

Members briefing note:

2026-27 Queensland Budget summary

Key points

- The Queensland State Budget was handed down on 23 June 2026, with a focus on stability during a quoted time of “global volatility and uncertainty in Canberra”
- This Budget delivers a \$9.3 billion cost of living relief package including:
 - Legislating 50 cent public transport fares
 - School vouchers
 - A bulk water freeze
 - An increase to the electricity rebate scheme for vulnerable households
 - Sports vouchers
- This Budget also includes a record \$35.5 billion spend on health - 7.25% more than the previous year's investment – and a commitment to “restoring health services”
- A \$119.2 billion capital program (over four years) is included for the “largest ever infrastructure pipeline” with funded projects to include upgrades to roads, hospitals, dams, railways and a regional courthouse. \$7.1 billion is also included to start construction of the new Brisbane Stadium and progress other Olympic Games venues across Queensland
- \$23.1 billion is allocated in this Budget for “new schools, safer classrooms and more teachers”, providing 22 new schools, including 9 special schools, and prioritising safety of children in the community through implementation of the *In Plain Sight* recommendations and establishing a new Queensland Protection Commission
- Housing is also a priority in this Budget, with \$1 billion allocated for 53,500 social and community homes (to be built by 2044) and \$1 billion for round two of the Residential Activation Fund.

Budget highlights

Health

'Easier Access to Health Services'

- An uplift to Queensland Health's operating funding of \$750 million in 2026-27, to be directed towards Hospital and Health Services including for emergency and elective surgery services and to operationalise new or ongoing capacity expansions, and the recruitment of a highly specialised health workforce
- Supporting operationalisation of new capacity delivered through the Hospital Rescue Plan, including at regional sites:
 - 3 new hospitals – **Toowoomba, Coomera and Bundaberg** and the Queensland Cancer Centre of Excellence – and 10 hospital expansions.
 - \$16.7 million to enable increased overnight bed capacity as part of the **Hervey Bay Hospital Expansion**, including 25 additional inpatient and intensive care beds to support care closer to home
 - \$37.6 million to increase overnight bed capacity by 32 beds as part of the Stage 1 **Cairns Hospital Expansion** (part of the \$1 billion master plan which includes 64 new beds, a surgical and innovation centre, four new operating theatres, 16 day surgery spaces and a cyclone-rated helipad)
 - \$37.1 million to enable the full commissioning of the **Ripley Satellite Health Centre Sub-Acute Expansion**. This funding will enable ongoing access to the facility's 90 overnight beds in the West Moreton region
 - \$17.6 million to support the full commissioning of the Gold Coast sub-acute facility, enabling access to up to 70 overnight beds and supporting specialised Geriatric, Complex and Acute Cognitive services
 - \$14.5 million to enable the full commissioning of 13 Chemotherapy Chairs at **Logan Hospital**
 - \$8 million to support the expansion of Cardiac Catheter Laboratory services at **Rockhampton Hospital**
 - \$11.6 million to enable access to an additional 34 interim care beds in the **Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service**, aimed at supporting improved patient flow and reducing delayed discharge.
- \$297 million in 2026-27 to deliver 30,000 surgeries under Surgery Connect for elective surgeries
- \$57.7 million (over four years) investment in maternity services, including **reopening of maternity services in Biloela and Cooktown**

- An \$11.7 million uplift in 2026-27 to improve affordability for patients and families travelling under the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme
 - Funding will permanently raise the mileage subsidy rate from 34 cents per kilometre to **45 cents per kilometre**
- \$394.4 million in additional funding (over four years) from 2026-27, and \$104.7 million per annum ongoing from the Queensland Mental Health Levy, to deliver priority mental health, alcohol and other drug services across the state. This includes:
 - \$153.9 million over four years from 2026-27 and \$42.8 million per annum ongoing for more than 30 additional perinatal mental health beds in Brisbane, **Cairns, Townsville, Sunshine Coast, Logan and Ipswich**
 - \$93.1 million over four years from 2026-27 and \$28.5 million per annum ongoing to streamline the delivery of mental health care in Emergency Departments
- \$8.8m (\$37.5 million over five years) for Healthy Kindy Kids, expanding the program statewide to provide free vision, hearing and speech development checks for children in Kindergarten.

Rural infrastructure *(excl. health infrastructure)*

- Far North Queensland
 - Barron River Bridge
 - Barlow Park Upgrade
 - New Youth Justice School
- North and North West Queensland
 - Kirwan Policy Complex Stage 2
 - CopperString
- Western and South West Queensland
 - Longreach Water Security
 - Diamantina Developmental Road Upgrade
 - Alpha-Tambo Road Upgrade
- Darling Downs
 - Equestrian Centre of Excellence
 - Brigalow Gas Peaker
 - New Black Bridge (Cooyar)
- Central Queensland
 - Upgrades for Olympic and Paralympic rowing and canoeing
 - Gracemere High School and Health Sciences Academy
- Wide Bay-Burnett
 - Paradise Dam rebuild
 - Maryborough Manufacturing Hub

Of interest to ACRRM members

- Members have previously indicated interest in the patient travel subsidy scheme. This Budget sees funding permanently raise the mileage subsidy rate from 34 cents per kilometre to 45 cents per kilometre
- Despite the record levels of investment in health, Queensland AMA indicates that the 7.25% increase is not sufficient and growth of 9% is needed to keep pace with population growth, service demand and inflation rates. It is also noted that the Queensland Government has not yet released its workforce plan, with Queensland Health data showing that an extra 6,000 doctors needed in the state by 2032
- The ACRRM policy team will continue to consider these initiatives and the views of members in public policy processes and representations to government.

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ACRRM acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the custodians of the lands and waters where our members and staff work and live across Australia. We pay respect to their elders, lores, customs and Dreaming. We recognise these lands and waters have always been a place of teaching, learning, and healing.