice on how to protect jobs and inform government policy in the economic downturn. The government is doing everything it can to support the economy, to protect, create and effectively plan now for future jobs.

Over the next three years the government has committed to creating 100,000 new jobs by:

- **Keeping Queensland's record building program going** – supporting vital construction jobs and the flow-on benefits throughout the economy.
- **Delivering the biggest local expansion of skills and training ever** – including 150,000 new training places, new payroll tax rebates for apprentices and trainees and new requirements for apprentices on state and federal infrastructure projects.
- **Supporting new industries** like Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) which can create 6000 jobs in the construction phase alone, and supporting our traditional industries like tourism.
- **Rolling out new job creation programs** like the Green Army, to help unemployed Queenslanders get back into the workforce.

Infrastructure program protects jobs, keeps economy growing

The government's \$18.2 billion infrastructure program – the nation's largest building program – is helping Queensland fight the world economic downturn by supporting 127,000 jobs.

The building program in 2008-09 included the \$1.88 billion Gateway Bridge duplication and upgrade of 20 kilometres of the Gateway Motorway, the Eastern Busway, the Gold Coast Hospital and the Abbot Point Coal Terminal expansion.

The building program also includes the \$3.4 billion Airport Link project – the largest road infrastructure project in Australia – as well as upgrades to the Pacific Motorway, Ipswich Motorway and the Gold Coast Highway. The Centenary Highway is being extended and construction is underway on the Townsville Port Access Road. There is also a replacement for the Forgan Bridge in Mackay and a \$150 million Bowen and Callide Basin safety package including works to Peak Downs Highway, Leichhardt Highway and Capricorn Highway.

\$170 million will be provided to expand the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre, \$42.5 million will be provided for a 38 kilometre pipeline to pump water to Cloncurry from the Ernest Henry Mine and \$60 million will be spent installing solar power in schools.

\$6.45 million is being rolled out for the Industry Capability Network (ICN) consisting of:

- \$4 million over five years to work with up to 100 additional businesses per year to help them identify the skills they need to maximise their potential to gain work on major projects.
- \$2 million over five years to allow ICN to increase its role in 'match making' local business to major projects.
- \$0.45 million over three years to conduct targeted seminars to educate Queensland business on the requirements of tendering for government projects.

In the Bowen Basin Region, \$27 million in projects are being fast tracked under the Sustainable Resource Communities initiative.

Green Army

A Green Army of more than 3000 people will fight for Queensland's waterways, beaches, national parks and green spaces under the government's \$57 million plan to create thousands of jobs, protect the environment and boost tourism.

Unemployed or school leaving Queenslanders will be drafted into 2300 paid green work placements and 700 green traineeships over the next three years.

The green jobs will consist of projects such as restoring national parks, revegetation and regeneration work, weed clearing, restoring degraded beaches, riverbanks and foreshores.

Participants will receive assistance to find further employment or entry into further education or training upon completion of the program with up to six months follow-up support.

Grants will be available to organisations to deliver green environmental and conservation projects which provide training for unemployed Queenslanders.

Rapid response teams

The government has established rapid response teams to visit and help local communities affected by the economic downturn. The teams meet with local employers affected by the economic downturn and retrenched staff to provide assistance by helping the workers identify their full skill sets so they can explore job opportunities in other industries.

Employment assistance

The government's Worker Assistance Program has been expanded from \$5 million to up to \$10 million and a \$20 million Employment Safety Net package has been established to assist apprentices and trainees.

Tax relief

As well as extending the payroll tax amnesty for employers of contractors, the government is providing payroll tax exemption for employers who hire an apprentice or trainee and a 25 per cent rebate on payroll tax for one extra employee per apprentice/trainee hired. New land tax valuations have been cancelled in 17 key Queensland local government areas.

Carrara Stadium

The government will provide \$60 million toward a \$130 million AFL stadium at Carrara on the Gold Coast, capable of being scaled to accommodate an international standard cricket oval, athletics field and soccer field. The 23,000 seat facility will have an additional 2000 standing capacity and is expected to be completed in time for the 2012 AFL season.

New staff retention accommodation

The government has committed to providing five new or upgraded dwellings to ensure attraction and retention of key frontline health and police staff for Mt Isa.

Better public transport

New buses are on the roads and an eRail SMS and email alert system has been introduced for trains to make public transport better.

The new improved services commenced in February, delivering almost 1000 new services to commuters in Brisbane city and Brisbane's northern, southern and north-west suburbs. This provides for an additional 64,000 commuters a week and is made possible through a record \$6.8 million investment by TransLink.

The government is also providing 150 new bus services a week in the Logan region to cater for an extra 1000 passengers a day during peak periods to alleviate public transport demand and reduce traffic congestion.

Residents in the Nambour, Noosa, Maroochydore, Mooloolaba and Caloundra areas will benefit from 157 new bus services providing capacity for an extra 8400 passengers a week.

Train passengers can better plan their journey because they can now receive updates on unplanned delays, disruptions and cancellations across the Queensland Rail suburban rail network. This new eRail SMS and email alert system is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

What business, industry and communities are doing

Boosting innovation and skill levels in Queensland will prevent us being left behind in the global race for new knowledge and a competitive edge. Some of the great innovations happening across the state include:

Ipswich's digital city

The Polaris Data Centre is the most recent technological innovation to open in the city of Ipswich.

The \$200 million centre, conceived and developed by Springfield Land Corporation and Suncorp, hosts mission-critical data systems for government departments and international companies, as well as supporting key infrastructure services such as hospitals, banks, email and the internet.

Ipswich was the first council in Australia to establish its own internet service provider in 1994.

Rotosign

Brisbane inventor John Brennan won the People's Choice Award on the ABC television show *The New Inventors* in July 2008 for his Rotosign.

The Rotosign is an energy-efficient changeable signage and display system made of magnet-based display units connected by gears and driven by a tiny motor. LED lighting strips inside the frame of the sign hit the rotating display gears producing a shimmering neon like effect which changes when the viewing angle changes, unlike conventional lit signage. The signs can be changed by simply sliding the magnetic 'roto units' into different locations.

Rocky's Own Transport

Rocky's Own Transport is a market leader in innovation, having piloted their Fatigue Management Program supervised by the former Queensland Transport. Through GPS mapping and driver monitoring, the quality and integrity of the system is ensured for the benefit of customers and employees. Through a research and development agreement with GPS Online, they have developed onboard computer technology for engine and driver management where customers can immediately be notified of any transport non-conformance such as speeding, overloading, violent braking and even driver fatigue.

