



QUEENSLAND COMMUNITY ALLIANCE



ANNUAL REPORT 2018

FAITH | COMMUNITY | UNION

Coming together with shared values of
Fairness | Equality | Opportunity
Safety | Collaboration | Sustainability



IN 2018, TOGETHER WE HAVE WON:

- New car park at Prince Charles Hospital will be publicly funded and built.
- World leading social prescribing network to address loneliness and isolation in Mt Gravatt area.
- New Labour Hire Inspectors to expose exploitative employment practices for Qld's most vulnerable workers.
- The establishment of a new government-led apprenticeship program under Qld Government's Building Asset Services.
- State funding for disability advocacy secured to June 30, 2021.
- Extended funding of Workability Project for 2018/19.
- 3 Community Maternity Hubs up and running in Logan.
- Recognition from Queensland LNP and commitment to work with us.

OUR NUMBERS FOR 2018:

1083 people participated in Alliance actions and events this year.
104 Queenslanders trained in Community Organising.
29 Member Organisations.

HOW DOES IT WORK?



At each stage of the process we assess for success in five areas:

- 1 SHIFTING POWER** by doing politics differently
- 2 WINNING** on issues that affect our lives
- 3 BUILDING** our power by working together
- 4 STRENGTHENING** member organisations
- 5 DEVELOPING** leadership in all settings

RELATIONSHIPS

Building and sustaining meaningful and respectful relationships and trust within and between member organisations is a cornerstone of the Alliance.

CO-CHAIRS' MESSAGE

As co-chairs of Qld Community Alliance board, looking back at the year highlights the growing strength of QCA in truly bringing communities, researchers, policy makers, politicians and diverse faith based, community organisations and unions together.

It has been a busy year of action following the founding in 2017. The three campaigns of Care, Employment and training, saw the QCA and its member organisations work together towards meeting the commitments made by the Premier in 2017 founding assembly and working towards obtaining commitment and recognition from Opposition in our state. Being recognised as a true non-partisan civil movement by the opposition is one of highlights of this year.

The care, employment and training campaign have seen great outcomes in their first year, with ten of our Campaign asks delivered and more in progress. Plus we have some impressive results through our local district organising, highlighted by the new car park at Prince Charles Hospital will be publicly funded and built.

This all has been possible because of the commitment of our member organisations in working across the political spectrum to position QCA as a vehicle of change. The commitment of the board members to good governance, holding true to non-partisan engagement, the work of our small team of organisers and the tireless efforts of all is commendable.

The year has seen many changes at the organisation with our Lead Organiser Dave Copeman stepping down permanently and heading to Spain for a year-long sabbatical. Dave has been instrumental in establishment of Qld Community Alliance and in leading the work for the first 5 years.

Dave has held a strong vision for how our Alliance could shape the policy landscape and how it could engage civil society to have a say in matters that impact their lives. But of course this vision would be nothing without Dave's great ability to engage and bring along member organisations, with each having a role in growing the Alliance into a truly impactful movement.

We farewelled Dave in June 2018, knowing that his vision and contribution to QCA and the work of Alliance will continue to live through the work of our lead organiser and all member organisations. In July 2018 welcomed Devett to the role of lead organiser and have seen the strength of QCA in moving forward. We thank Dave for his contribution.

On 7th of November we hosted our last 2018 Accountability Assembly saw delivery of Alliance asks by the Palaszczuk Government around training of disability workers, and addressing social isolation in Mt Gravatt. Significantly we also had recognition from the LNP opposition as organised civil society, and commitment to work with us, meet with us, and attend Assemblies.

What a great outcome to end the year with! We are now recognised as a civil movement that is able to engage with the government of the day and engage with alternative governments in ways that directly create positive outcomes for our civil society and all people across Queensland.

As this year comes to an end we thank all our member organisations for their commitment to the work of the Alliance. It is through your contribution that we are able to achieve long standing political change.

Mitra Khakbaz and Roger Marshall

OUR BOARD

Our board represents the three strands of our organisation: faith, union and community.

BOARD CO-CHAIRS:

Ms Mitra Khakbaz, Executive Manager, MDA Ltd.

Mr Roger Marshall, Convenor, Logan Community Groups Alliance.

BOARD MEMBERS:

Ms Sheila Hunter, Assistant Secretary, Queensland Branch, United Voice.

Ms Beth Mohle, Secretary, Qld Nurses and Midwives Union.

Rev Andrew Gunton, Chair, Bremer-Brisbane Presbytery, Uniting Church in Australia.

BOARD MEETINGS:

6th February 2018

Attendance: Sheila Hunter, Mitra Khakbaz, Roger Marshall, Rev Rob McFarlane, Beth Mohle, Dave Copeman.

May 2018:

Attendance: Rev Andrew Gunton, Sheila Hunter, Mitra Khakbaz, Roger Marshall, Beth Mohle, Dave Copeman, Devett Kennedy.

7th August 2018:

Attendance: Rev Andrew Gunton, Sheila Hunter, Roger Marshall (Chair), Beth Mohle.

Apologies: Mitra Khakbaz, Devett Kennedy

22nd August Strategy Meeting:

Attendance: Rev Andrew Gunton, Sheila Hunter, Mitra Khakbaz (phone), Roger Marshall, Beth Mohle, Devett Kennedy.

15th November 2018:

Attendance: Rev Andrew Gunton, Sheila Hunter, Roger Marshall (Chair), Beth Mohle, Devett Kennedy.

Apologies: Mitra Khakbaz

OUR STAFF AND INTERNS

Devett Kennedy is Lead Organiser of Qld Community Alliance. Our organising staff team is Devett, Elise Ganley, Mel Sutton and Ian Kaye. Mel and Ian have worked with us on secondment in second half of 2018.

