Our core focus for the coming year will be to:

- create more opportunities for young people to engage with government and provide input into the policies and programs relevant to them
- support the delivery of a whole-of-government youth engagement mechanism that brings together young people from across Queensland to share their ideas and insights with government
- help young people involved, or at risk of involvement, in the justice system to become re-engaged with education or employment
- drive initiatives which support the government’s commitment to tackle bullying and cyber-bullying.
Giving young people a voice

Key 2017–18 highlights include:

- over 1000 young people aged 13–25 years have joined the Youth Engagement e-Hub which provides a safe online space for young people to have their say on issues that affect them
- the eHub has hosted 14 projects led by six different agencies gathering the views and ideas of young people to incorporate into the design of policies, programs and services
- the government is delivering on its commitment to support young people to have a voice on public policy making through initiatives such as:
  – the Queensland Child and Family Commission (QFCC) Youth Advisory Council and
  – the Minister for Education’s 2018 Ministerial Student Advisory Council
- over 5000 children and young people were involved in consultation for QFCC’s Growing Up in Queensland project
- over 10,000 young people participated in GC2018 activities, including two sittings of Youth Parliament and an exhibition of artwork by young people in detention
- 93 youth members from across Queensland developed eight Youth Bills as part of the YMCA Queensland Youth Parliament, which were distributed to the Ministers of relevant portfolios.
Supporting our most vulnerable young people

Key 2017–18 highlights include:

- 940 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Youth Employment Program candidates gained employment or training, with more than 78 per cent of those placed in jobs still employed after three months
- over 60 young women leaving, or who have left, state care received Care 2 Achieve scholarships to undertake university or TAFE studies
- 1268 young people aged 15–24 years and 1567 young people aged 7–14 years with a disability were supported to join the NDIS, providing access to a wider range of supports to pursue their goals
- convened the Queensland LGBTI Roundtable in April 2018, which includes a young person representative
- delivered the Pledge to Young People and developed the Inter-agency Collaboration Guide and practice videos to assist government agencies to work together to support young Queenslanders disengaged or at risk of disengaging from school
- delivered anti-violence sessions to Year 12 students in over 165 state secondary schools across Queensland
- more than 600 young people aged 17–19 years who do not have adults/guardians to support them, were assisted to attain the 100 hours learner experience required to apply for a driver’s licence through the PCYC ‘Braking the Cycle’ program.

SUCCESS STORY

Looking to build his future, Cooktown’s John Nagiyivan joined DATSIP’s Youth Employment Program (YEP) in January 2018 and found full-time work within a few weeks of joining. “I was very lucky something came up so soon,” said John who started working as a Project Support Officer for DATSIP in late January.

John is appreciative of the support from the YEP team who helped guide him through the initial job application and interview process.

“The best part of being in this program is the assistance that’s available to you not only in finding work but the support you’re given afterwards as well. For anyone who is motivated to find a job and is keen to work, YEP is a great starting point.”
Housing

11/11 commitments complete

Key 2017–18 highlights include:

- 72 young people at risk of losing their social housing tenancy and becoming homeless were supported to maintain their tenancies through the Sustaining Tenancies for Young People Pilot
- funded 22 supported accommodation places for young people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness to engage in education, employment and the community through the Logan Youth Foyer Service; this will increase to 40 places in 2019
- over 90 young people were placed into the Supported Independent Living Services program which helps vulnerable young people transition to independent living, including those under child protection orders
- funded support for 42 young people experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless in Logan, Gold Coast and Townsville local government areas to transition to longer-term housing solutions
- over 800 young people leaving care were provided support focusing on education, employment, health and housing through the Next Step After Care Service and the Youth Housing and Reintegration Service.

SUCCESS STORY

‘Mark’ was referred to the Logan Youth Foyer Service (LYFS) in December 2017, having accessed short-term emergency housing, following a family relationship breakdown.

He was attending full-time education and was interested in finding part-time work. Mark accessed careers advice through the LYFS and was supported to prepare an up-to-date resume and participate in interview preparation role play.

Mark has successfully obtained a part-time job with hours that work around his education commitments. Mark has reported feeling increased levels of confidence as a result of successfully navigating the job interview process.
Healthy Futures

Key 2017–18 highlights include:

• 1569 schools across Queensland, including 100 per cent of Queensland state schools, registered for the 2018 National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence, representing more than 720,000 students taking a stand against bullying and violence
• 17,135 Get Started vouchers were used by young people aged 12–17 years who needed financial support to join sporting and recreation clubs
• 549 projects were approved for total funding of $3.54 million under the Get Going Clubs initiative to support local and regional organisations with the delivery of sport and recreation projects
• over 500 schools were supported in developing suicide prevention plans
• provided Mental Health Transition services to young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders at the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre.

SUCCESS STORY

Tia Gostelow is a young Queensland singer/songwriter building her career with support from Arts Queensland.

Tia received $1551 through the Individuals Fund to attend the Native Tongue Writing Camp in 2017 where she broadened her musical knowledge through working with different producers and artists and completed new songs for her debut album.

Tia also received $27,166 through the Queensland Arts Showcase Program to record her debut album.
Building block 4

Educating into employment

Key 2017–18 highlights include:

- 9472 young job-seekers were supported through the Back to Work Regional Employment package, with 9340 supported through Youth Boost payments, representing $117.5 million in funding

- young Queensland artists were supported with funding of over $40,000 to undertake professional development opportunities through the Individual Fund

- more than 9000 Year 12 graduates were provided with fee-free training through the Certificate 3 Guarantee and User Choice programs

- more than 1700 young people were provided financial assistance to attend off-the-job training to complete their apprenticeship or traineeship

- supported over 18,000 young people to gain employment, further training or to return to school since July 2015 through the Skilling Queenslanders for Work Initiative

- more than 1200 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in grades 5 to 12 participated in STEM.I.AM grant programs, offered by eight Indigenous Knowledge Centres and public libraries from across Queensland

- supported young people in the Youth Justice System to enrol in suitable educational pathways through Youth Re-engagement Hubs.

SUCCESS STORY

In 2017, Eva Hopewell became the first recipient of the Skills beyond her years: STEM.I.AM scholarship inspiring the next generation of girls to code.

The Advance Queensland STEM.I.AM scholarship provides financial support to pursue a degree in Information Technology at university.

In her first year at Queensland University of Technology, Ava busily explored different applications of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), but still found time to give back to the next generation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander girls in the local community.