

Queensland Strategic Settlement Committee (QSSC)

Meeting Communiqué

14 October 2022

The Queensland Strategic Settlement Committee (QSSC) met on Friday, 14 October 2022.

Members in attendance:

- David Arnold (DHA)
- Jennifer Winton (DHA)
- Craig Shield (DCYJMA);
- Andrea Obeyesekere (Centacare FNQ);
- Vicky Jacobson (Refugee Health Network Queensland);
- Jamila Padhee (QPASTT);
- Lisa Ward (ECCQ);
- Peter Stone (Bureau of Meteorology);
- Madina Mohmood (Qld Afghan Community Association);
- Christine Castley (Multicultural Australia);
- Rose Dash (Multicultural Australia)

Summary of Outcomes from the QSSC Meeting – 14 October 2022

Key themes discussed at the meeting:

- **QSSC membership:** ensuring QSSC membership remains representative and flexible to allow efficient participation and decision-making. The current QSSC membership while not fully representative of the sector, will ensure that key sector voices are invited to the relevant discussions and deliberations of the Committee.
- **QSSC functioning:** members considered a key role for the QSSC in mobilizing in times of crisis or emergency. Specifically, the QSSC considered its role around impacts of natural disaster and adverse weather events. The Committee invited Peter Stone, Chief Customer Officer, Bureau of Meteorology to present on the upcoming weather outlook for Queensland. The Committee noted the wet summer outlook (with increased flood, cyclone, and warm weather event warnings). QSSC considered role in appropriate messaging and communication with communities,
- **QSSC watching brief:** housing and health issues for CALD communities considered through the first QSSC meeting and further discussion on these matters at the current meeting. Update from Vicky Jacobson (Coordinator, Refugee Health Network Queensland) on emerging concerns in primary health care as well as potential opportunities through the upcoming launch of updated Qld Refugee Health and Wellbeing Policy. QSSC will retain a watching brief on Housing issues and potential for advocacy for CALD communities. QSSC particularly flagged concerns on social cohesion impacts flowing from the current housing crisis.

- **QSSC consideration and action for 2023:** QSSC members keen to reflect and consider the following:
 - Settlement data picture for Queensland - relevant data and the 'story behind the data'
 - Themes for consideration at future meetings – health – including mental health, Domestic and Family Violence, Employment and Social Cohesion.
 - Pro-active role and involvement of CALD communities in supporting First Nations Communities in the upcoming national conversations on 'Voice' and referendum.