



2025

# Youth Summit Impact Report



QUEENSLAND  
**Family & Child**  
Commission



Queensland  
Government

## About this report

The Queensland Family and Child Commission (the Commission) is a statutory body of the Queensland Government. Its purpose is to influence change that improves the safety and wellbeing of Queensland's children, young people and their families. Under the *Family and Child Commission Act 2014*, the Commission has been charged to review and improve the systems that protect and safeguard Queensland's children, including the child protection and youth justice systems.

## Accessibility

The Queensland Government is committed to providing accessible services to Queenslanders from all culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. If you have difficulty understanding this report, you can contact Translating and Interpreting Service National on 13 14 50 to arrange for an interpreter to effectively explain it to you. Local call charges apply if calling within Australia. Higher rates apply from mobile phones and payphones.

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## Acknowledgements

We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as two unique peoples, with their own rich and distinct cultures, strengths and knowledge. We celebrate the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures across Queensland and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

The Commission recognises the rich and resilient cultures that continue to sustain and strengthen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We respect the right to self-determination and the critical importance of continuing connection to kin, Country and culture in the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We recognise that self-determination, healing, dignity and respect are all fundamental elements needed to improve outcomes and relationships. As an agency, we are committed to embedding culturally safe and responsive design practices and delivery in our work.

The Commission acknowledges the special rights of children which are recorded in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), guided by its four principles: the right of all children to survival and development; respect of the best interests of the child as a primary consideration in all decisions relating to children; the right of all children to express their views freely on all matters affecting them; and the right of all children to enjoy all rights of the UNCRC without discrimination of any kind.



## Introduction

Five months ago, we sat and listened to 35 incredible young Queenslanders hailing from the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula all the way down to Queensland's southern border. They not only generously shared their personal experiences, they also brought their ideas for change to the table.

These 35 young people continue to shape the way we as Commissioners, Queensland Family and Child Commission (the Commission) staff and sector leaders, think about participation, advocacy and accountability. We know that not all advocacy happens from a stage. Sometimes it is a conversation, a moment of courage, or the act of showing up, despite the barriers.

Each 2025 Youth Summit (the Summit) speaker reminded us that we need to build systems that do not just invite feedback but make it accessible. That means funding travel, meals and accommodation when needed. It means creating opportunities that fit into the sometimes complex realities of young people's lives. And it means recognising that storytelling is not just expression—it is leadership in action.

How do we shift systems? By shifting mindsets. From Youth Parliament to domestic and family violence advocacy, mental health forums, and digital safety information platforms, these young leaders are building momentum. They are taking to the stage – the world stage in some instances – while others are having quiet conversations behind closed doors, building connections in preparation for bigger things to come. There are others who are still looking for their launching pad. We want to make one thing clear – no young person should have to find this alone.

“

**This is still the best example of really providing a platform for young people to be heard I've seen. We've heard now we must act.**

– Associate Professor Divna Haslam  
School of Public Health, University of Queensland,  
Queensland Centre for Mental Health Research

We invite you to connect. If you have the means to create a safe space in which these young people can be supported to have their voice heard, and for the conversation to be ongoing, we invite you to reach out. Send an email to [enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au) and we will put you in touch with these incredible human beings.

Because in the words of one incredible young woman – “these little ripples create waves. And waves, create movements.” (Ruby, Summit speaker)



Commissioner **Luke Twyford**



Commissioner **Natalie Lewis**



As at 11 September 2025:

**in** IMPRESSIONS – **488,945**  
**▶** VIEWS – **2882**  
**f** AND **o** REACH – **115,176**  
**🌐** VIEWS – **6173**



## Youth Summit recognised with Award

The 2025 Youth Summit was recognised with a 2025 Queensland Child Protection Week Award!

Youth Summit speakers Peter, Jess and Oli joined Tionne from the Australian School of Entrepreneurship and Commission Executive Director Erin Glapiak and Chief Operating Officer Emma White, to accept the Youth Participation award at the ceremony held at Parliament House. The award recognises the involvement of young people in the planning of a local activity to promote child protection.

In her acceptance speech, Jess spoke about the power of the Summit: "When decision-makers truly listen, they create stronger policies, safer programs, and more impactful change."

When asked what the Summit meant to him, Oli shared: "It was definitely a second chance for me in my life... if it can get my word out there, it can get anybody else's word out there."

**Congratulations to everyone involved!**









## “What does it mean to dream of peace when all you’ve known is struggle?”

As a refugee, I have come to see,  
A world so divided, filled with so much greed.  
Where walls of disparity silently stand,  
It's time to take action, to make our stand.

“Let’s make it a chant,” I say with care,  
Let’s leave our masks, our burdens, our despair.  
Not for me alone, but for all of us here,  
For every child, every dream’s held dear.

For in a child’s eye, a dream takes flight,  
For peace, for health, for every human right.  
For a future unbroken, where hope burns bright,  
A world built on love, not might versus might.

There are tears of hunger, sickness, and fear,  
Echoing too loud, each night in my ear.

So I strive, valiantly, with a heart full of care,  
To mend what is broken, to fight what’s unfair.  
Fast forward to now, I’m a health student who knows,  
In every clinic, and everywhere life flows,  
Lives the tapestry of sorrows and the dreams it sows;  
but in unity, we build equity,  
A future of fairness, hand in hand, you see.

I’ve learned it in books, through the lessons they teach,  
that fairness is not so far, it’s well within our reach.  
It’s a journey of steps, through struggles and tears,  
but together, we can dismantle the fears.

So here I stand, with hope as my guide,  
A call for justice, spreading far and wide.

