

# OUR IMPACT

2025



Every child ready for the world



## ABOUT US

For almost 40 years, Life Ed Queensland has been a trusted community partner for schools and families, guiding generations of young people to build resilience, respect, knowledge and wellbeing for life.

We tackle the big issues shaping young lives today – bullying, mental health, cybersafety, body image, physical safety, consent and obesity – through innovative, evidence-based programs that give young people the skills they need to thrive.

Our ambition is simple yet powerful: *to ensure every Queensland child is ready for the world.*

In 2025, we reached 175,027 Queensland children with lessons that last a lifetime. Together, we're creating a future where children feel safe, strong and ready to succeed.



Life Ed Queensland acknowledges Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognises the continuing connection to lands, waters and communities. We pay our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures; and to Elders past, present and emerging.



Life Ed Queensland adheres to The Australian Human Rights Commission National Principles for Child Safe Organisations.

# MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR AND CEO

## A new chapter begins



**Jack Ray**  
Board Chair

2025 has been a defining year for Life Ed Queensland, advancing our mission to empower children to thrive.

A major milestone was the leadership transition following the retirement of our long-serving CEO, Michael Fawsitt, after 19 years of extraordinary service. Michael helped shape Life Ed Queensland into the thriving, purpose-driven organisation it is today, and we are delighted he continues to contribute as a Board member.

We welcomed Taryn Black as our new CEO. Taryn brings a wealth of leadership experience across the not-for-profit, government and health sectors and has already embarked on a bold vision for further growth and measurable social impact.

In April, we launched our FY2026–FY2030 Strategic Plan, setting a clear direction to strengthen evaluation, deepen partnerships and demonstrate the outcomes of our work.



**Taryn Black**  
Chief Executive Officer

It is a wonderful honour to lead Life Ed Queensland into its next chapter, building on the strong foundation laid by previous CEO Michael Fawsitt and our committed team.

In 2025, our programs reached more than 175,000 students across more than 900 schools and preschools, working alongside 8,708 teachers to deliver essential health, safety and wellbeing education. Importantly, we extended our reach into many rural, remote and vulnerable communities across Queensland, providing support to the children who need it most. We also expanded our programs to address the increasingly complex issues facing young people. Our flagship Talk About It program continued its upward trajectory, engaging 55,431 students – up from 49,014 in FY2024 – with updated content *Who Am I* and *Discovering Identity* helping young people navigate identity, discrimination and belonging.

We continued our critical bullying and violence prevention work, launching phase two of the innovative Stand Up for

Innovation and evidence-based programs with measurable impact remain central pillars of our strategy, aligned with Life Ed Australia's national strategic plan.

To ensure our programs remain relevant and responsive, we completed a comprehensive Program Delivery Review, confirming that our lessons continue to meet the evolving needs of Queensland students and schools.

Our partnerships have never been stronger. We are deeply grateful for the ongoing support of Health and Wellbeing Queensland and the Queensland Government, and to our Communities for Children partners – The Smith Family, Mission Australia, UnitingCare and Centacare – whose collaboration amplifies our reach and impact.

Life Ed Queensland remains financially strong, underpinned by sound governance and targeted investment in long-term sustainability.

On behalf of the Board, I extend my sincere thanks to Taryn and her leadership team, our dedicated educators and staff, and to our government partners, donors and supporters.

Together, we are empowering the next generation of Queenslanders to be ready for the world.

Respect pilot. Following the successful 2024 pilot, five new schools joined in 2025, with students, teachers and parents contributing to co-design sessions. Seeing this program continue to positively influence young Queenslanders has been truly inspiring.

We took our message to Parliament, hosting an Upstanders on the Green event on the grounds of Queensland Parliament. Watching students call for a more respectful, bullying-free future – supported by MPs from across the political spectrum – highlighted the power of young voices to spark change.

Our commitment to child safety and reconciliation also deepened, with all staff completing Cultural Awareness Training, new First Nations content embedded across programs and the commencement of our first Reconciliation Action Plan. Engagement with parents and carers continued as we expanded our efforts to provide families with practical, trusted guidance.

We were honoured to receive the 2025 Queensland Children's Rights Education Award, recognising our leadership in educating young people about respectful relationships and bullying prevention. The award reflects our commitment to empowering children to understand and advocate for their rights and to put these principles into practice every day.

Thank you to everyone who stood with us in 2025. We're excited by the challenges and opportunities ahead as we continue to champion the wellbeing of Queensland children.

# AT A GLANCE



**913**

schools and preschools throughout Queensland accessed our program



**8,708**

teachers utilised our program either face to face or via the online learning resource platform the Life Ed Hub



**175,027**

Queensland students participated in a Life Ed session throughout the year

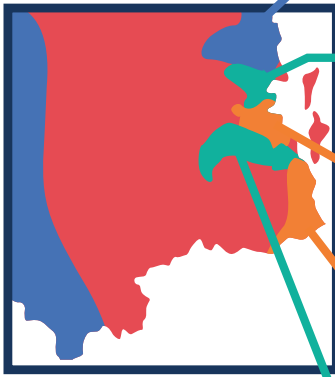


**55,431**

students took part in the relationships and sexual health education program Talk About It