Com-Assist Solutions

Com-Assist Solutions, trading as PCSchool, was established in 1986 and designed and implemented a unique system to enter student results, review report cards, record absences and view subjects and timetables via a web interface. This allows school principals, administration staff and teachers to access the information from remote locations.

Madison Technologies

Madison Technologies in Tingalpa is Australia's premier supplier of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) structured cabling systems and related products to the telecommunications, broadcast, audiovisual, data, security, and more recently, the Industrial ICT market.

Madison Technologies has a total of 85 staff in its head office in Brisbane and branches in Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne, Perth and Dubai. The company's growth has been driven by a strong focus on research, development and innovation coupled with a proven ability to design, supply and commission copper and fibre cabling solutions for major national and international construction and infrastructure projects.

Supporting regional tourist promotion

Outback at Isa is an innovative tourism support business that supports local and regional tourist promotion, including fossil education at the Riversleigh Fossil Centre, the Outback Park and the Hard Times Mine, an underground mining tour experience. The business employs around seven full time staff and approximately seven volunteers.

Ecospecifier

A successful southside export company, Ecospecifier, has signed a new collaboration agreement with the organisers of the Middle East's largest construction trade show (Big 5) to help ensure green building products feature more prominently at this year's show. Its broader aim is to help create a more sustainable physical environment by increasing the use of environmentally preferable and healthy products, materials and design processes.

Tomorrow's industry

The Australian Industry Group (Ai Group) and QMI Solutions are helping create a stronger Queensland economy through initiatives and services including a Tomorrow's Industry CEO forum, innovation benchmarking, workforce development strategies, seminars and workshops.

Delivered across Queensland, the programs are addressing issues confronting industry in terms of innovation, skills, capability, growth and sustainability. They are a valuable resource for the community and aim to support the strengthening of the state's economy and foster the development of innovative business cultures.

Challenge: what can you do?

At home? At work? In your community? Some ideas include:

- mentoring a small business owner
- sharing knowledge within the industry on efficiency methods
- investing in new technology or a research project
- suggesting your employer funds some research and development
- joining a chamber of commerce or industry group
- identifying a new economic opportunity for your region
- participating in workshops and discussions on innovation and business opportunity.



Green ambition

Overview: 1215 responses, 27 per cent of total

Queensland's natural environment and lifestyle is second to none, however there are challenges on the horizon. Our environment and lifestyle are under increasing pressure from our growing population and from the global challenge of climate change. Queensland is the biggest greenhouse gas emitter in the nation. Our growing population means we need to keep our cities and towns breathing and protect our natural landscapes, plants and animals.

Listening: what you said

Overwhelmingly Queenslanders have proposed developing cleaner energy sources, including solar and geothermal power and bio and alternative fuels, as a means of reducing our greenhouse gas emissions. People have told us they want more information and education about how they can contribute to reducing their carbon footprints.

They suggested rebates, incentives or rewards for use of "green" vehicles and called for more public transport to help reduce our carbon footprint. A range of ideas were presented across the state for protection and preservation of land for nature conservation and recreation, including opening school grounds for recreational use.

At the Longreach forum, support was expressed for hot rock energy and solar power development, stimulation of green energy and development of recycling programs in western areas. Use of alternative local energy sources including solar, wind and tidal were also raised at Thursday Island. The Landsborough forum discussed an idea to identify land where solar power stations and other innovative technology could be located to make small communities self sufficient for energy. People at Hughenden proposed funding incentives to encourage local communities to explore and accelerate development of alternative energy sources.

People at Strathpine suggested access to environmental efficiency programs should be extended outside urban areas and small businesses should be encouraged to recycle waste. We heard from people in Cairns who suggested introducing energy rating for building materials.

More public transport, bike paths and walking tracks were common themes. Ideas presented at the Townsville forum ranged from charging trucks the full cost of maintaining roads to building bicycle tracks. At the Gladstone forum it was suggested that public transport timetables should be adjusted to suit industry shifts. Establishment of vehicle-free tourist destinations was suggested at the Wynnum forum and creation of transport transit hubs was proposed at the Springwood forum.

Replanting and revegetating areas along main roads was suggested at Mackay, people at the Yeronga forum proposed decreasing housing block sizes to make more land available for recreation, and in Mt Morgan it was suggested that people should be encouraged to plant native trees in their front and back yards.

Action: what the government is doing

Solar smart

Over the next three years, the government will help Queensland families reap the benefits of solar energy by delivering up to 200,000 solar hot water systems to Queensland families for \$500 each. The government has also committed \$4 million toward a solar plant that is expected to supply a third of Hervey Bay's energy.

ClimateSmart Home Service – saving the environment

The Queensland Government is working toward cutting Queenslanders' carbon emissions by one-third throughout the next 12 years with the introduction of the new \$60 million ClimateSmart Home Service. As part of the service an electrician visits your home to conduct an energy audit and provide energy advice or energy saving tools, such as light bulbs, all for just \$50. With these small changes households can become greener and save up to \$250 on water and energy bills each year.

6-star energy rating

The Queensland Development Code Legislation will be amended to require new houses and major renovations to meet 6-star (out of 10) or equivalent energy efficiency standards by the end of 2010.

This means architects and designers will need to give more thought to the orientation of the house, location of rooms, amount of insulation, ventilation, shading such as eaves and awnings, and window location and size. To reach a 6-star rating, 1-star could be achieved through initiatives such as outdoor living areas.

This will increase the natural comfort of homes and lower energy use by reducing the need for air-conditioners and heaters. It is expected this will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 85,000 tonnes by 2020 – equivalent to taking 17,000 cars off the road. New units will be required to meet 5-star or equivalent energy efficiency standards from 1 March 2010.

The rating is just one of several new mandatory regulations covering house design and construction, and energy and water fixtures and fittings. Other new measures to be implemented over the next two years include:

Better recognition of outdoor living areas

From 1 March 2009, outdoor living areas connected to an indoor living area of a new or extensively renovated house attract a credit toward its energy equivalence rating. This credit will only apply to fully-covered outdoor living areas that are at least 12 square metres in size and attached to homes in the 'tropical' and 'sub-tropical' climate zones, as prescribed by Building Codes Australia.