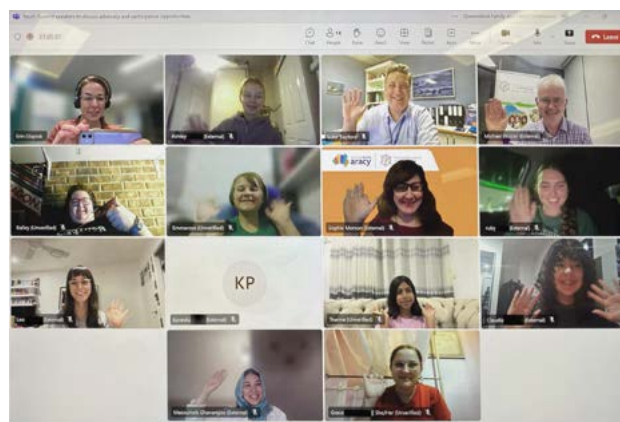
– Masoumeh,  
Summit speaker

Read  
Masoumeh's  
story p.28

## Meeting with Thriving Queensland Kids Partnership

Summit speakers Ash, Bailey, Emmarose, Ruby, Lea, Kynesha, Teanna, Claudia, Masoumeh and Grace joined Commissioner Twyford and Thriving Queensland Kids Partnership Executive Convenor Michael Hogan and Senior Partnership Officer Sophie Morson to discuss opportunities to advance their advocacy priorities.

Thriving Queensland Kids Partnership is leaning in, co-creating policy, practice and strategy with young people, not just for them. This is what intergenerational collaboration looks like in action. Work is underway on the the Intergenerational Stewardship Table, an initiative led by Thriving Queensland Kids Partnership that aims to change systems through collaborative and co-leading with children and young people. Intergenerational stewardship goes beyond young people as advisors or co-designers, but instead positions them as equals alongside sector leaders to create collective change.



“What an awesome opportunity to engage! Many thanks Luke Twyford, Erin Glapiak and especially the young Queenslanders who followed up on their powerful contributions. These are young change makers and systems stewards now and for the future.

– Michael Hogan, Executive Convenor,  
Thriving Queensland Kids Partnership



## Participating

### ★ Ruby

#### Making waves, creating movement


Since speaking at her second Summit, Ruby has developed staff training videos with Brisbane Catholic Education to help inform staff about how to best support youth affected by domestic and family violence.

Meanwhile, Ruby's non-profit domestic violence initiative Kids of Purple continues to gain momentum. The Commission sponsored Kids of Purple to seek professional animation to better reach children and young people, while a partnership with RightByYou is facilitating the creation of new resources for young people.

The work being done by Ruby through Kids of Purple was referenced by Commissioner Twyford at the public hearing for the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. Further afield, Ruby has continued her advocacy work through engagement with a range of organisations including Act for Kids, the Alannah and Madeline Foundation and Safe Steps, and as a panellist at the 2025 Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety Listen Learn Act Conference.

Ruby also connected with fellow Domestic and Family Violence advocates including interstate advocates at the Commission-sponsored Australian premiere screening of Unanswered Calls. The film is a powerful documentary which centres the experiences of young people experiencing domestic and family violence.

Ruby is working with the Transformer program at Bond University alongside her Bachelor of Laws degree. The fee-free, extracurricular entrepreneurship program is an Australian-first, pairing students with a coach — an alumni, academic or industry expert—to further enhance soft skills, tap into resources and work towards their goals. The program has supported Ruby to refine the vision she has for Kids of Purple, tailor her communication to suit the young audience, identify opportunities and connect with professionals that can help bring her vision to life.

Be sure to check out the new Kids of Purple website launching soon, visit:  [kidsofpurple.org.au](https://kidsofpurple.org.au)



“

When the majority of policy reform, campaigning and law is enacted by adults, listening to the perspective of young people can provide real insights into underlying issues they face. Real people, real stories, real emotions.”

– Ruby, founder of Kids of Purple

### Want to know more?



Watch Ruby's video:  
[youtu.be/5q-6PTzwA2M](https://youtu.be/5q-6PTzwA2M)



Connect with Ruby:  
[enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au)

### Sector impact

I work with young people in a program called My Body My Choice and we will definitely be adding Kids of Purple in our resource booklets.

– Sector professional, Women's Health and Equality Queensland



## ☆ Jess

### Keeping the advocacy ball rolling

Jess has been keeping the advocacy ball rolling since the Summit. In May 2025, Jess joined ten other young people aged 18 to 25 years to have her say as part of the Tech-based Abuse Youth Advisory Group to help shape national online safety initiatives. The group is born from a partnership between the eSafety Commissioner and YLab and is focused on the co-design of content and driving change.

Jess represented Brisbane at the 2025 World Economic Forum's Global Shapers Annual Summit in Geneva, Switzerland. Jess joined over 500 young people representing more than 150 countries as the youngest shaper of the summit. This global community supports connections between passionate changemakers from around the world, facilitating the sharing of ideas, learning opportunities and the chance to collaborate on global projects. Jess attended several workshops where she unpacked the 2025 Global Risks Report to explore trends and actively contributed to consultations regarding its structure and proposed content for the next edition.

Jess also provides advice to the Daniel Morcombe Foundation and will be a youth panellist addressing the topic of safeguarding spaces and places for young people at their 2025 Bright Futures National Symposium. Jess has been approached by the Queensland Department of Education to discuss future advocacy opportunities.

### Want to know more?



Watch Jess' video:  
[youtu.be/swzQa0tL15o](https://youtu.be/swzQa0tL15o)



Connect with Jess:  
[enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au)

### Sector impact

Excellent speech and call for genuine and authentic inclusion and respect of voices of young people. Would love to know more about what does it/could look like and how can we then be more accountable to young people.

– Sector professional, Thriving Queensland Kids Partnership







## ★ Leo

Making it easier for young people to be happy and healthy

Leo has been active with his youth work since the Summit. He said the Summit was a motivating and inspiring experience where he felt heard and uplifted.

“

**Thank you for sharing your lived experience. The importance of outdoor spaces for our youth can not be underestimated!**

– Sector professional

## ♡ Sector impact

As an infrastructure planner I think your request to be part of outdoor space design is so ‘on point’ We need to plan for all ages. We are looking at codesign for our future parks and working to understand the best way(s) to do this.

– Sector professional

## i Want to know more?



Watch Leo's video:  
[youtu.be/5Qp6gujeyGo](https://youtu.be/5Qp6gujeyGo)



Connect with Leo:  
[enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au)

# QFCC YOUTH SUMMIT 2025



## ☆ D'arcy, Georgia, and Jarrod (Hespath Youth Committee)

### Continuing to connect

The Maroochydore and Gympie Hespath Youth Committees continue to meet regularly to advocate on issues relating to health, mental health, and drug and alcohol issues.