**2025**

**SEQ**



Sunshine Coast - **12,185**

Brisbane North - **19,257**

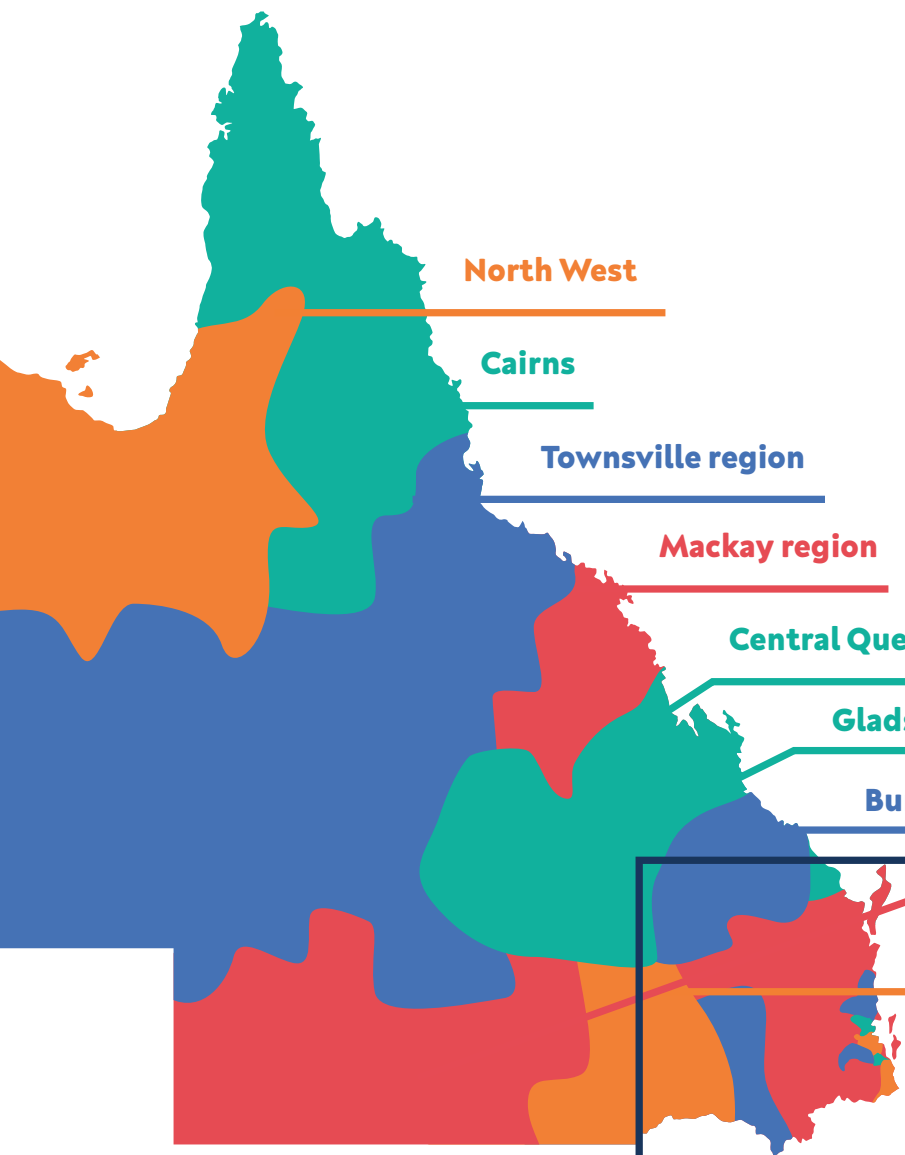
Brisbane South - **21,066**

Gold Coast - **26,761**

Logan & Ipswich - **16,770**

**175,027**

children received our specialist health and safety education



**North West**

**Cairns**

**Townsville region**

**Mackay region**

**Central Queensland**

**Gladstone**

**Bundaberg**

**South West**

**Toowoomba**

**See SEQ Inset**

Region	Children & Young People
North West	4,138
Cairns	11,831
Townsville region	22,021
Mackay region	11,350
Central Queensland	9,908
Gladstone	5,440
Bundaberg	4,204
Maryborough	2,818
South West	1,819
Toowoomba	5,459



# OUR PROGRAM IMPACT

## Stand Up for Respect

Bullying is one of the most critical issues facing young Australians, seriously affecting confidence, mental health, friendships and academic performance. Students who are bullied are 3 to 6 times more likely to experience issues such as depression, self-harm or suicidal ideation compared to their peers.<sup>1</sup>

Life Ed Queensland's Stand Up for Respect program is tackling this challenge head-on. Using a whole-of-school approach, the innovative program, developed in partnership with Social Marketing@ Griffith University and the Behaviour Change Collaborative, encourages upstander behaviour and fosters a positive, respectful school culture.

This year's Phase 2 Stand Up for Respect pilot provided further validation for a whole-of-school approach to bullying prevention, demonstrating that the best outcomes are achieved when schools are well-supported to deliver initiatives that engage students, parents and school staff.

Building teacher capacity is an essential part of the solution. In 2025, Stand Up for Respect launched a suite of new teacher resources, including curriculum-aligned lessons for all year levels and professional development to support teachers' work and wellbeing on the frontline of bullying.

More than 3,000 students took part across five South East Queensland primary schools – Loganholme, Coomera Springs, Waterford, Pimpama and Gaven State School.

### COMMUNITY VOICE

Community co-design is at the heart of the program. Before initiating the pilot, workshops were held with 181 parents, teachers and young people, ensuring delivery, language and resources met needs in each setting.

### WHAT STUDENTS TOLD US

Students told us they want practical changes to their environment. They asked for activities to make their schools feel safer and more inclusive, such as increased teacher supervision on the playground, quiet play options and calm down rooms. They also requested interactive classroom activities to help them practise being an upstander.

### WHAT PARENTS TOLD US

Parents want guidance at home. They are seeking educational resources to better understand bullying and how to navigate the issue with their child. They also want opportunities to connect with other parents for support and to ensure they are

on the same page as their child's school. Many parents reported that it is not easy to find out how schools manage and prevent bullying, and they are seeking greater transparency and trust.