4-star toilets, 3-star tapware and 80 per cent energy-efficient lighting

From 1 March 2009, all new houses and units are required to install minimum 4-star Water Efficient Labelling Standards (WELS) Scheme rated toilets, 3-star WELS rated tapware to kitchen sinks, bathroom basins and laundry taps, and

energy-efficient lighting to 80 per cent of fixed internal lights. Irrigation systems in areas of Queensland where they are not prohibited under water restrictions will also be required to be water-efficient, for example through low-flow systems.

Prevention of residential estate covenants that restrict the use of energy-efficient design features and fixtures

Laws will be introduced to render new and existing covenants and body corporate statements or by-laws invalid that restrict an owner or body corporate from using selected sustainable features, such as roof-mounted solar hot water systems and lighter roof colours.

Preventing the sale and installation of inefficient air-conditioners

From 1 July 2009, newly installed air-conditioners are required to meet 4-star Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) a minimum energy efficiency standard equivalent to the current 4-star rating. Laws will be introduced to prohibit the sale of air-conditioners in Queensland that do not meet the minimum rating.

Sustainability declaration

From 1 January 2010, a sustainability declaration must be completed as part of the sale of a house or unit. It will not form part of the contract of sale, but it will help inform prospective buyers about the sustainability features of the dwelling. This requirement will not apply to rental properties.

Electrical sub-meters

From 1 July 2010, new units and office buildings will be required to have electricity sub-metering, which will give office tenants and unit occupiers an incentive to reduce their power bills and cut greenhouse gas emissions.

Other sustainable housing measures

There will be further investigations and consultation on other measures such as a star rating system for building materials, minimum energy ratings for pool pumps and higher performance standards for large new homes.

Opening a green door

New sustainable developments will be fast tracked through a "green door" with expanded powers to be given to the Minister for Infrastructure and Planning to issue ministerial directions to councils at any time, fast-tracking approvals where a development exhibits exemplary sustainability features. This new power will explicitly define sustainability as a state interest, meaning councils can be directed early in the approvals process to make decisions in shortened timeframes, giving a green light to green development. Powers will also be expanded so that the Minister can give directions to state departments at any time where they relate to sustainable developments.

End of trip facilities

End of trip facilities for cyclists (including racks, lockers and showers) will be required in all new major developments around key activity centres and all new commercial buildings greater than 2000 square metres.

Clean Energy Strategy for Isolated Networks

The Clean Energy Strategy for Isolated Networks establishes a blueprint for the transitioning of Queensland's isolated communities, from high carbon intensity diesel fuel to a low carbon future, through a mix of energy conservation and renewable energy initiatives. The energy conservation program is targeted to reduce the community's energy use by 20 per cent. The Queensland Government has committed \$5 million to trial the strategy during 2009.

The pilot commenced at Thursday Island, Horn Island and the Northern Peninsula Area and will be conducted over a 12 month period. The key activities will incorporate an energy consultation for all customers at the trial sites, including the installation of cost effective energy conservation measures. There will be a schools program and local resources recruitment and training working closely with local government in the communities.

Environmentally friendly office buildings

The Queensland Government has set a benchmark for environmental standards with the recent opening of the first government environmentally friendly office building at the Maroochy Research Station. The \$2.2 million Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation's new south-east regional office is expected to save between 15 and 20 per cent on energy and 50 per cent on water annually, compared with a typical office building.

Innovative recycling

The Queensland Government has introduced an innovative recycling scheme to use timber saved from bridge replacements or other bridge maintenance projects. Older timber bridges are currently being replaced with new concrete structures and the timber is being retained for use in the maintenance of other bridges in southern Queensland. Conserving scarce hardwood timber is just one way in which the Queensland Government is helping to preserve Queensland's natural future.

Hospitals targeting energy savings

Hervey Bay Hospital will become one of the state's first green hospitals after signing up to a plan to reduce energy and water consumption. The hospital will introduce energy and water saving measures including more efficient lighting, water fittings and air-conditioning systems and the installation of an upgraded building management system. It is expected more than \$100,000 will be saved off energy bills in the first year. This is part of a statewide energy management strategy being rolled out by Queensland Health which is expected to slash hospital greenhouse emissions and generate savings of more than \$10 million a year.

Busting traffic congestion

The first of two specially designed heavy vehicle recovery units, capable of lifting heavy trucks and semi-trailers from the roadways of south-east Queensland, is due to arrive mid 2009 as part of the government's \$12.3 million Congestion-Busting Fast Incident Response Plan.

The plan includes:

- \$4 million for four fixed incident response depots to service the Bruce Highway and the Centenary Motorway, the Pacific Motorway and the Gateway South
- three mobile depots based at Nathan (Pacific Motorway), Deagon (Gateway North) and Brassall (Warrego Highway/ Ipswich Motorway) for recovery and emergency equipment and signage with fast access to key traffic corridors and heavily trafficked roads
- \$630,000 for three special incident cameras that take 360 degree images of the accident scene and speed-up time taken to record the scene of an accident.

Cycling routes

Upgrading projects of state-controlled roads now includes provision of cycling facilities. On other routes, the Department of Transport and Main Roads seeks to make state-controlled roads safer for cyclists by incorporating cycle-friendly design in traffic operations, road upgrading and maintenance projects. This may include the economical retrofitting of roads where necessary to accommodate cyclists.

Public service decentralisation

The government has set a target to decentralise metropolitan government departments, saving almost \$200 million over 20 years. By 2017, 20 per cent of the Queensland Government's Central Business District (CBD) office space accommodating approximately 5600 public servants, will be moved out of the city centre. The plan is to relocate 85,000 square metres of government CBD office space, easing pressure on public transport and giving many public sector employees the opportunity to work closer to home.

Public park at Kangaroo Point

Part of the government's Q2 vision is providing green space for the public to enjoy and that extends right into the heart of busy urban centres. The former South Bank Institute of TAFE building on the edge of the Kangaroo Point cliff will be demolished and transformed into 9867 square metres of extra green space for Brisbane.

Jabiru Island sand mine turns into a community reserve

A former Jabiru Island sand mine will become a new community park after the Gold Coast site was registered with the Queensland Government as a reserve. The new 1.3 hectare reserve will provide more open space for the local community and will complement the existing 18 hectare Phil Hill Environmental Park, in the Coomera River near Paradise Point.