Following the Summit, D'arcy, Georgia, and Jarrod were connected with the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal who work towards the vision of creating more vibrant, resilient, sustainable and empowered communities. Jarrod has also been working hard setting up youth groups and hosting events and is keen to keep working in this space.

### i Want to know more?



Watch video:  
[youtu.be/C-vAOglLg1U](https://youtu.be/C-vAOglLg1U)



Connect with D'arcy, Georgia  
and Jarrod:  
[enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au)

## ♥ Sector impact

D'arcy spoke so articulately about his experience and made fabulous recommendations for peer connection. I would love to hear more about this to our Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service.

– Sector professional, Queensland Health



## ☆ Mo

"Because when you take yourself seriously, others start doing the same"

Mo describes the Summit as "nothing short of transformative". Mo shared that post-Summit, he took some time to reflect on social media about his journey, receiving positive feedback which has allowed him to build genuine connections with people who resonated with his passion and story.

Mo completed the 2025 HEX International Program in Vietnam, a two-week global internship, delivered in partnership with Australian universities, designed to support entrepreneurs to learn and grow, during which he won the HEX International Pitch Competition! He followed this incredible achievement up by being named HEX International Ambassador, a role that will allow Mo to further refine his leadership skills, connect with industry experts and support other young people pursuing a future in the global startup ecosystem.

Mo shared his entrepreneur wisdom and experience as part of the Australian School of Entrepreneurship's 2025 YES Logan program, a day which brought together 300 young people and educators to inspire the next generation of Queensland innovators and social entrepreneurs.

Mo is the lead organiser and program director for the 2025 Logan Next Up, a two day Youth Entrepreneurship Intensive. The intensive will support young entrepreneurs to build their confidence and public speaking skills before engaging in ideation workshops and ultimately testing and selling their products at a pop-up youth marketplace to gather real customer feedback.

Mo was proud to accept a 2025 Local Legend Award, presented by Hon Dr Jim Chalmers MP, Federal Labor Member for Rankin and Treasurer of Australia. The awards are designed to recognise motivated, selfless and compassionate individuals who serve their local community of Logan.

“

**The Summit turned my 'someday' ideas into concrete next steps—and reminded me that lived experience is a super-power.**

– Mo, Summit speaker



Mo said the Summit reignited his passion and motivation to keep building and sharing and is looking forward to where the journey takes him next.

### Want to know more?



Watch Mo's video:  
[youtu.be/6ffZ0YrGbs](https://youtu.be/6ffZ0YrGbs)



Connect with Mo:  
[enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au)

### Sector impact

Your speech was inspiring and I feel like hearing your story and business initiatives could help to inspire other young people. I work for an organisation called **The CREATE Foundation**. We are an advocacy organisation who work to empower young people with an experience of out-of-home care. We run a "transition to adulthood" event every year in November and like to offer haircuts to young people if you're interested in being a part of this.

– Sector professional, CREATE Foundation



## Healthy

### ★ Liam

#### Advocating for the role of lived experience work

Liam's passion for the role of lived experience in the service delivery space has been heard far and wide. Liam will present at the 35th Annual Mental Health Services Conference, *Envisioning 2025: Towards a better mental health system*, hosted by The Mental Health Services Learning Network, an international learning network focused on improving mental health services across Australia and New Zealand.

Liam has been asked to speak about service delivery for young people, the role of lived experience and the real-life experiences and challenges of being a youth peer worker.

#### Want to know more?



Watch Liam's video:  
[youtu.be/0D32HAPwFS0](https://youtu.be/0D32HAPwFS0)



Connect with Liam:  
[enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au)

#### Sector impact

The social work profession is lucky to have you! I would love the opportunity to link in with you and perhaps have you speak to the Specialist Services Team of Community Visitors (Office of the Public Guardian) who visit all AMHUS (Acute Mental Health Units) and engage / intersect with lived experience staff.

– Sector professional,  
Office of the  
Public Guardian





## ☆ Jordyn

### Talkin' it Up

Jordyn has continued to step out of her comfort zone, jumping in front of the camera to be a part of the latest Act for Kids national campaign. Jordyn participated in an interview and filmed content to encourage stronger connections between children and adults. Jordyn will speak at the 'Talkin it up!' regional youth mental health forum. Tailored to secondary students, the event encourages positive mental health through activities and shared experiences.

“

**I'm so grateful to see a 14-year-old rewriting the script. Thanks for spreading the body positivity message. It gives me so much hope for future generations**

– Summit attendee



### Want to know more?



Watch Jordyn's video:  
[youtu.be/CHd0s-EBLZA](https://youtu.be/CHd0s-EBLZA)



Connect with Jordyn:  
[enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au)



## ☆ Rachel and Shantelle

### Building momentum

Alongside parenthood, Rachel attended yourtown's 2025 Your Voice Youth Summit, where she had the opportunity to work alongside other young people to co-create recommendations that will inform the final Your Voice report, to be shared with government in late 2025. Rachel enjoyed the opportunity to travel to Melbourne and have her voice heard.

Shantelle continues to connect with peer networks, strengthening her support system and confidence as a parent. She is a strong, positive role model within the Glugor Young Parents program, often supporting others through her warmth, resilience, and lived experience. Shantelle has also been caring for her children and is looking forward to the arrival of her newest little one later this year. Congratulations Shantelle!

“

**You have inspired me to fight even harder for accessible family support. Thank you!**

– Summit attendee

Since the Summit, the Glugor Young Parents team has spoken with Thriving Queensland Kids Partnership, Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth and Department of Social Services about their work in supporting young parents, and the positive impacts of the program.

The team has also been involved in consultation work, provided advice to a network focused on parenting and place-based initiatives, and connected with state and federal members who share a similar vision.

### Want to know more?



Watch Rachel and Shantelle's video:  
[youtu.be/48Zxw4mrlmg](https://youtu.be/48Zxw4mrlmg)



Connect with Rachel and Shantelle:  
[enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au)





## ☆ Bailey

### Ending the stigma

Bailey travelled 1600 kilometres to participate in yourtown's 2025 Your Voice Youth Summit. Bailey enjoyed working alongside peers to co-create recommendations pertaining to mental health services in Australia which will be shared with government in late 2025. Bailey looks forward to engaging in future mental health advocacy opportunities.

## ♡ Sector impact

I will be sharing your video with staff at the Department of Health and Aged Care who are responsible for policy decisions and the national survey of child and adolescent mental health and wellbeing.