### WHAT TEACHERS TOLD US

Teachers have stressed the need for greater support. With workloads already at capacity, teachers want practical resources to help them equip students with essential social and emotional skills. Professional development was also a priority, with teachers seeking to build confidence in responding to incidents appropriately and in supporting both students and parents.

Importantly, teachers believe whole-of-school initiatives are essential – because bullying prevention is a responsibility that must be shared by every member of the school community.

Results from the Griffith University Phase 2 pilot evaluation showed that teachers felt significantly more confident supporting students with bullying-related concerns.

#### After the SUR pilot, teachers reported:

↑ **123%** increase in confidence to help parents understand bullying processes

↑ **89%** increase in confidence to refer students and parents to support

↑ **46%** increase in confidence to talk to parents about bullying

↑ **39%** increase in confidence to take action to prevent bullying

With Phase 2 focused on deep learning, collaboration and refining what works, Stand Up for Respect is sharpening its understanding of best-practice approaches to preventing bullying and strengthening respectful relationships. It's revealing what resonates with students, teachers and communities, and the conditions that drive real behaviour change.

These insights are laying the foundation for evidence-informed, scalable delivery that reflects the needs and lived experiences of Queensland children and young people.

<sup>1</sup> Dale, J., Russell, R., Wolke D., 'Intervening in primary care against childhood bullying: an increasingly pressing public health need', *Journal of the Royal Society Of Medicine*, 2014.



## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

### Gaven State School leads the way

When Gaven State School adopted the Stand Up for Respect program, they became true champions of upstander behaviour.

From the outset, the school embraced the program's message of kindness, inclusion and empowerment.

In July, Gaven proudly hosted our official program launch, welcoming TV news crews from Channels 7, 9 and 10.

*"I think this is a good program because it teaches kids what to do if they're being bullied or if they see someone else who is being bullied,"* said Year 6 student Nicholas.

The program's whole-school approach is based on global best practice. Engaging, interactive lessons help students identify different types of bullying – physical, verbal, social and online – and understand how their actions affect others. Team-building playground activities strengthen peer empathy and inclusion, while parent and teacher seminars build adult confidence in recognising and responding to bullying behaviours.

After the pilot, students said they felt more confident to stand up for peers, seek help and resolve conflict. Nearly twice as many said they believed they could make a difference in preventing bullying.

*"If you're being bullied, you need to tell someone you can trust, like a parent or teacher,"* said Year 6 student Hakiana. *"You don't need to deal with it on your own."*

Teachers also embraced the program's approach, continuing to use the Stand Up for Respect language long after the pilot had ended. Engagement in the professional development workshop, delivered by Life Ed, was exceptionally strong.

Year 5 teacher Fiona Cresswell said she had seen noticeable improvements in student relationships and inclusion:

*"The Stand Up for Respect program has made a real difference in my Year 5 classroom,"* **she said.**

*"I've noticed students using the program's strategies in everyday situations and several are showing more empathy – checking in on classmates and offering help to others. It's created a calmer, more respectful atmosphere in our room. The program is practical, easy for students to connect with and has genuinely strengthened our classroom community."*



# COMMUNITY IMPACT

## Upstanders on the Speaker's Green

Life Ed Queensland's flagship 2025 event – Upstanders on the Green: Future Leaders Stand Up for Respect – brought together students, MPs and community leaders to spotlight the urgent issue of bullying and the importance of respectful relationships in schools.

Designed to amplify the voices of young Queenslanders, the event showcased the impact of Life Ed's bullying-prevention programs. With up to one in three children affected by bullying, the message was clear: this is a community-wide issue requiring action. A giant Queensland map filled with 1,000 handwritten student pledges formed the striking centrepiece, each one a message of kindness, empathy and inclusion.

Students from several South East Queensland schools took part, engaging with nearly 40 members of parliament from across the political spectrum. The strong bipartisan turnout underscored a shared commitment to creating safer, more respectful environments for children.

MPs recorded their own anti-bullying pledges and shared them widely on social media, amplifying the campaign's reach. Drone footage captured the scale and energy of the day, creating a lasting visual record of collective action.

Special thanks to parenting expert and Life Ed Queensland ambassador, Dr Justin Coulson, whose insights on the emotional toll of bullying and the importance of preventative education resonated strongly with attendees.



Media coverage extended the impact of the event beyond Parliament House, highlighting findings from Life Ed's recent parent survey, which revealed deep concern among Queensland families and reinforced the need for continued investment in evidence-based education.

Upstanders on the Green was a powerful demonstration of what's possible when young people, educators and leaders unite to stand up for respect. As Life Ed Queensland continues its mission to empower children and build safer communities, this event was a compelling example of advocacy in action.





# CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE





The Talk About It senior team attended the World Association for Sexual Health Conference in Brisbane in June, joining worldwide experts to keep abreast of the latest scientific research and further their knowledge.

Life Ed Queensland refreshed two key modules: *Who Am I? I Am Awesome* and *Discovering Identity*. With young people facing constant pressure about who they should be, these lessons help build self-awareness, positive body image and self-esteem, while promoting respect and inclusion. Teachers say the content provides students with vital practical tools as they move into secondary school.

**We surveyed 1031 teachers for our Teacher Feedback - Talk About It program evaluation:**

**99.61%**

of teachers recommend their school rebooks the Talk About It program

**99.08%**

of teachers said students learned new skills to support their health and wellbeing

**90.64%**

said there was a significant or very significant need for Talk About It at their school

**99.11%**

rated the content of the program very high or high quality

*“This program has been a game changer,” said one participating teacher. “It helps students understand big topics like consent, body safety and puberty in a way that’s age-appropriate and easy to engage with. It opens up conversations that are often difficult to start. Having this information delivered by an external provider is vital.”*

In particular, demand for protective behaviours modules continued to grow, with 9,824 children (from Prep to Year 4) learning that their body belongs to them and they have the right to be safe from harm. In 2025, Life Ed Queensland also commenced a comprehensive evaluation of Talk About It with Curtin University’s Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) Project. The review will assess the program’s reach, effectiveness and long-term sustainability, benchmarking it against UNESCO’s international guidelines, the Queensland HPE Curriculum and national best-practice standards.