The state-owned site was previously leased for sand mining but is now registered as a reserve with the Gold Coast City Council as the trustee. It is a popular recreation spot which attracts many anglers and families looking for a place to relax and enjoy the outdoors. Grass and turf are being replanted at the site and what was previously off-limits and unusable land for visitors will be transformed into an ideal recreation spot – a natural community asset for future generations to enjoy.

Plans to restore Kirra Beach

The government is providing up to \$1.5 million to begin restoring the popular Kirra Beach to its past glory. The plan consists of a short-term sand excavation strategy, backed up by a long-term strategy to solve the problem on the world famous stretch of beach. For the past eight years this beach has been slowly transforming from a world famous surfing destination to a flat expanse of sand and water.

Building the Great Walk

Over the next three years, the Queensland Government will fund a \$1.23 million feasibility study and work with the Commonwealth Government to secure further financial commitment to begin the first 230 kilometres of the Great Walk from Daintree to Cooktown.

Action: what business, industry and communities are doing

Making changes to the way we live now can prevent rising temperatures putting our sensitive ecosystems and life as we know it at risk. Below are some of the many good examples of sustainable living and working across the state.

Building back green

Green Cross Australia's Build it Back Green project provides information about how to rebuild safe and sustainable infrastructure after extreme weather events such as storms, floods and bushfires.

By focusing rebuilding efforts on sustainability, including the carbon intensity of materials used and the ongoing energy footprint, the project aims to reduce future greenhouse emissions as well as prevent refueling the extreme weather cycle.

Buderim Ginger

The Buderim Ginger factory introduced a new automated system which has significantly reduced its water usage, waste water and gas consumption during the ginger cleansing process. Since the system began full operation in late November 2007, the factory has saved about 30,000 litres of water, 18,000 litres of waste water and 330,000 litres of gas, with further savings anticipated this year.

Groves grown tropical fruit

The Groves family orchard on the northern outskirts of Yeppoon, is involved in sustainable mango, lychee and star fruit production. The Groves have implemented a 100 per cent ground cover policy, wind break trees, run off catchment ponds, under-tree drip irrigation to minimise water usage and total enclosure netting techniques – a non-lethal method to protect crops from flying foxes and other wildlife.

Tackling climate change

Bundaberg State High School students have been learning about ways to save energy and in turn save the environment. Students have begun designing two television commercials about being energy efficient.

Mackay Natural Environment Levy

The town of Mackay has developed some innovative environmental initiatives such as the introduction of the Mackay Natural Environment Levy which has funded the development of the Natural Environment Centre. The centre is a base from which members of the local community can take part in various environmental projects and initiatives which help to protect and restore Mackay's natural environment.

Challenge: what can you do?

There are simple things you can do at home, in your workplace and at school to reduce your carbon footprint. Some ideas include:

- double-sided printing on recycled paper
- swapping a car ride for a trip on a bus, train or ferry
- registering for ClimateSmart Home Service
- calculating your carbon footprint
- turning off lights at work when you leave
- tracking your electricity use.



Smart ambition

Overview: 988 submissions, 22 per cent of total

Access to a quality early childhood education for all young children in Queensland is a key target that recognises the positive benefits of investing in the provision of a high quality early childhood education, particularly for children living in disadvantaged families and communities. This key target also aligns with the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Productivity Agenda which is focused on improving early childhood development outcomes nationally.

Harnessing our intellectual and creative talent will help us compete on the world stage. Technological advancements and increasing global competition for new knowledge will continue the demand for skilled workers. In uncertain economic times, our future relies on world-class education and training. Evidence tells us that the more education people have, the more they will be able to seize new opportunities, master new technologies and adapt to changing job needs.

Listening: what you said

Queenslanders who attended the community forums told us the implementation of a full-time non-compulsory Prep year was working well and many people thought it should become compulsory. Others proposed increased allocation of teacher aides for Prep. People were keen for more kindergarten services, however some concerns were voiced about the possible impact on existing child care services and facilities which presently had unused capacity.

At the Sunshine Coast it was suggested that second languages should be introduced for children in the Prep year. Across the board there was strong support for parenting education and guidance. In Hervey Bay, homework groups for students were suggested. The Nerang forum called for more teacher aides and support for children with special needs.

The challenges of providing access to a broad range of education and training opportunities in rural and regional areas were raised during consultation. Suggestions included decentralising the provision of education and training through more regional campuses, more virtual schooling and local opportunities matched to local industries. In Gladstone it was suggested that local training capacity should be expanded to enable young people to remain in the region while undertaking training. The Mt Isa forum discussed using business and community leaders as role models to promote a broad range of career options to students.

The importance of trade-based education was raised with people across the state calling for more apprenticeships, including School-based Apprenticeships and Traineeships (SATs) and for more links to be established between schools and industry. Mentoring young people was raised as a suggestion at the Gold Coast forum.

There was general support for a national education system and consistent curriculum and for more use of school facilities after hours.

Scholarships and incentives or indenture systems were proposed to attract and retain health and education workers in rural areas. At the Bundaberg forum it was suggested that HECS fees could be required to be fully paid before graduates could leave Australia to work overseas.

Action: what the government is doing

240 extra kindergarten services

To help achieve this Q2 target the Queensland Government will establish an additional 240 kindergarten services in Queensland by 2014. These new, extended or upgraded kindergartens will double the capacity of Queensland's existing community kindergarten sector and cater for approximately 12,000 children, aged between three and a half and four and a half years, not currently accessing any centre-based early childhood education and care service. Where possible these extra kindergartens will be co-located with schools.

Eight new kindergartens will be opened by the end of 2010 at Seaforth State School, Mudgeeraba State School, Stretton State College, Prince of Peace in Everton Hills, St Andrews in Redlynch, Beaconsfield State School in Mackay, Oonoonba State School in Townsville and Moorooka State School.

Ten new kindergartens will be opened by the end of 2011 at Woodford State School, Tin Can Bay State School, Beachmere State School, Forest Lake College, Gaven State School, Deception Bay North State School, Fairview Heights State School in Toowoomba, Sunset State School in Mt Isa, Crestmead State School and Rochedale South State School.

Two extended kindergartens will be opened in Jimboomba State School and Carina State School by the end of 2011.

5,000 public sector apprenticeships and traineeships

Recognising the importance of training, the government has guaranteed 5000 public sector apprenticeships and traineeships over the next four years. It will support the growth of apprentices and trainees by expanding the 10 per cent government training policy for building and construction contracts to include any construction or civil works contract let by the Queensland Government, any contract for infrastructure and any information technology contract with a value of more than \$500,000 and contracts delivered with Federal funds administered by the Queensland Government. Private companies who are awarded Queensland Government contracts will be required to have 10 per cent of all labour hours attributed to apprentices and trainees.