– Sector professional

## Want to know more?



Watch Bailey's video:  
[youtu.be/v3jVMds2tAQ](https://youtu.be/v3jVMds2tAQ)



Connect with Bailey:  
[enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au)



## ☆ Elma

### Sharing experiences, one Summit at a time

Elma participated in the 2025 Bandarran Marra'Gu - Gathering Strength Youth Summit, hosted by the Queensland Human Rights Commission in partnership with Australian Human Rights Commission and Queensland Family and Child Commission. On day one, Elma shared her lived experience of education, from her boarding school experience to being the recipient of an Australian Indigenous Education Foundation scholarship. Elma spoke with Bamaga Senior Campus students who shared their lack of educational choice, experiences of bullying and the challenges they face despite desperately wanting to learn.

On day two, Elma addressed attendees as part of the young people's panel. Elma spoke openly and honestly about her experience growing up in the Northern Peninsula Area and the impacts of the 2008 amalgamation.

#### ♥ Sector impact

**I'd really love to connect you with my colleagues in the First Nations policy team.**

– Sector professional, Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism

#### 📄 Want to know more?



Watch Elma's video:  
[youtu.be/i7AZrZqU6P4](https://youtu.be/i7AZrZqU6P4)



Connect with Elma:  
[enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au)



As at 11 September 2025:

**in IMPRESSIONS – 11,274**





## ♥ Valued, loved, and safe

### ☆ Caroline

#### Advocating for sibling carers

Caroline met with Commissioner Paul Anastassiou KC as part of the Child Safety Commission of Inquiry (the Inquiry). Caroline shared her lived experience as both a sibling carer and as someone who lived much of her life in out-of-home care. Caroline attended the first public hearing of the Inquiry and was involved in a far-reaching media opportunity which aired on Channels Nine, Seven and Ten. Speaking directly to Commissioner Anastassiou KC is a monumental advocacy opportunity given the significant potential for change to arise from the Inquiry.

Caroline accepted an invitation made by a Summit attendee to film a piece-to-camera for a child protection studies subject taught by the University of Southern Queensland.

Caroline continues to advocate for the rights of sibling carers, advocating for them to be recognised as distinct and unique types of carers who deserve tailored support that reflect their unique carer role.

### ♥ Sector impact

Amazing presentation! I teach a course on child abuse and neglect at the University of Southern Queensland that includes content on child protection studies. I would love to connect with you about potentially sharing your thoughts with my students.

– Sector professional,  
University of Southern Queensland



### i Want to know more?



Watch Caroline's video:  
[youtu.be/RVCjwXcY-wE](https://youtu.be/RVCjwXcY-wE)



Connect with Caroline:  
[enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au)



## ☆ Nel

### Sharing experiences, starting a business

Nel shared her experience as a young person transitioning out of the out-of-home care system to a room sector staff and service providers as part of a two-day Extended Post Care Support workshop and community of practice. Nel shared her recommendations as to how young care leavers could be better supported throughout this critical life transition. Nel shared her lived experience of out-of-home care with Commissioner Anastassiou KC as part of the Inquiry.

Nel also lent her voice, and face, to the CREATE Foundation's #SnapThatStigma campaign, an advocacy campaign designed to dispel the myth of the 'typical foster kid'. Nel has started her own child protection consulting business focused on supporting peak bodies and government departments to provide a young person's experience on policies, procedures and legislation.

“

**Thank you for your amazing practical presentation. I wanted you to know that LOTS of people scanned your QR code – it's a great idea!**

– Summit attendee

### Shaping Futures Symposium

Summit speakers Caroline and Nel joined Commissioner Twyford, Commissioner Lewis and Acting National Commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Lil Gordon on the You Can Ask That panel at the 2025 Shaping Futures Symposium. Caroline and Nel posed thought-provoking questions to the Commissioners from the perspective of a young person with lived experience of the out-of-home care system. The panel questions covered topics including cost of living, domestic and family violence supports, sibling rights, and mental health care for children in care.



### Want to know more?



Watch Nel's video:  
[youtu.be/THIVShwHUVe](https://youtu.be/THIVShwHUVe)



Connect with Nel:  
[enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au)



## ☆ Ash

### Shining bright

Ash has been shining bright in the domestic and family violence advocacy space since the Summit. Selected as one of only ten young Queenslanders to attend the United Nations Youth National Conference in Adelaide, Ash joined young leaders to engage in a plethora of global issues and to explore how they can shape a brighter future. Ash is excited to expand her knowledge and understanding of global issues while engaging with like-minded peers and industry professionals.

In her capacity as youth member for Toowoomba South as part of the Queensland Youth Parliament, Ash has been involved in consultations with The Honourable Minister Amanda Camm regarding a Youth Parliament Bill and policy proposal regarding domestic and family violence and consent legislation. Ash shared that she has gained valuable insight into the importance of survivor-centred policy and clear legislative language. She has also been involved with a range of charity initiatives in the Toowoomba region.

Ash wrote a formal submission to the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council as part of the review of sentencing practices related to domestic and family violence offences in Queensland. The submission focused on the urgent need for sentencing that better reflects the severity and long-term impact of domestic and family violence, prioritising victim safety, and systemic accountability.



As at 11 September 2025:

**in IMPRESSIONS – 44,472**



## ♥ Sector impact

The work you're doing closely aligns with our mission. Feel free to connect and see how we might be able to work together!

– Sector professional,  
Women's Health & Equality Queensland

## i Want to know more?



Watch Ash's video:  
[youtu.be/KvISm2PqbGw](https://youtu.be/KvISm2PqbGw)



Connect with Ash:  
[enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au)



## ☆ Claudia

### Supporting other young carers

Since the Summit, Claudia has been involved with Little Dreamers, a young carers organisation in Australia aimed at recognising, celebrating and amplifying young people who care for a family member with a serious illness or disability. She has been providing advice regarding the role of young carers and how the government can better support young carers. Claudia has been engaging with volunteer work in her local community on the Gold Coast.

The Commission is also discussing the possibility of featuring a short story about the life of a young carer, written by Claudia, on its website or in a future submission.