## TALK ABOUT IT PROGRAM

Since its launch in 2014, Life Ed Queensland’s Talk About It program has supported more than 400,000 children and young people to navigate some of the most complex and formative years of their lives.

From its beginnings as a small pilot, the flagship puberty, relationships and sexual health program is now delivered in hundreds of Queensland schools each year. The demand for the program continues to rise as parents, teachers and students seek clear, age-appropriate guidance on topics that can be hard to discuss at home.

Talk About It makes tricky conversations easier. Through interactive activities, open discussion and inclusive language, the program helps students understand consent, body changes, respectful relationships and human reproduction in a safe, calm and engaging environment. Educators consistently share that the sessions not only build knowledge but also ease anxiety and open the door for important conversations long after the lesson ends.

### PROGRAM MILESTONES

In 2025, the program reached a major milestone, delivering education to 55,431 students – the highest number of young people we’ve ever supported in a single year.

**THROUGH TALK ABOUT IT, STUDENTS GAINED CONFIDENCE TO UNDERSTAND BODY CHANGES, TALK ABOUT THEIR FEELINGS AND SET HEALTHY BOUNDARIES.**

“

*I never knew there were so many life changes in puberty!*

”

“

*I learned that it's important to talk to an adult you trust about anything scary that's happening, and that if your body does weird stuff, it's probably normal.*

”

“

*Everyone is growing through puberty ... and friends change from time to time. You can always find a new group. Keep on trying to find the right ones for you.*

”

“

*I learned to ask for consent before hugging my friends, in case they don't like hugs.*

”

“

*The most important lessons I learned at Life Ed were about safety, boundaries and unwanted contact.*

”

### **CASE STUDY: BELLA'S STORY**

#### **“My Body, My Rules”: How Life Ed empowered Bella to speak up and stay safe**

When six-year-old Bella took part in Life Ed Queensland's Safe Kids Safe Bodies session at her school, she learned lessons that will stay with her for life.

Delivered through our Talk About It program, the session helps children understand their body rights and consent, recognise early warning signs and know the difference between public and private body parts – all in a safe, age-appropriate way.

These foundational concepts build children's confidence, strengthen their sense of bodily autonomy and help them form healthy boundaries. By learning to say “no” to unwanted touch and trust early warning signs, young people become better equipped to protect themselves and build respectful relationships.

Bella's mum, Aimee, saw the impact straight away: *“I noticed that Bella now takes control and speaks up about what she is and isn't comfortable with,”* Aimee says.

At home, Bella confidently asserts her right not to be hugged at certain times and shows empathy for others' boundaries by asking permission first. These simple but powerful behaviours are the building blocks of lifelong safety and respect.



*“It gives children a voice and a safe space to talk freely about how they are feeling,” Aimee says. “This isn't usually covered in the regular curriculum, and yet it's so important for their safety and development.”*

Through Talk About It, Life Ed Queensland is empowering children like Bella to find their voice, trust their feelings and grow up confident, informed and safe – now and into the future.



# HEALTHY HAROLD PROGRAM

**Life Ed Queensland achieved huge impact in 2025, with 794 primary schools and early learning centres, more than 119,596 students and 6,090 teachers engaging with our iconic Healthy Harold Primary Program.**

Across Queensland, teachers are doing more with fewer resources as they work to meet diverse learning and social needs of children.

At the same time, young people face increasing risks, making it vital to reach them early with the right messages.

In partnership with schools, preschools and educators, we help ease classroom pressure through our comprehensive curriculum-aligned health and wellbeing program.

Delivered by our skilled educators and tailored to each school community, our Healthy Harold Primary Program gives students the knowledge, skills and strategies to make positive choices about their physical health, safety and social-emotional wellbeing – through engaging, interactive learning.

**This year, we introduced two new modules in response to emerging needs:**



**Harold's Online World** – a cybersafety module for Years 1 and 2, helping children make safe online choices, balance screen time, recognise and report harmful content and seek help from trusted adults.



**Harold's Body Boundaries** – part of our Early Years Learning Program, introducing essential concepts like consent, body autonomy, safe and unsafe touch, and identifying trusted adults.

Together, these new resources support teachers to have crucial conversations in age-appropriate, engaging ways – building confidence, safety and respect from the earliest years.

## MAKING OUR PROGRAM ACCESSIBLE

As Healthy Harold continued visiting schools across Queensland this year, children noticed something new on screen – a friendly young presenter using Auslan, Australia’s sign language.

In an Australian-first, 10-year-old Charlie became the first child Auslan presenter to feature in a national education program. Filming alongside Life Ed’s beloved mascot Healthy Harold, Charlie translated key education experiences into Auslan, making our health, safety and wellbeing lessons more inclusive for Deaf children like herself.

Life Ed partnered with Sign Hear to help bridge the gap between Deaf and hearing communities. With their guidance, Charlie’s contribution ensures Deaf children across Australia can access the same empowering lessons on respectful relationships, online safety, wellbeing and physical health.



*“I’m so happy to be a part of this amazing project to help other kids using Auslan so they can understand the whole experience, because they deserve to know,” Charlie said.*

*“Auslan is very special. I like it because it’s able to give a language to people that can’t hear or are hard of hearing. I had a lot of fun helping Life Ed and working with Healthy Harold.”*

Life Ed Queensland CEO Taryn Black said adding Auslan had been a long-held goal.