Skilling fund for green building

A \$500,000 Green Building Skills Fund is being established to provide up to 3000 industry participants with green building skills over four years. The government will partner with peak industry bodies like the Green Building Council of Australia and HIA to deliver accredited training courses, with emphasis on undertaking training in regional Queensland. Training course participants will have 50 per cent of their course costs subsidised.

148,000 trade and training places

The Queensland Government will provide a major boost to skilled trade and other vocational qualifications through the investment of \$124.3 million over four years from 1 January 2009 to 30 June 2012 (\$27.3 million in 2009-10). This will create around 102,000 additional training places for existing Queensland workers and around 46,000 additional training places for job seekers and new entrants.

The Queensland Government's investment will leverage additional contributions from the Commonwealth Government and industry, as part of the National Partnership Agreement on Productivity Places Program, to provide a combined investment of \$414.5 million over four years.

School-based apprenticeships and traineeships

The government is investing \$6.2 million in a three-year statewide initiative to increase the number of School-based Apprenticeship and Traineeship (SATs) commencements to 12,400 by December 2009.

School-based apprenticeships and traineeships allow students typically in years 11 and 12, to study for their Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE), work for an employer and train towards a recognised qualification, while completing high school. Students in Year 10 can also do a SAT. SATs are suitable for students seeking to enter a trade after completing school, as well as students seeking university pathways. SATs are available in a broad range of careers from construction and automotive, to hairdressing, horticulture and the arts. In 2008, 8928 students commenced a SAT in Queensland.

Industry school engagement

The Queensland Government is building partnerships with industry and the community for a highly skilled and relevant workforce, now and into the future. Through industry, education and training we are investing in the future of Queensland's economy.

Industry school engagement involves partnering with industry to enable young people to acquire the knowledge, skills and attributes to participate effectively in society and employment in the globalised economy. Our young people will make a successful transition from school to work or further study in those areas of direct relevance to the economy, through initiatives such as:

- Gateway Schools which deliver specialised education and industry training for students in Years 8 to 12 in industries including wine tourism, manufacturing and engineering, building and construction, agribusiness, aviation and minerals and energy.
- Industry, education and training alliances, such as AgForce Queensland School to Industry Partnership, Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy (QMEA), Queensland College of Wine Tourism (QCWT) and SchoolTech, which provide secondary students with a greater awareness of key industries and the career opportunities available in those industries.
- School Industry Trade Centres, through which contemporary industry-focused centres are developed in partnership with industry and local employers, to provide a learning environment

that duplicates the expectations and discipline of the workplace. The focus is on real learning for real jobs including through school-based apprenticeships and traineeships.

- Skill centres to provide contemporary industry-focused facilities that will enable the delivery of accredited vocational education and training, particularly for Indigenous peoples and industries wishing to provide opportunities for their current and future workforce.
- Trade Training centres to help increase the proportion of students achieving Year 12 or an equivalent qualification and address skill shortages in traditional trades and emerging industries.

Action: what business, industry and communities are doing

Australia Post's Indigenous Employment and Business Strategy

The Australia Post Indigenous Employment and Business Strategy implements school to work traineeships, particularly in rural and remote areas. In 2009, the target for all school to work trainees is 100 in training, of whom 20 will be school-based trainees across Australia.

School-based traineeships are offered in Certificate II Retail or Certificate II Business Administration, depending on whether it is an Australia Post shop or a delivery centre.

Indigenous communities have been very supportive of the program as they have seen the benefit to young people in the community who have been involved in the program. The young people develop work skills and grow in maturity and self confidence. The program also provides an incentive for young people to continue with schooling as they need to be at school to remain on the program.

Australia Post also benefits. All staff are rewarded by seeing their trainee grow in skills and confidence and there is the potential for Australia Post to gain a skilled and highly motivated employee at the end of the traineeship.

"The idea is to expose the trainees to a broad range of tasks so they have an understanding of the business and how it contributes to the community."

State Diversity Coordinator, Australia Post.

On the path to success!

The SAT program continues to expand across Queensland, providing diverse opportunities and experiences for students. Kai-Wai Lo's goal of being a master chef is a step closer after training for a Certificate III in Hospitality (Commercial Cookery) at the Sheraton Mirage in Port Douglas.

"Being 16 years old and having a school-based apprenticeship can be a bit complicated to juggle. I have school, assignments, exams, social life, AFL, competition practice and my training. It is a challenge, but I love the challenge."

At Mirani State High School, where Colleen McFarlane attends, students are encouraged to take up school-based apprenticeships and traineeships. Colleen is training for a Certificate II in Desktop



Publishing with a local real estate agent, and is a great role model for younger students with their eye on a SATs pathway.

“High school was a big change for me. Coming from a small country school I didn’t know what to expect, nor did I know what I wanted to do at the end. I had a few ideas of paths I could take, but by the end of year 10 I had one goal in mind - to leave school with a qualification in my hand.”

Challenge: what can you do?

- One of the most important things you can do to help with your child’s education is to read to him or her and encourage them in early learning.
- When your child is thinking about what they would like to be or do when they leave school you should encourage them to look at a wide range of occupations – talk to their teacher and guidance counsellor, get advice from community and sports groups, go to career fairs or search the internet for interesting jobs.
- You might want to consider upgrading your skills by enrolling in a post-education course, or branching into a new industry with better career prospects.
- If you are an employer you might want to consider supporting your workers to upgrade their skills.

Healthy ambition

Overview: 888 responses, 20 per cent of total

The future well-being and wealth of Queensland relies on healthy people, healthy communities and a healthy workforce. Our state continues to contend with the challenges of a growing and ageing population, high birth rates, increasing cases of preventable disease and an unacceptable gap in Indigenous life expectancy.

Prevention, early action and new forms of treatment are vital to a healthy future. We all have a responsibility to ourselves, our families and our communities to do all we can to stay healthy.

Listening: what you said

More doctors and medical staff, upgraded hospital facilities and provision of information, promotion and education to help Queenslanders adopt healthy eating and active lifestyles were common themes raised at Q2 forums.