“

**You made me feel a passion about young carers I didn't know I had. Keep speaking up the way you did today and I've no doubt there will be changes in this space.**

– Summit attendee

### Want to know more?



Watch Claudia's video:  
[youtu.be/ofWgv8NUEws](https://youtu.be/ofWgv8NUEws)



Connect with Claudia:  
[enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au)





## ☆ Emmarose

### Continuing to care

Emmarose's passion for advocacy is as strong as ever. The young carer describes the Summit as a surreal and very emotional experience which helped her to solidify her personal values and ideals and drive her passion for advocacy. Emmarose enjoyed the opportunity to reconnect with many of the other Summit speakers during a virtual advocacy meeting with Commissioner Twyford and Michael Hogan from Thriving Queensland Kids Partnership who is keen to co-create policy, practice and strategy alongside young people.

Emmarose's care for her brother continues to be her priority, but she hopes to get involved in more advocacy work in the coming months.



### Want to know more?



Watch Emmarose's video:  
[youtu.be/DD8\\_JmocJZ8](https://youtu.be/DD8_JmocJZ8)



Connect with Emmarose:  
[enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au)



## ☆ Caleb

### Turning pain into power: Caleb's story in his own words

Caleb has been working closely with the Commission to craft his deeply personal autobiography — a powerful reflection of his journey growing up in out-of-home care. This book, currently undergoing its final refinements, represents more than just a story. It is a bold and moving act of advocacy. Through raw honesty, emotional depth, and lived-experience insight, Caleb offers readers — from frontline workers to policymakers — a window into the reality of the care system through the eyes of a young person who lived it.

Once published, the book will stand as a critical piece of storytelling-driven reform, aiming to educate, challenge, and inspire those working within the child protection and care sectors. Caleb hopes his story will not only raise awareness, but drive lasting, systemic change that honours the voices of those who have too often gone unheard.

In recognition of his commitment to advocacy, Caleb was named a finalist for the 2025 CREATE Home Stretch Youth Advocacy Award as part of the Home Stretch Awards. These awards shine a spotlight on young people with lived experience who are courageously influencing reform in the out-of-home care space. Being acknowledged in this way is a testament to Caleb's passion, persistence, and the real impact of his work.

Caleb's advocacy extends beyond the page. He has partnered with the Commission to support the CREATE Foundation's Art Showcase in Logan — a vibrant event that gives children and young people in care a chance to express themselves creatively. These showcases play a vital role in promoting mental health, wellbeing, and self-expression for young people who often carry invisible stories on their shoulders. Caleb's involvement reflects his deep commitment to creating safe spaces for others to feel seen, heard, and valued.

“

**Your speech is still in my suit pocket and I carry it everywhere. You have made a big impact.**

– Commissioner Luke Twyford,  
Queensland Family and Child Commission



### Want to know more?



Watch Caleb's video:  
[youtu.be/9T6LGlcMBy8](https://youtu.be/9T6LGlcMBy8)



Connect with Caleb:  
[enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au)



## ☆ Lea

### Lea's advocacy reaches 1.7 million

Much of Lea's advocacy work since the Summit has been in response to the Queensland Government's decision to halt the expansion of gender services and place an indefinite pause on puberty blockers and hormone therapy for transgender youth.

Lea's Summit speech was quoted in a feature article published in The Brisbane Times about the impact of the government's decision. In the article, Lea spoke openly about how access to gender-affirming healthcare saved her life, and the impact of the system on young people like herself. The article, which reached an estimated audience of 1.7 million, was a pivotal moment in her advocacy journey, allowing Lea to reiterate the key messages she shared with the Summit audience, elevating these concerns into the mainstream arena. Lea said the Summit continues to open doors and facilitates opportunities to speak up for the transgender community in a range of meaningful ways.

In her role with the Orygen Youth Advisory Council, Lea travelled to Canberra and spoke on a panel of four young people who shared their lived experience of loneliness as part of Loneliness Awareness Week 2025. Lea shared how her identity as a transgender person and a person with autism/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder has shaped her experience of loneliness and advocated for change. Lea also spoke with Triple J Hack radio, Australian Broadcasting Corporation, where she further shared her lived experience.



## ♥ Sector impact

Your bravery and authenticity is something to celebrate, and I found your story so inspiring. I will take it with me in my work at Queensland Family and Child Commission, particularly in the current political climate.

– Sector professional, Queensland Family and Child Commission

## i Want to know more?



Watch Lea's video:  
[youtu.be/TXr2yrQ2RNk](https://youtu.be/TXr2yrQ2RNk)



Connect with Lea:  
[enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au)





## ★ Lily

### Sharing her insights with the sector

At the Youth Summit, Lily spoke powerfully about the need to move away from the medical model of disability, which frames conditions like autism as deficits to be “fixed.” Instead, she called for the adoption of the social model of disability, which recognises that barriers within systems and structures are what truly limit opportunities. Her message highlighted the urgent need for systemic change in education.

Following her speech, Commissioner Twyford invited Lily to co-design an insights paper with the Commission’s Analysis, Insights and Reporting team. The result of this collaboration is *Changing the system, not the student: Reframing education to better support neurodivergent students using the social model of disability*, which is published on the Commission’s website. Lily’s speech provided the foundation for this report, which also incorporates key insights from fellow Youth Advocates Gefion, Ameya and Stella to demonstrate the prevalence and urgency of these challenges.

Through this process, Lily has shown not only leadership but a commitment to amplifying the voices of other neurodivergent young people. She has called for their experiences to be heard as part of the reform process and has demonstrated the expertise young people bring to systems change.

The Commission is proud to support Lily’s advocacy and to ensure her voice and the voices of her peers are at the centre of this important conversation.

## ♥ Sector impact

Thank you for your presentation. I teach a course on emotional dysregulation at the University of Southern Queensland and part of this course covers autism. I would love to talk to you about potentially doing a recording that could be shared with students in my course.

– Sector professional,  
University of Southern  
Queensland

### i Want to know more?



Watch Lily’s video:  
[youtu.be/VEYm4a7GYvU](https://youtu.be/VEYm4a7GYvU)



Connect with Lily:  
[enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au)





## ☆ Magenta

### Passionate about advocacy

Magenta is keen to continuing advocating in the areas of disability and out-of-home care. The Commission is looking forward to connecting with Magenta on an upcoming advocacy opportunity that will provide Magenta with an opportunity to have her voice heard on the matters that mean most to her.