*“Our program is all about empowering young people to reach their full potential and thrive physically, socially and emotionally. That’s why it’s so important that Life Education is accessible to all young Australians.”*

Life Ed Queensland also rolled out closed captions across all middle and upper primary modules, featured a diverse range of young Australians in content and consulted with people with lived experience – ensuring every child can see themselves represented.



## SHOWCASING IMPACT IN QUEENSLAND CLASSROOMS

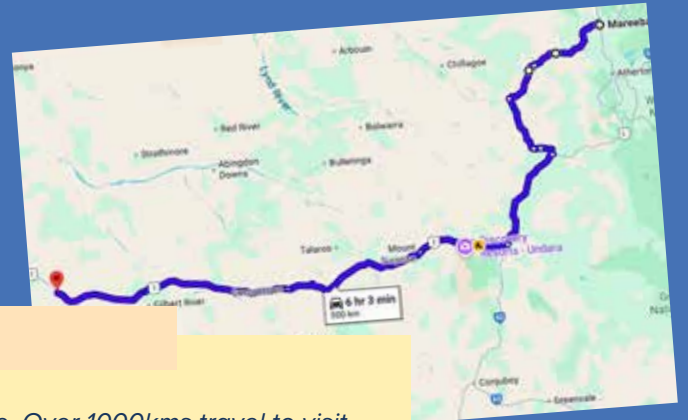
The Hon. Tim Nicholls, Queensland Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, made a special visit to join Healthy Harold in action at Eagle Junction State School in his Clayfield electorate.

The visit included a lively Ready, Steady, Go session with Year 1 students, which teaches children about the benefits of physical activity, safety strategies in different environments, how to manage various emotions and what our body needs to be healthy.

Students from all year levels flocked to welcome Healthy Harold, whose appearance was a highlight of the school calendar and a reminder of the indelible impact that Life Education has in schools across Queensland, year after year.

# EDUCATOR DIARIES: LIFE ED ON THE MOVE

Our educators travel across Queensland, sharing inspirational stories of the schools they support every day.



*"A big week for me. Over 1000kms travel to visit Mt Garnet State School, Mt Surprise and Croydon. I got to meet Skully, the Mt Surprise school dog who was very intrigued by Harold. It is about 40 degrees in Croydon on a good day, and the sky is full of smoke from local bushfires."*

**Educator Gemma**



*"During our visit to Sunset State School in Mount Isa, Harold and I were able to hand out school supplies to all the students, thanks to our funding partner Centacare, via Communities for Children. The look on the students' faces when they received their backpacks, library bags and hats, was priceless."*

**Educator Denise**



*"This morning, I joined Gatton State School Under Eights Day. So many very excited kids and lots of adults who knew Harold too! The students had a great time, drawing and writing about their dreams and describing their role models. We threw the exercise dice, walked like crabs, stomped like elephants and balanced like flamingo. Lots of fun had by all!"*

**Educator Natalie**



*“What a wonderful week at Woorabinda State School! We’ve partnered with this community for many years, and the school keeps going from strength to strength. This year we delivered sessions on building respectful friendships, how emotions influence behaviour and making healthy choices to support growing bodies and brains. It’s all about working alongside the school to help students build resilience, confidence and a strong foundation for lifelong learning. As always, the students were a delight – kind, engaged, respectful and enthusiastic.”*

**Educator Liz**



*“Janene and I had such a great day at Ormeau State School. We got to hang with some Year 6 students and chatted all things Decisions. The classes learned about making great choices for their bodies and how to think critically and stand up to peer pressure. Tam - E showed us how amazing our brains are and why we only need the best ingredients to go in... food, water and oxygen!”*

**Educator Sara**

*“We had a fabulous time teaching about friendship, our amazing bodies and how to look after them and we finished with respectful relationships. Lots of our friends with incredible neurodivergent brains had some really great things to add to the lessons. We celebrated diversity today, as they always do at this school. It was a truly beautiful experience.”*

**Educator Fabrianne**





## START SAFE: EARLY YEARS LEARNING PROGRAM

Early childhood is a remarkable period of rapid development, with a child’s brain forming up to a million neural connections every second. These early years create the foundation for confidence, resilience and lifelong wellbeing.

Our Early Years Learning Program makes the most of this crucial stage, offering age appropriate education for preschoolers while supporting educators, parents and carers. Through five modules covering social and emotional health, physical health and protective behaviours, children gain essential life skills from the very beginning.

A new component, Harold’s Body Boundaries, strengthens this foundation by introducing concepts such as consent, body autonomy, safe and unsafe touch and identifying trusted adults. Children learn clear language for body parts, the difference between surprises and secrets and the importance of reporting unsafe situations – while adults are supported to recognise warning signs and respond effectively.

With new federal and state reforms strengthening child safety, early learning centres are accelerating efforts to embed best practice approaches. Life Ed Queensland is well placed to support this shift, partnering with centres across South East Queensland.

## ON POINT PARTNERSHIP – CHAMPIONING CHILD SAFETY IN SPORT

Just as early learning centres are embedding child safety into everyday routines, Life Ed Queensland is extending this focus into community sport. Our partnership with RedCity Roar Basketball Club is strengthening safeguarding across the Redlands basketball community, helping 1,216 children across eight local clubs feel safer, respected and empowered. Supported by funding from the Queensland Family and Child Commission (QFCC), the initiative translates Child Safe Standards into practical, sport-specific strategies for coaches, referees, volunteers and administrators.

Young players benefit from a safer, more inclusive environment where they can learn, play and thrive. Key activities include consultations with clubs to identify needs, co-design workshops with young people to develop child-friendly resources, tailored training for club leaders and digital tools such as central Blue Card registers and incident reporting templates. Ongoing support ensures these practices remain sustainable and culturally safe.