Incentives such as free exercise programs, workplace facilities, and cheaper fresh healthy food were suggested. There was some support for banning junk food advertising and strong support for employment of more doctors and nurses in our hospitals.

The idea of establishing community gardens in council parks or school grounds was raised 21 times across the state.

Providing more shade structures, walking and bike tracks was raised 49 times. There was support for the introduction of financial consequences for people with poor health habits, such as requiring people with preventable diseases to pay a portion of medical and hospital costs.

The Longreach forum discussed the idea of introducing compulsory health checks for employees, the Sunshine Coast forum suggested more health and fitness education for children, and Toowoomba proposed that Year 10 students should be screened for Type 2 diabetes. The Emerald forum suggested employers should be encouraged to provide group health programs. The Cleveland forum proposed more cardiac equipment for hospitals and the Boonah forum suggested more primary health care in smaller hospitals.

Several forums discussed ideas for promoting the use of local food products. In Cairns it was suggested that fresh produce should be subsidised in remote communities. The forum at Thursday Island proposed involving students and parents in preparing school canteen lunches using local produce and traditional methods, and establishing inter-island markets for trading local produce and developing horticulture and business skills.

The Gap forum discussed maternity services models, including increased use of midwives and birthing centres to reduce demand on doctors and hospitals and monitoring of workplaces to enforce smoking regulations was suggested at the Ipswich forum.

Action: what the government is doing

The government is investing in Queensland's health system by employing more staff and upgrading hospital and rehabilitation facilities and services across the state. This includes:

Employing more staff

- Employing at least 3500 doctors, nurses and allied health workers over the next three years.
- Training and recruiting 30 new specialist nurses (either fully accredited or training to become Nurse Practitioners) in three years to work in the busiest emergency departments, starting with 10 in the next 12 months.

Expanding emergency departments

- Investing \$45.6 million for a new 12-bay paediatric emergency department, 20 short stay paediatric ward beds and specialist outpatient clinics at the Prince Charles Hospital.
- Investing \$44 million to expand the Logan Hospital Emergency Department, including 18 adult treatment bays and dedicated paediatric waiting area and treatment bays.
- Investing \$18 million to expand the Redland Hospital Emergency Department including a helipad, four paediatric emergency department treatment bays and four consulting rooms.
- Investing \$19 million to upgrade the QEII Hospital Emergency Department, including refurbishment to create 11 fast track bays and additional short stay capacity for people requiring observation.
- Building a new \$6.5 million cancer oncology centre in addition to Rockhampton Hospital's \$74 million redevelopment. The centre will be completed by 2011 but the additional treatment sessions will commence from 2010 using visiting oncology specialists. Once fully operational, the centre will employ at least 10 additional oncology staff.
- Investing \$6.7 million to expand the Ipswich Hospital Emergency Department including paediatric treatment spaces and six paediatric short stay observation beds.
- Investing \$5.2 million to expand the Caboolture Hospital Emergency Department, including five treatment bays, dedicated paediatric space and to improve patient privacy.
- Investing \$4 million for Bundaberg Hospital to enhance the new emergency department project by providing additional observation beds and ensuring support services like radiology and x-ray are easily accessible, and a further \$250,000 to modify the waiting area to include a dedicated paediatrics area. The triage area will also be modified to ensure a single triage process is in place and on-site security will be made more visible.
- Investing \$2 million to upgrade the Toowoomba Hospital Emergency Department with a new lounge accommodating up to 12 patients awaiting discharge or transfer by ambulance.

New and improved aged care and rehabilitation facilities

- An extra 44 rehabilitation beds at Eventide Nursing Home in Sandgate, 30 rehabilitation or step down beds at Parklands Residential Aged Care Facility in Townsville, 15 rehabilitation places at Rockhampton Hospital and outreach services to Yeppoon and Mt Morgan.
- World class new online tools to assist doctors and nurses assess elderly patients faster.
- A new \$6.5 million 10 bed aged care annex attached to the Cloncurry Hospital upgrading the existing three bed capacity and adding seven new beds, to be completed by June 2012.

Boosting maternity services and neo-natal services

- The \$25 million expansion of the neo-natal intensive care unit in Townsville with an additional \$9 million to fund ongoing services to provide state-of-the-art-facilities for North Queensland's sickest babies.
- An investment of \$5 million in new maternity services that will give one-on-one midwifery support to women commencing in nine locations from 2009–10.
- \$2.7 million to provide access to newborn and family drop-in clinics in nine towns.

Expanding patient education, support and accommodation

- A new \$800,000 four bedroom/bathroom dwelling to provide accommodation for renal dialysis patients from Mt Isa Hospital to be completed by June 2010.
- \$15 million for new patient accommodation for people who need to travel to access specialist treatment.
- \$1 million toward the total \$2 million cost of a new Rockhampton Cancer Education Support and Accommodation Centre. The new centre will include a support centre for cancer patients and their families, a health education facility for the regional community, a venue for health professional training and development and a point of contact for cancer-related information and affiliated support services.

Surgery Connect

The government has guaranteed the future of Surgery Connect by committing an extra \$90 million over the next three years. This supports an additional 20,000 procedures (including 3300 on children) from July 2009, prioritising patients who have been waiting for longer than the clinically recommended time.

Healthy Queensland Awards

Social wheelchair basketball, a permaculture garden and football bootcamps are among the many initiatives vying for the state's inaugural Healthy Queensland Awards. The awards offer prize money of up to \$1 million for communities, \$500,000 for schools and \$100,000 for workplaces, to be used towards "healthy" infrastructures such as a swimming pool, a basketball court or a bike and walking path.

More than 330 community groups, schools and workplaces have entered the awards including Wondai State School in the

South Burnett region. This school has implemented Future Earth, a program that extends to growing their own vegetables in a permaculture garden and ensuring students understand the importance of a sustainable future. This program's motto is "you can live healthy without being wealthy".

On the Gold Coast, NBL team Gold Coast Blaze, Sporting Wheelies and Disabled Association, Gold Coast City Council and Gold Coast Recreation and Sport Inc have joined together to create 'Rollerblaze' – social wheelchair basketball for people in the Gold and Tweed Coast region.

At St Aidan's Anglican Girls' School, Corinda, the whole school community has taken up the challenge with weekly bike rides for the family, yoga for teachers, Teddy Bear Picnics for the junior students and fruit smoothie fundraisers for the Senior School.

