

Queensland Strategic Settlement Committee (QSSC)

Meeting Communiqué

19 July 2022

The inaugural meeting of the Queensland Strategic Settlement Committee (QSSC) was held on Tuesday, 19 July 2022.

About the QSSC

The QSSC is a Strategic Committee comprised of representatives from the humanitarian settlement sector, peak organisations, and Queensland and Australian Government agencies. The QSSC seeks to promote strategic thinking and decision-making around state-wide settlement challenges and priorities. It provides strategic coordination and consideration of innovative ways to maximise settlement outcomes for the benefit of (humanitarian) clients and communities in Queensland. The QSSC will identify priorities, strategies and actions to improve the wellbeing of migrants and refugees (including people seeking asylum) in Queensland, as well as have impact on State-wide and national settlement outcomes.

QSSC Membership

QSSC membership reflects key settlement, peak, and Government agencies in Queensland.¹ Periodically, the QSSC may also invite guest attendees to provide issue-specific representation at QSSC meetings.

Summary of Outcomes from the Inaugural QSSC Meeting – 19 July 2022

Key themes discussed at the meeting:

- How the interface between the QSSC and regional Local Area Collaboratives (LACs) will operate:
 - LACs are established across key humanitarian settlement regions in Queensland (Brisbane, Cairns, Logan – including Ipswich & Gold Coast, Toowoomba, and Townsville). LACs are networks of key government, non-government and settlement stakeholders, established to facilitate improved settlement outcomes for humanitarian entrants in Queensland. LACs currently

¹ Members include – Centacare FNQ, Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs (QLD); Department of Home Affairs, Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland (ECCQ), Multicultural Australia, Queensland African Communities Council (QACC), Queensland Council of Social Service (QCOSS), Queensland Program of Assistance to Survivors of Torture and Trauma (QPASTT), Refugee Health Network Queensland, Social Policy Group, TAFE Queensland, Toowoomba Regional Council and Townsville Multicultural Support Group (TMSG).

share information and collaborate on key settlement related issues.

- The QSSC will focus on maximising positive settlement outcomes for Queensland by adopting a state-wide strategic lens (visibility, strategic advice, advocacy etc.) and amplify the work of the LACs by ensuring key issues and priorities emerging from regional LACs are considered at the appropriate State and national levels.
- As an example of the way in which the QSSC will seek to amplify relevant regional issues for broader consideration, key themes from regional LACs identified in the May 2022 meetings – **housing** and **health** – were discussed at the inaugural meeting of the QSSC.
- The QSSC discussed purpose and priorities and ways of working together towards a common purpose, noting:
 - The importance of including client/community voice in QSSC and regional LACs.
 - The need to frame a broad understanding of the term 'settlement' beyond program/contract specific eligibility considerations. This could include consideration of settlement beyond five years, with ability to include inter-generational issues. Further, it could include intersection of people on refugee visas, with other family/relatives that might arrive on other (non-humanitarian) visa categories.
 - Ability for the QSSC to provide communities with a representative forum during crisis/emergency situations impacting on the settlement sector.