“

Your proactive questions prompting us to imagine what it would be like to not know yourself or your personality were very powerful. I wish you the best as you continue to discover who you are. One thing is clear you have inspired me and others in child protection to ensure we focus on children and who they are rather than cases. Thank you.

– Summit attendee

### Want to know more?



Watch Magenta's video:  
[youtu.be/iSJocHI\\_COW](https://youtu.be/iSJocHI_COW)



Connect with Magenta:  
[enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au)



## Learning

### ★ Teanna

#### Launch of e-Smart Kids Australia

The youngest Summit speaker to date, Teanna described her summit experience as unforgettable, exciting and empowering. Since the Summit, Teanna has launched her own YouTube channel and website (currently under development) called e-Smart Kids Australia where she posts videos to teach young people like me how to use the internet safely, respectfully, and kindly.

Teanna has received strong support from the Queensland Government's Office for Youth who offered to share the YouTube channel and Summit speech with Queensland Indigenous Youth Leadership Program alumni, to help spread the message to remote Queensland communities. Teanna has also been approached to share her Summit speech as part of a preservice teacher education program.

Teanna wrote a submission to the Anti-Bullying Rapid Review, a review that will lead to the development of a consistent national standard to address school-based bullying. Teanna's submission along with an excerpt of her speech from the Summit were presented to Education Ministers as part of the Education Ministers Meeting. Teanna also submitted to the development of the Children's Online Privacy Code by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner. Teanna stepped in front of the camera for the Act for Kids' 2025 Child Protection Week campaign which explores safe online and offline connections.

Teanna's goal is to build a child-friendly website designed specifically for kids, teachers and parents—a trusted space where they can safely explore and learn about online safety and digital literacy. She is also considering turning her Summit speech into a petition as a way of influencing the online safety narrative. Teanna also looks forward to having her voice heard at the Commission-sponsored 2025 Childhood Summit.

Be sure to check out Teanna's website  
–  [esmarkidsaustralia.my.canva.site](https://esmarkidsaustralia.my.canva.site)  
YouTube channel  
– [youtube.com/@eSmartKidsAustralia](https://youtube.com/@eSmartKidsAustralia)



As at 11 September 2025:



**VIEWS – 368**

## Sector impact

You spoke so eloquently and with such wisdom about an issue that is stumping adults. In my discussions with the Department of Health and e-Safety I will share that literacy is the answer and we must embrace technology and equip kids to engage safely. Congrats on your YouTube channel. I'm going to follow your career as you'll go far!

– Sector professional



### Want to know more?



Watch Teanna's video:  
[youtu.be/QG08abci-40](https://youtu.be/QG08abci-40)



Connect with Teanna:  
[enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au)







## ☆ Stella

### Educating teachers

Stella has created a video highlighting her experiences of School Can't which has been used by South Australia's Department for Education as a teacher education tool. This video will be screened at the International Congress on Education and Learning to be held in Amsterdam.

Stella's Summit speech is featured on the social media channels of School Can't Australia, a lived experience support group for parents and carers who have children experiencing difficulties attending school. Stella is working on another video that she hopes to share with schools and policy makers.



As at 11 September 2025:



**VIEWS – 224**

### ♡ Sector impact

I want you to know I am co-leading a nationwide study of child and adolescent mental health and we will be including School Can't to set data on how many people like you are being impacted. This will lead to direct policy recommendations. You will be centre of my mind.

– Sector professional



### Want to know more?



Watch Stella's video:  
[youtu.be/KSJGpv7zxIU](https://youtu.be/KSJGpv7zxIU)



Connect with Stella:  
[enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au)



## ☆ Olivia

"That's me, that's who I am"

Olivia continues to speak her truth and share her perspective of a person living with a disability. Olivia was a featured speaker at the Inclusion Matters Forum – Employment and Financial Security, hosted by the Queenslanders with Disability Network, where she shared her story about inclusion in employment.

Olivia also addressed an audience of support workers, coordinators, carers and people living with disability and/or mental health conditions at the two-day Towards a Better Life: A Two Day Introduction to Social Role Valorisation workshop where she shared her perspective of 'the Good Life'. Olivia is excited to join the Hear Me Out! Program which supports participants to build their confidence, express themselves and enhance their public speaking skills – so we are sure we will be seeing a lot more of Olivia in the coming months and years!

## ♡ Sector impact

I worked for a company that supports young adults – with a disability – in Logan, to learn skills and find employment. I would love to connect you with them. I am sure you would empower them with your story!

– Sector professional

## i Want to know more?



Watch Olivia's video:  
[youtu.be/WTW4JxJ6ou8](https://youtu.be/WTW4JxJ6ou8)



Connect with Olivia:  
[enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au)



## ☆ Saanvi

### Spreading the word about keeping safe online

Saanvi will feature in the Act for Kids Child Protection Week campaign. Saanvi was interviewed and had the opportunity to share her thoughts on safety for children online. Saanvi told us that since the Summit, she has been speaking publicly about her personal experience and the effects of social media on young people.

Saanvi is actively promoting her message about navigating the online space safely to schools to ensure more young people are kept safe online. Saanvi is proud of the leadership and advocacy skills she has developed as part of the Summit experience and looks forward to future opportunities.

“

Thank you for sharing your story and for challenging me about what peer pressure can do to the young people in my real life!

– Summit attendee



Want to know more?



Watch Saanvi's video:  
[youtu.be/HOod6JZgQxw](https://youtu.be/HOod6JZgQxw)



Connect with Saanvi:  
[enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au)



## Identity and culture

### ☆ Masoumeh

#### Advocating globally

Masoumeh has continued to speak up about equity, human rights, representation, and justice, especially for refugee youth and culturally and linguistically diverse communities since the Summit. Masoumeh was selected as an Australian delegate for the Global Peace Summit 2025, where she participated in international discussions around the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and peacebuilding.

Masoumeh's incredible advocacy efforts were recognised with a fully funded registration to attend the Global 15by30 Refugee Higher Education Conference held in Türkiye. Co-convened by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Tertiary Refugee Student Network, the global conference is focused on maximising the potential of refugee youth and amplifying the role of high education and marks the halfway point of the global goal to expand higher education access for refugees to 15 per cent by 2030.