And the Queensland Knockouts Indigenous Corporation has introduced smoke and alcohol free boot camps for young footballers. Judging will take place across 12 regional areas – Far North Queensland, North Queensland, Whitsunday-Mackay, Central Queensland, Western Queensland, Wide Bay-Burnett, Darling Downs, South West Queensland, Sunshine Coast, Brisbane, Inland South East Queensland and Coastal South East Queensland.

Entries will be judged on criteria including planning a program, implementing and monitoring the program, partnering with other community members and plans for any winnings.

Palm Island market

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council received almost \$50,000 from the Queensland Government toward the establishment of new Palm Island markets. The markets are a valuable community asset which aim to help residents of Palm Island to develop commercial activities and build financial independence. It is a chance to showcase locally made arts and crafts along with fresh vegetables grown on the island.

Cloncurry Pool upgrade

The government is contributing \$400,000 to Cloncurry Regional Council for the further upgrade to the pool, to be completed by June 2010.

Junk food advertising

The government sought feedback from Queenslanders about whether junk food advertising should be banned during children's TV viewing hours. More than 1500 Queenslanders, the AMA Queensland, Diabetes Australia Queensland, the Heart Foundation and the Cancer Council Queensland supported the proposed ban on junk food advertising during children's viewing hours. The government is presently considering the responses.

Queensland Tennis Centre

The new Queensland Tennis Centre gives everyone a chance to make Queenslanders Australia's healthiest people. The new \$82 million state-of-the-art facility opened at Tennyson in January 2009 and will help budding young Queensland players acquire a broad range of skills on the different tournament surfaces used around the world.

Government partners up with the community to get active

Sporting organisations, community groups, local governments and educational institutions have been awarded \$3.3 million to deliver projects that help Queenslanders get active, eat better and lead healthier lifestyles.

One hundred and fourteen applicants successfully obtained funding under the Eat Well Be Active Community Partnerships Program 2008. The Community Partnerships Program is all about providing funding at the grassroots level to support the development and delivery of healthy lifestyle programs.

The successful applications cover a range of areas including nutrition, physical activity, sport, recreation and healthy lifestyle choices. They are projects that help people get out and get active, learn cooking and nutritional skills to eat healthier and inspire people to make positive lifestyle changes.

Projects include:

- More than \$28,000 to Loganlea State High School for a program that will provide approximately 300 young people with disabilities with an inclusive weekly sports program.
- More than \$26,000 to the North Burnett Regional Council to facilitate physical activity workshops and expand the Gayndah Triathlon.
- Almost \$30,000 to the Cerebral Palsy League of Queensland in Rockhampton to improve eating habits and increase participation in physical activity amongst their clients and staff.
- Almost \$30,000 to assist the Cooloola Human Services Network to deliver Tai Chi classes for seniors and develop a community kitchen in Gympie.

Taking the stairs

The stairwell to the Queensland Government's Executive Building has been opened to employees as part of a six-month trial to encourage public servants to exercise while at work.

Public servants in the building are encouraged to access their work space via the stairs in preference to the lift. It is anticipated that a rollout to all 13 government owned office buildings in the CBD, which are occupied by more than 13,000 public servants, will take place in the second half of 2009.

Expansion of end-of-trip facilities

As well as providing opportunities for government employees to climb the stairs, the Queensland Government has provided another leg-up to a healthier workforce by expanding the end-of-trip facilities to encourage more staff to walk, run or cycle to work. This includes additional showers, lockers and secure bicycle parking. The facilities are available to all government employees.

Find Your 30

The Find Your 30 campaign encourages Queenslanders to find 30 minutes of physical activity each day and make healthy food choices. It is a three year, \$8.4 million campaign which was an outcome of the government's Obesity Summit in 2006.

The campaign includes media promotions and an interactive website at www.your30.com.au with motivational messages and simple ideas to help Queenslanders get active.

Community sport and recreation facilities

The government has recently committed a further \$27 million to 36 projects across the state to develop or improve community sport and recreation facilities, which enables many Queenslanders to lead more active lifestyles. This includes funding for aquatic centres at Sippy Downs and Townsville, playing fields at Runaway Bay and extensions to the PCYC facility at Manunda in Cairns. This is on top of the \$13.2 million that was allocated to over 180 clubs statewide last year to upgrade or expand local club facilities.

What business, industry and communities are doing

10,000 Steps Challenge

Rockhampton was the first community to implement 10,000 Steps initiatives to raise awareness of physical activity and increase physical activity levels. The 10,000 Steps Challenge provides an opportunity and a platform for the community to take positive steps toward better health. Other 10,000 Steps communities include Brisbane, Bundaberg, Mackay, Moranbah and Townsville.

Supportive Environments for Physical Activity and Healthy Eating

The Heart Foundation is developing the Supportive Environments for Physical Activity and Healthy Eating (SEPAHE) resource to provide local government with best-practice ideas on how to create active and healthy lifestyles in their communities.

Suncorp SunWise

Suncorp has taken its SunWise message to Queensland's grassroots, teaming up with regional councils in places such as Townsville, Sunshine Coast and Mackay to provide free sunscreen to families at local aquatic and sporting facilities. Since 2004 Suncorp has raised more than \$1.2 million for the Queensland Institute of Medical Research to help make significant discoveries in the fight against skin cancer.

Countless community groups, clubs and schools have also experienced the company's generosity first-hand, winning portable shade tents or hiring them at low cost. Since 2004, Suncorp's committed staff 'walk the talk' with more than 600 of them volunteering each year across the state at beaches and community events, giving out free sunscreen and hats to help Queenslanders make sun protection part of their way of life.

Challenge: what can you do?

- Go to the gym or take up walking.
- Go for 2 and 5 – eat more fruit and vegetables.
- Quit smoking.
- Drink responsibly and encourage responsible drinking.
- Be sun-smart and teach your children to always wear sunscreen and a hat.
- Drink more water.

Fair ambition

Overview: 518 submissions, 11 per cent of total

Unfortunately across Queensland there are entrenched pockets of disadvantage in our communities. Some people face barriers to joining the workforce, some have lost their jobs as a result of the global economic downturn. Research shows that children living in jobless households are at greater risk of disadvantage, less likely to do well at school and more likely to end up in the criminal justice system.

Volunteering is an important aspect of our social fabric and gives Queenslanders the opportunity to give something back to their communities. Volunteering has so much to offer and is becoming more flexible, with the option of web-based volunteering as well as short-term activities, one-off events or ongoing projects on offer. It also has tremendous benefits in shaping young people's values and commitment to community.