Chris Angus, General Manager of RedCity Roar, welcomed the partnership, saying it would allow the club to deliver *“child safeguarding at the highest standards and create the safest, most enjoyable space for our junior players.”*

Life Ed Queensland CEO Taryn Black said the project reflects the organisation’s broader mission to create safe, empowering environments for children:

*“Whether in classrooms, early learning centres or local sports clubs, our goal is the same – to ensure every child feels safe, respected and supported to be their best.”*

# IT TAKES A VILLAGE: SUPPORTING PARENTS

Parenting today comes with more pressure than ever – juggling busy schedules, online risks, emotional ups and downs and the challenge of helping children grow with confidence. To support families, Life Ed Queensland offers events, workshops and webinars that give parents practical tools, reassurance and real-world strategies.

In 2025, we delivered several parent engagement events on topics from digital safety and healthy screen time to navigating puberty and raising responsible teens.

A highlight was the screening of *Seen* at our Broadbeach head office – a documentary showing how a parent’s wellbeing and self-awareness, including past trauma, can shape a child’s ability to learn, cope and thrive.

Our parent-teacher facilitator, Narelle Watkins, also delivered Triple P – Positive Parenting Program sessions in schools, covering the Power of Positive Parenting, Healthy Screen Habits and Raising Resilient Children. These sessions help parents strengthen relationships, build resilience and create calm, consistent family environments.

*“The Raising Resilient Children session was really eye-opening,” one parent shared. “Narelle’s strategies gave me the confidence to let my child take healthy risks and build their own resilience.”*



# WE ARE A TEAM: SUPPORTING TEACHERS

*“The lesson plans and resources on The Hub have been an incredible bonus. My class recently participated in Life Ed’s Friends and Feelings module, and since the visit, I regularly use the click-and-play online lessons to revisit key concepts like resilience, respectful conflict resolution and consent. These resources have been invaluable in keeping these ideas top of mind and helping embed them into our classroom culture.”*

*“The Life Ed session was fantastic – super interactive, and the class was fully engaged from start to finish. The educator had such a great mix of hands-on activities and discussions, giving students plenty of opportunities to move, share ideas, and really connect with the learning. It tied perfectly into our curriculum, extended our lessons, and, most importantly, we all had so much fun!”*

*“Life Ed is a wonderful program that brings to light important challenges confronting our young people in an ever changing and complex world. The staff at Life Ed are always enthusiastic and well trained to tackle these important topics.”*



# OUR FUNDRAISING IMPACT

## THE POWER OF COMMUNITY GENEROSITY

Life Ed Queensland's work is only possible because of the extraordinary generosity of the Queensland community. Every year, thousands of individuals, partners and donors choose to invest in the safety, wellbeing and future of our young people.

This trust and commitment fuels our mission and allows us to bring vital education to children everywhere, regardless of location, background, or circumstance.

It ensures that children in remote towns are given the same protective behaviours education as children in the city. It is what enables us to respond to emerging wellbeing needs, to innovate and to be there for families who need us most.

In 2025, this generosity created remarkable impact across Queensland.



## KIDS PROTECT TEAM

At the heart of our fundraising community is our Kids Protect Team, a passionate and committed group of supporters who give monthly to ensure children grow up safe and healthy.

Last year, an incredible **5,160 Kids Protect Team** members strengthened our ability to deliver life-changing programs where they're needed most. Their ongoing generosity sustains our work in thousands of classrooms, helping children learn essential skills.

The Kids Protect Team truly represents the spirit of Queensland: people looking out for one another, standing up for children, and ensuring every child – no matter where they live – has access to essential knowledge that protects and empowers them to make safe, healthy choices, before harm takes hold.

## HEALTHY HAROLD'S HERO HUNDRED – A MOVEMENT STANDING UP AGAINST BULLYING

In October, 471 everyday heroes took on the challenge of completing 100 squats a day for 31 days to stand up against bullying.

Their energy, enthusiasm and commitment raised more than \$17,000 to support Life Ed Queensland's respectful relationships and bullying prevention programs across the state.

We are especially indebted to Olympian Brooke Hanson and mother-daughter influencer team Angie and Alli Simpson for lending their voices as ambassadors for the campaign.

But the impact went far beyond funding. The Hero Hundred sparked conversations in workplaces, schools, gyms and homes about kindness, resilience and standing up for what's right. It showed children that they are surrounded by adults who care deeply about their wellbeing and proved that change doesn't always happen in big leaps. Sometimes, it happens one squat at a time.



## CHILDREN'S RIGHTS CHAMPION

In October, Life Ed Queensland won the Goodstart Early Learning Children's Rights Education Award, recognising our commitment to educating children, families and communities about children's rights in Queensland.

Life Ed Queensland's win in the highly competitive education category, reflects the impact of our signature bullying prevention program, Stand Up for Respect, along with key initiatives such as Talk About It (relationships and sexual health education), Take a Breath (vaping education), and our long-standing partnerships with First Nations communities.

Accepting the award, CEO Taryn Black acknowledged the collective effort of Life Ed Queensland's team and educators, along with schools and partners across the state, who work every day to empower children with knowledge, confidence and respect.

A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated team, supporters and communities for helping champion children's rights across Queensland.



## THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships allowed us to bring vital mental health support to rural communities, where families often face the greatest barriers to care.

This year, Life Ed Queensland secured funding from Brisbane South PHN to deliver the Rural Minds Matter program in Jimboomba and Beaudesert, bringing early intervention mental health education directly to students, families and teachers.