Masoumeh was both a Refugee Student Representative and Judge for the Global Student Challenge by the UNHCR and the Council on International Educational Exchange, her reflection of which was featured in the official Council on the Exchange's LinkedIn page.

Masoumeh is a member of the Queensland Youth Parliament Advisory Committee for Health, Environment, Disability Support, and Sport, and contributes youth-informed insights on policy direction and community needs across these sectors. She has also contributed to the University of Queensland School of Public Health's Mind Your Body project, which explores menstrual health and wellbeing from the perspective of First Nations students living in remote areas of Queensland.



As at 11 September 2025:

**in IMPRESSIONS – 6009**  
**f AND @ REACH – 1893**

“

**I hope to continue contributing in spaces where I can amplify underrepresented voices, especially in health, and the Youth Summit really helped boost my confidence to do exactly that.**

– Masoumeh, Summit speaker

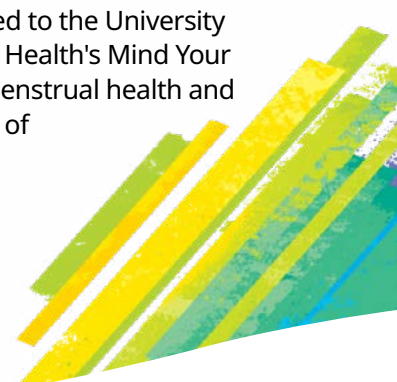
#### Want to know more?



Watch Masoumeh's video:  
[youtu.be/2sq-d2QyLfU](https://youtu.be/2sq-d2QyLfU)



Connect with Masoumeh:  
[enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au)





## ☆ Kynesha

### They told me I wasn't – but I am

Kynesha joined other young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from across the state for honest and open conversations about rights and realities, the essence of identity, culture and connections to place, people and purpose as part of the 2025 Bandarran Marra'Gu - Gathering Strength Youth Summit.

Kynesha was offered the opportunity to share her lived experience of out-of-home care directly with Commissioner Anastassiou KC as part of the Inquiry. She is also looking forward to the opportunity to speak directly with the Premier and Ministers when they attend the Emerald Community Cabinet Meeting.



As at 11 September 2025:

**in IMPRESSIONS – 79,167**  
**f AND @ REACH – 1663**



## ♥ Sector impact

I work for the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal and I'd love to chat to you... about your work with First Nations young people outside the city.

– Sector professional

## i Want to know more?



Watch Kynesha's video:  
[youtu.be/5VdTr1tEZWw](https://youtu.be/5VdTr1tEZWw)



Connect with Kynesha:  
[enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au)



## ☆ Rhea

### Climate crisis: A perspective from the Torres Strait Islands

Rhea connected with fellow Youth Summit speakers Elma and Kynesha along with other young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as part of the 2025 Bandarran Marra'Gu - Gathering Strength Youth Summit. Rhea featured in the Commission's feature video about the two-day event, sharing the importance of culture, language, country and connections to spirituality. Rhea explained the challenges faced by First Nations young people: "The biggest disconnect is our elders and our old people because they have never seen a world that looks like this before. And so young people are taking on a pressure and a burden to not only hold community and hold their clans and their tribes to the but also navigating how do we even see a future?"

### Child Rights Report 2025

Rhea, Elma and Kynesha have accepted the Office of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Commissioner's invitation to join its Youth Reference Group for the Child Rights Report 2025. Extending on the Bandarran Marra'Gu - Gathering Strength Youth Summit, the Youth Reference Group will inform the spotlight chapter which aims to give First Nations children and young people an opportunity to express their views on child rights in Queensland to ensure their voices shape future policy decisions. The Child Rights Reports provide evidence on the state of child rights in Queensland and act as an advocacy tool by drawing attention to persistent and new trends.

It is an important tool for raising awareness and advocating for children, young people and their families and for ensuring systems are held accountable. The contributions of Rhea, Elma, Kynesha and the other Youth Reference Group members will ensure that the Commission's Child Rights Report 2025 accurately reflects the lived realities and views of children and young people in Queensland.

### Want to know more?



Watch Rhea's video:  
[youtu.be/XZgpB-ZBNZc](https://youtu.be/XZgpB-ZBNZc)



Connect with Rhea:  
[enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au)





## ☆ Peter

### Refugee with commitment to community impact

Through his work with Imanzi Cultural Collective, Peter was invited by the Governor Wisely Rotich of Elgeyo Marakwet in Kenya to help develop a mental health framework and inform the government's plans to train healthcare workers and build a youth mental health centre in the region. The three-week visit was filled with workshops, free health checks, collaboration with community-based organisations, a football game and a mental health walk to help raise awareness.

Peter described the experience as life-changing, allowing him to think differently about community mental health practices, particularly in the youth space. He said that being able to give back to the community which once gave refuge to his parents was extremely humbling. Peter is keen to continue advocating in this space, applying his new understanding and perspective as he continues to learn and self-discovery. A short documentary will be released from the trip as a digital format of this advocacy campaign.



As at 11 September 2025:

**in IMPRESSIONS – 81,856**  
**f AND i REACH – 752**

### ♥ Sector impact

Thank you for sharing your story and insights. I also enjoyed sitting next to you in the audience and hearing about your work as an interpreter. I would like to connect with you to speak more about this if you are interested.

– Sector professional, Multicultural Affairs  
 Queensland

### i Want to know more?



Watch Peter's video:  
[youtu.be/XZgpB-ZBNZc](https://youtu.be/XZgpB-ZBNZc)



Connect with Peter:  
[enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au)



## Material basics

### ☆ Jahmaica

"The sea is rising – but so are we"

Jahmaica has continued her work on the Our Islands Our Home campaign, a Torres Strait Islander-led campaign to protect their Island homes. Jahmaica has been involved with a Federal Court decision which found the Commonwealth does not owe any duty of care to protect Torres Strait Islander peoples and their homes from the impacts of climate change.

Jahmaica expressed sadness at the decision, and said it was difficult to relay the message to young Torres Strait Islander children as well as the Elders. However, Jahmaica and her fellow climate advocates are using the case as motivation to further campaign to protect their beautiful home.



As at 11 September 2025:



IMPRESSIONS – **31,852**



AND



REACH – **2186**



Never have I left such a short speech so concerned about a topic I have never considered.