We have truly seen the Queensland community spirit in action through the actions of volunteers during recent natural disasters such as storms and floods and the many ways in which Queenslanders responded to the Victorian bushfires.

Listening: what you said

Providing flexible work hours for single parents and access to parenting education were the key themes that emerged from consultation about ways to meet the Q2 target of halving the proportion of Queensland children living in a household without a working parent. The opportunity to use volunteering as preparation for the workforce was another common suggestion.

Along with the need for better access to information about opportunities to volunteer and suggestions about how to tap into the knowledge and experience of retirees, people at every Toward Q2 community forum raised concerns about the barriers to volunteering.

Ideas for removing barriers to volunteering and providing recognition and incentives ranged from exploring tax reductions to reimbursement of volunteering expenses costs such as transport, parking, fuel, childcare and uniforms. At the Airlie Beach forum it was proposed that leadership training for community organisations could help motivate and support volunteers.

People also suggested that volunteering should begin at the school level. The idea of including volunteering in the school curriculum was raised eight times during Q2 consultation.

At Gayndah it was proposed that recognition of volunteering should extend to community roles such as junior coaching and before and after school activities. People at the Landsborough forum discussed ideas about mentoring and establishing community networks to support and care for families using extended family roles.

Action: what the government is doing

The government is supporting a range of initiatives to boost volunteering in Queensland as a result of ideas put forward by Queenslanders.

Access to information

Volunteering Queensland provides a wonderful service to the Queensland community through a range of measures including the Volbase database which helps match prospective volunteers with community organisations. In response to requests for more information about volunteering opportunities, the Volunteering Queensland website, www.volqld.org.au, has been linked from the Toward Q2 website.

Golden Gurus

The government is supporting Mr Ernie Peralta, 76, of Chapel Hill and Volunteering Queensland to introduce the Golden Gurus project across the state, connecting older Queenslanders with non-government organisations.

Mr Peralta's Golden Gurus concept harnesses the expertise of retired business people and community leaders to provide community organisations with mentoring, advice, support and assistance on management, business, training or non-business issues. In 2006, more than 133,250 Queenslanders aged 65 years and over took part in some form of voluntary work.

VolBiz – community business volunteer register

The government has provided \$30,000 for Volunteering Queensland to create VolBiz, a web service where businesses can register details about the support they are willing to provide to their local communities. The concept of the community business volunteer register was proposed by Bendigo Bank to encourage businesses to give up a few hours a week to provide their services in the local neighbourhood, or donate their expertise where it is most needed but cannot be afforded.

Certificate in Active Volunteering

Students from nine Queensland state schools are the first in Australia to study volunteering as part of their senior studies. They will undertake the Certificate II in Active Volunteering and gain credits for the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE).

Initially offered in five schools in 2008, the program is being expanded this year to include Everton Park State High School, Ferny Grove State High School, Earnshaw State College and Wavell State High School. They will join students from the five pilot Brisbane state schools – Bracken Ridge State High School, Mitchelton State High School, Craigslea State High School, Corinda State High School and the Gap State High School. Corinda State High School has expanded the program from 11 students in 2008 to 25 Year 11 students commencing the certificate this year.

The program is delivered by Volunteering Queensland as the Registered Training Organisation. The two-year program enables

students to gain recognition for participation in service learning activities with local facilities such as aged care homes and Meals on Wheels.

The Certificate II in Active Volunteering is a nationally-accredited VET qualification and can contribute four credit points to the QCE. Units of competence in the course have been mapped against the Certificate II in Workplace Practices and both certificates are being offered as one program resulting in a dual certificate worth eight QCE credits.

Experience volunteering

A statewide Experience Volunteering promotional campaign was launched in December 2008 to encourage more young people to experience the benefits of volunteering.

About one-third of young people in Queensland aged 18 to 24 are already making a difference as volunteers. Young people become volunteers for a variety of reasons such as to reach out to other people in their community, develop new skills to put on their resume, or to make new friends.

Supporting public service

The government is supporting registered volunteers in the public service by allowing them to access five days leave for attendance at incidents and natural disasters.

What business, industry and communities are doing

Surf lifesavers to help in emergencies

Surf Life Saving Queensland is working with the State Emergency Service to provide appropriate training and accreditation. Surf life saving volunteers can then be mobilised and tasked during significant natural disasters and other emergency events.

Fitted for Work

Fitted for Work is a service committed to helping long term unemployed and disadvantaged women obtain work, maintain employment and ultimately achieve financial independence. Fitted for Work offers business clothing, presentation and interview skills as well as building self confidence and assisting women on their path to self sufficiency.

“After raising my son as a sole parent I made a decision that after his tenth birthday I would commence full time work. Over the last 10 years I had worked in various part time and casual positions, however despite being a resourceful person I struggled at times financially and emotionally. I was fortunate to be referred to an organisation (Sign on Employment) that assisted in recognising the skills I had and what I needed to do to enter full time employment. With interviews lined up I realised I needed to update my wardrobe. That’s where Fitted for Work came into the picture. It is a fantastic organisation that fitted me with a couple of great outfits, along with boosting my confidence with encouragement and advice. I can’t thank all the girls at Fitted for Work enough. I start a full time job with a brilliant company next week. I know without their help I wouldn’t have got there so fast.”

There are many great example of what business, industry, communities and individuals are doing. Visit the Volunteering Queensland website to find out about best practice at www.volqld.org.au/best_practice or read about the stories of Queensland’s volunteers on the Get Involved website, www.getinvolved.qld.gov.au/participate

Challenge: what can you do?

Supporting our communities requires investing our time, talents and energy to help out when needed. Some things you can do to help include:

- join a local community group to support a social or environmental cause
- register your availability on Volunteering Queensland’s website
- coach a children’s sporting team
- encourage unemployed friends and family to learn a new skill
- run errands for an elderly neighbour
- donate to local community groups when you can.

Tell us what you are doing

Toward Q2: Tomorrow’s Queensland is a long-term vision and ambition. Achieving the Q2 targets is a big ask and a big task for all of us. The government will report regularly through the *Toward Q2* website www.towardq2.qld.gov.au on how we are faring as we progress along this journey.

We are keen to know what you are doing – at home, at work, at school, or in your community. To share your ideas, your stories and your progress, visit www.towardq2.qld.gov.au



www.towardQ2.qld.gov.au