This community-designed program strengthens emotional regulation, resilience, help-seeking and family connection, ensuring children have the support they need long before challenges escalate.

At the same time, support from Community Bank Tugun provided funding to deliver free protective behaviours education to approximately 580 students from Prep to Year 4 at Currumbin State School. This support removed all financial barriers for families experiencing hardship, ensuring every child, regardless of circumstance, received essential body safety education.



The day also offered plenty of chances to connect and unwind – from shared morning tea and lunch to a lively workshop with Blah Blah Blah Improv, which delivered big laughs and team bonding.

Celebrations continued at our staff dinner, where we proudly recognised the outstanding service of our team. Milestone achievements included Brigette Cavanagh (20 years' service), Lane Norman, Gemma Ewin and Louise Shailer (10 years), and Natalie Hopsick, Zoe Shearer, Rebecca Batchelor and Tracey Challenor (5 years). We also paid tribute to outgoing CEO, Michael Fawsitt, whose remarkable 19-year leadership has guided Life Ed Queensland with vision, passion and integrity.

As we look to the future, we celebrate our dedicated people – those who embody innovation, passion and a deep commitment to empowering generations of Queensland children. Their creativity, care and collaboration ensure Life Ed Queensland continues to evolve and thrive, delivering meaningful learning experiences across the state.

## OUR PEOPLE AND CULTURE

At Life Ed Queensland, our people are at the heart of everything we do. Over the past year, connection, learning and inspiration have been guiding themes for our team, and we were delighted to start the year by coming together in person in January for our annual conference at Broadbeach headquarters.

The event delivered a rich program of professional development, beginning with sessions focused on amplifying the voices of young people and exploring how we can better listen, understand and respond to the children and communities we serve. We also delved into our new ambition and storytelling, discovering fresh ways to communicate our impact and share our mission with clarity and creativity.

Cultural learning was another key focus, beginning with a moving Smoke Ceremony and cultural presentation that deepened our team's understanding and respect for First Nations communities.



## STRONGER SYSTEMS, SAFER CHILDREN

Life Ed Queensland continues to strengthen its systems, governance and culture to drive sustainable growth and uphold the highest standards of safety and accountability.

Throughout the year, several organisation-wide improvements enhanced efficiency and resilience. Achieving CyberCert Gold Tier status was a major milestone, reflecting our strong commitment to digital security and operational excellence. Key system upgrades included integrating Xero and Salesforce to streamline invoicing and reporting, automating campaign data capture through Campaign Monitor and enhancing our school booking system.

Our commitment to child safety remains unwavering. Following our FY2024 Child Safety Self-Assessment, all recommendations were implemented, reinforcing our proactive approach to safeguarding children. We also undertook a comprehensive self-assessment to prepare for

Queensland's new Child Safe Organisations Act 2024, which introduces 10 Child Safe Standards and a Universal Principle requiring culturally safe environments for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. This process identified our strengths and guided continuous improvement towards full compliance by 1 January 2026.

In line with our reconciliation journey, all staff completed Cultural Awareness Training, with additional sessions for educators working in First Nations communities. We introduced new content amplifying First Nations voices and began developing our Reconciliation Action Plan, aligning local action with Life Education Australia's national RAP.

Together, these initiatives reflect Life Ed Queensland's commitment to continuous improvement – strengthening systems, safeguarding children and nurturing a culture built on respect, integrity and inclusion.

# OUR BOARD



## Jack Ray, Chair

Executive Director of the Ray Group, Jack has served on the Life Ed Queensland Board since 2010. He brings extensive experience in property development, construction management and major project delivery.



## Peter Morgan, Vice Chair

A founding board member, Peter has served Life Ed Queensland continuously since its inception. He has worked as a solicitor since 1979 and has over 30 years of service with Rotary, alongside senior finance board roles in one of Australia's largest church congregations. All three of his children experienced the Life Ed program.



## Brad Andrews, Treasurer

General Manager of Finance at Bond University, Brad joined the Board in 2023. He brings broad financial and governance experience across Australia, Germany and Hong Kong, and chairs CPA Australia – Gold Coast Branch.



## Mark Lacy, Secretary

Mark is Managing Partner of Hickey Lawyers with over 30 years' experience in commercial property and development law. He has advised on major projects, served on ASX-listed boards and is a life member of Mermaid Beach Surf Club.



## A/Prof Caroline Salom PhD, Strategic Advisor

Caroline is a Principal Research Fellow at the University of Queensland, with more than 30 years in health and medical research. She specialises in alcohol and drug prevention and brings deep expertise in evidence-based community and school programs.



## Michael Fawsitt, Committee Member

Michael has more than 30 years' experience in the non-profit sector and served as CEO of Life Ed Queensland for almost 20 years. He was a finalist for the 2005 Queensland of the Year Awards, recognised for his contribution to alleviating poverty through his work at World Vision Australia. Since joining Life Ed Queensland in 2006, Michael has championed expanded reach across Queensland, innovation in health education programs and a strong commitment to the wellbeing of children.



## Prof Susan Moloney MBBS FRACP, Committee Member

Susan joined the Life Ed Queensland Board in 2024 and is the Director of Paediatrics at Gold Coast University Hospital, where she has driven major expansion of children's services over 25 years. A Professor at Griffith University and Adjunct Professor at Bond University, she has contributed to national and state advisory committees and previously served on the board of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians. She also volunteers internationally with Operation Smile.



## Taryn Black, CEO

Taryn is the CEO of Life Ed Queensland, bringing extensive experience in national health advocacy and program innovation. As former Chief Strategy Officer at Diabetes Australia, she led the development of large-scale national health services and built a strong track record in government and stakeholder engagement. Passionate about preventative health and social impact, Taryn is committed to strengthening Life Ed Queensland's legacy of empowering children to make safer and healthier choices.