– Summit attendee



### Want to know more?



Watch Jahmaica's video:  
[youtu.be/1HOyVJY112M](https://youtu.be/1HOyVJY112M)



Connect with Jahmaica:  
[enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au)





## ☆ Amelia

### Standing up for children's safety

Amelia is working with the Commission to embed her lived experiences in the Child Safe Organisations space as well as the System Responses to Child Sexual Abuse Review.

Amelia is the spokesperson for the Bravehearts campaign 'Grooming Hides Behind Harmless' which aims to highlight the subtle, manipulative behaviours perpetrators use to groom children and their parents.

This opportunity has seen Amelia continue to share her lived experience of child sexual abuse to bring awareness and visibility to the issue.

Amelia led the young people plenary session as part of the 2025 Listen, learn, act: Centring children and young people to end violence conference held by Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety Limited. Amelia is also collaborating with the Australian Child Rights Taskforce and United Nations Youth to ensure their work is reflective of the issues young people are facing. Amelia's lived experience is also informing research being undertaken by the Office of Social Impact regarding mental health care access amongst childhood trauma survivors.

### ♡ Sector impact

Your story gave a human face to the data we present from the Australian Child Maltreatment Study. You have a natural talent for simplifying and communicating... I will be sharing your video with staff at the National Office for Child Safety who are responsible for reducing child sexual abuse.

– Sector professional

### i Want to know more?



Watch Amelia's video:  
[youtu.be/3so-OapkIz0](https://youtu.be/3so-OapkIz0)



Connect with Amelia:  
[enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au)



## ☆ Oli

### More than my past – A voice for the unheard

Oli brought his humour and energy as Master of Ceremonies at the launch of the Thriving Queensland Kids Partnership 2025–2030 Impact Strategy. Oli kept the room of 170 supporters, partners and funders engaged and excited for the next phase of this journey towards a Queensland where every baby, child and young person has what they need to thrive.

Oli also took part in yourtown's Your Voice Youth Summit, working alongside a room full of like-minded young people to create recommendations to be shared directly with government later this year.

The Queensland Department of Education has reached out to Oli to discuss future advocacy opportunities.



As at 11 September 2025:



**VIEWS – 165**

“

**Yours is a story of the impact of seeing past the surface, past the 'issue' and looking at who they want to be. I have shared your survey already and would like to connect I am coordinating a major study on mental health of young people and believe you would be an asset in communicating to government.**

– Sector professional



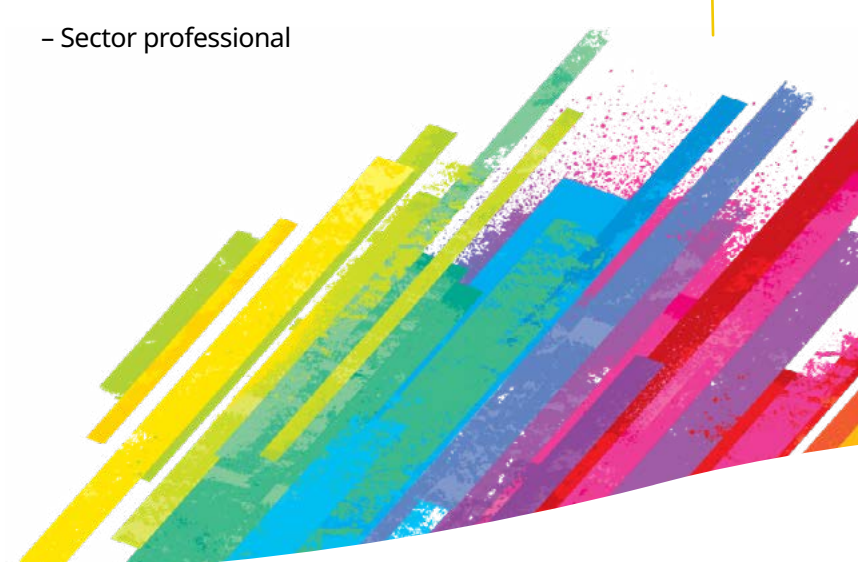
### Want to know more?



Watch Oli's video:  
**[youtu.be/A2tSSBxvHP0](https://youtu.be/A2tSSBxvHP0)**



Connect with Oli:  
**[enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@qfcc.qld.gov.au)**





## About the Youth Summit 2026

The Commission is excited to announce that we will be holding our third Summit in April 2026.

**To the 2025 speakers...** thank you for your commitment and bravery, and for continuing to drive your advocacy agendas to make positive change for your communities.

**To our partners and stakeholders...** thank you for turning up and listening, really listening, to what young people had to say. We urge you to remain committed to actioning what you have heard, and to continuing the conversation.

**To young people reading this who would like to have their own voice heard...**

**“** You don't need to have everything figured out or be the loudest voice in the room. Just be real, be honest, and speak from the heart. The energy, the people, the support — it's a space where your story is not just heard, it's valued.

It's more than a speech. It's a chance to grow your confidence, connect with other passionate young people, and step into rooms where decisions are being made. Even if you're nervous, apply anyway. Your voice could be the one that sparks someone else's fire.

– Mo, Summit speaker



**“** Apply! Not because you think you have all the answers, but because your lived experience is expertise. The Summit isn't about who speaks the loudest; it's about creating space for those with insight, care, and courage. If you've ever wanted to turn frustration into action, or passion into a policy agenda, this is your moment.

– Masoumeh, Summit speaker

**“** Do it! You don't need to be an advocate, public speaker, or expert on a topic to be part of the Youth Summit. Your lived experience is your expertise, and this is the place to share it. The Summit is a rare and powerful space where young people are genuinely heard and listened to, and where your story can shape real conversations that influence government, communities, and decision-makers. It's an opportunity to connect with others who care deeply, to feel empowered in your identity and experiences, and to be part of something that creates lasting change.

– Lea, Summit speaker

**“** Honestly, just go for it. You will feel amazing after getting your voice heard and expressing challenges that many people may be going through. Lots of people would wish to have the experience and you get the wonderful opportunity so just try it out. The team is so helpful in the lead up and you will have an amazing time.

– Jordyn, Summit speaker



Sign up to be the first to hear about our 2026 Youth Summit.





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