# OUR PATRONS



## The Honourable Dr Anthony Lynham FRCS Ed AO

An oral and maxillofacial surgeon and former senior Queensland Minister, Associate Professor Anthony Lynham has devoted his career to reducing harm and improving community safety. As part of the trauma team at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, and later in Queensland Parliament, he championed reforms to curb alcohol-fuelled and domestic violence, including legislation that cut alcohol-related assaults by a third across the state.

A long-time supporter of Life Ed Queensland, Dr Lynham believes educating young people to respect themselves and others is key to building safer communities. He continues to practise as a surgeon and serves as Associate Professor at the University of Queensland and Adjunct Professor at Queensland University of Technology, alongside numerous board roles across the public and private sectors.



## The Honourable Rob Borbidge AO

The Honourable Robert (Rob) Borbidge AO is a former Queensland Premier and served as the Member for Surfers Paradise in the Queensland Parliament for over 20 years, holding senior roles including Leader of the Opposition and Premier.

He has since built an extensive board and advisory career across private, public and not-for-profit organisations, and was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia and awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Griffith University.

He chaired the Institute for Glycomics Board of Advice at Griffith University and has previously chaired Experience Gold Coast. He has also played key leadership roles in major community-focused organisations including LifeFlight and the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Legacy Committee, reflecting a long-standing commitment to community service that aligns strongly with Life Ed's mission.

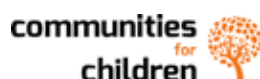
# OUR PARTNERS

## MAJOR PARTNER



We would like to acknowledge the generous support of our major partner, the Queensland Government through Health and Wellbeing Queensland. Their support is instrumental in enabling Life Ed Queensland to deliver our services throughout the state, supporting Queensland school communities to build children's social and emotional competency.

## PARTNERS



## SUPPORTERS



Life Ed Queensland is proud to be supported by government ministers, members of parliament and local councillors from across the state. Their commitment helps Life Ed Queensland extend our reach and deepen our impact, empowering young Queenslanders to make positive, healthy choices for life.

**Hon Mark Bailey MP** – Member for Miller  
**Hon Ros Bates MP** – Member for Mudgeeraba  
**Mr Stephen Bennett MP** – Member for Burnett  
**Hon Jarrod Bleijie MP** – Member for Kawana  
**Ms Nikki Boyd MP** – Member for Pine Rivers  
**Hon Amanda Camm** – Member for Whitsunday  
**Mr Michael Crandon MP** – Member for Coomera  
**Hon David Crisafulli** – Member for Broadwater  
**Hon Mick de Brenni MP** – Member for Springwood  
**Hon Leeanne Enoch MP** – Member for Algester  
**Hon Di Farmer MP** – Member for Bulimba  
**Hon Shannon Fentiman MP** – Member for Waterford  
**Hon Mark Furner MP** – Member for Ferny Grove  
**Ms Jennifer Howard MP** – Member for Ipswich  
**Hon David Janetzki MP** – Member for Toowoomba South  
**Mr Joe Kelly MP** – Member for Greenslopes  
**Mr Shane King MP** – Member for Kurwongbah  
**Mr Jon Krause MP** – Member for Scenic Rim  
**Hon John-Paul Langbroek MP** – Member for Surfers Paradise  
**Ms Corrine McMillan MP** – Member for Mansfield  
**Hon Steve Minnikin MP** – Member for Chatsworth  
**Mr Rob Molhoek MP** – Member for Southport  
**Hon Timothy Nicholls MP** – Member for Clayfield  
**Ms Joan Pease MP** – Member for Lytton  
**Hon Andrew Powell MP** – Member for Glass House

**Mr Linus Power MP** – Member for Logan  
**Ms Jessica Pugh MP** – Member for Mount Ommaney  
**Hon Dan Purdie MP** – Member for Ninderry  
**Dr Christian Rowan MP** – Member for Moggill  
**Hon Meaghan Scanlon MP** – Member for Gaven  
**Mr Ray Stevens MP** – Member for Mermaid Beach  
**Mr Trevor Watts MP** – Member for Toowoomba North

### OUR AMBASSADORS IN THE GOLD COAST CITY COUNCIL INCLUDE:

**Cr Bob La Castra** – Division 8  
**Cr Glenn Tozer** – Division 9

### EXPERT PARTNERS/AMBASSADORS

**Brooke Hanson** – Olympian, Motivational Speaker  
**Eva Milic** – Nine News Gold Coast Presenter  
**Dr Judith Locke** – Clinical Psychologist, Author, Speaker  
**Dr Justin Coulson** – Parenting Expert, Author, Speaker  
**Brett Lee** – Cybersafety Expert, Educator, Author  
**Kate Di Prima** – Dietitian, Author  
**Jimmy Morrison** – Mental Health Advocate  
**Alli Simpson** – Advocate, Actor, Podcaster  
**Angie Simpson** – Advocate, Presenter, Influencer

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY



**\$5,588,407**  
Revenue

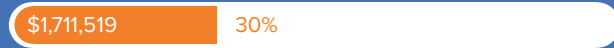
## Grants



## Program Delivery



## Fundraising



## Other Income



**\$6,233,344**  
Expenditure

## Program Delivery



## Operations



## Marketing



## Fundraising



## Non Operating Expenditure



For every **\$1**  
invested in  
fundraising

**\$3.17** was invested  
in programs and  
operations

helping  
**175,027** young  
Queenslanders

\* Audited financial results for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

# We need your support



Book our trusted programs for your school



Enter into a corporate partnership with our charity



Join our monthly giving program, Kids Protect Team



Leave a gift in your Will



Make a one-off donation



Share your story of Life Ed impact



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