We pay tribute to Dave Copeman who finished as Lead Organiser on 30th June, having successfully established the Qld Community Alliance.

Thanks to Irena Bukhshtaber who finished in May after 12 months as Communications and Administration Coordinator.

Our hard working interns this year were Agnes, Yawen, Louisa, Anna, Ishwa and Edbert.



EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING



In April we clocked up our first win of the year following a meeting with advisors to Minister for Housing and Public Works, Hon Mick De Brenni. A new government apprenticeship program was announced, fulfilling one of the commitments from our Founding Assembly.

This was quickly followed by our celebration to mark the introduction of Labour Hire Inspectors. In 2017 Alliance faith and community leaders joined union members to convince cross-bench MPs to support Labour Hire Licensing.

On 15th April, St Finbarr's Catholic Church at Ashgrove was a sea of cultural flags as international students came together with unions to mark the beginning of this scheme. Through this action we won a commitment from Minister Grace Grace

that the new inspectors would be focused on the most vulnerable industries of contract cleaning, seasonal farm work and hospitality.



We have leveraged these commitments to work with Inspectors to ensure the stories shared by people in our communities as heard loud and clear.

Meanwhile our Skills Recognition Team has been working away on developing new models for recognising the existing skills of people coming to Australia as migrants. This work is in collaboration with Dr Steven Hodge from Griffith University and is chaired Tom Rowe & Zahir Syed Ul-Husnain.

Our Employment Forum on 17th September brought together over 100 leaders from across South-East Queensland at Sandgate District State High School. Participants shared stories and built solidarity around the need for action that addresses the root cause of the many pressures our members face around employment and training. Recognising common causes was a key moment for many.

This period also saw our leaders in Qld Parliament to present to the Wage Theft Inquiry. We had the most diverse group appearing at the Inquiry, and real people telling their own stories made a big impact on the committee.

Our Accountability Assembly in November switched focus towards Quality Training. We won commitments for the Government to work with us as a key partner in a new Vocational Education and Training strategy in 2019. We've won a seat at the table, now we've got to make that count back in our communities.

FAIR NDIS



National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is the biggest reform to social service in Australia since the introduction of Medicare in the 70s.

We began the year by meeting with Hon Coralee O’Rourke, Minister for Disability Services.

The Government had addressed our asks around State Advocacy Funding and the Workability Project, but there was more to do.

Mid-year we launched a survey as a way of gathering stories across our communities. From June to November unions, community organisations, and faith groups used the survey to have over 1000 conversations about this issue with their members.

Our listening continues to surface stories of an unfair and uneven roll out of the NDIS. Getting a good plan often seems to be a lucky dip when a planner is assigned. Some people are getting good planners and developing excellent plans. However others get low levels support after being assigned a planner with little disability expertise and who does not listen.

While NDIS is a federal scheme, we believe that the Qld Government still has a role in making sure Queenslanders get a fair deal in this system.

What the State Government can do to make sure QLDers get a fair deal from NDIS.	Achieved?
1. Secure advocacy funding.	✓
2. Extend Workability Project	✓
3. Dedicate funding to train disability workers	✓
4. Bring a rights-based approach to disability through Human Rights Act.	Legislation introduced October 2018.
5. Establish a Disability Commissioner	Commitment to investigate

In the lead up to our Accountability Assembly, people right across the Alliance were active in bringing these issues to the attention of the Premier and Ministers.

At the Accountability Assembly, Minister Farmer, on behalf of the Government committed to dedicate funding to the training of disability workers to upskill and reskill for the NDIS environment.

We also had a victory in late October when the Bill for a Qld Human Rights Charter included NDIS service providers.

In 2019 we’ll be turning our focus to the Federal arena to address the concerns that can’t be dealt with at state level.



STAFFORD-NORTH BRISBANE

Our biggest win of 2018 has been in our Stafford-North Brisbane District.

Our success of last year in establishing a new concessions scheme for car parking at Prince Charles Hospital was at risk due to the State Government planning a new privately built multi-story car park.

Alliance leaders stepped up their action, meeting with Dr Anthony Lynham MP, collecting stories, having hundreds of conversations, and rallying outside the hospital.

In April Health Minister Steven Miles announced that the new car park at Prince Charles would now be publicly funded and built!

On June 10th we held a celebration event with Dr Lynham and Metro North Executive Mark Butterworth, and a car park cake!

The local team are currently doing listening to determine their next issue.

Who's involved locally: Our Lady Queen of Apostles Catholic Parish, Stafford Anglican Parish, Together, United Voice, Qld Nurses and Midwives Union, Stafford Uniting Church.



IPSWICH

Ipswich district started the year with exciting steps to move forward the collective impact project addressing mental health in Ipswich and West Moreton.

In the second half of the year we presented a civil society response to the sacking of Ipswich City Council, calling on the Administrator to provide a way for citizen voices to be heard on a "Vision of Ipswich."

We've now gone back to basics with commitments to have relational meetings inside and between our organisations and test the appetite for a new local organising cycle.

Who's involved locally: Uniting Churches of Ipswich, MDA, Booval Catholic Parish, Together, Amnesty International Australia, Qld Teachers Union, Ipswich Catholic Community, The Services Union, Qld Nurses and Midwives Union.

MT GRAVATT

Our newest district has made huge steps in 2018 with their first organising cycle.

In April, after listening to hundreds of stories we crammed into St Mark's Uniting Church for our Discernment Assembly and 80 local leaders voted to act to fix loneliness and social isolation.

Our research-action led us to the Psychology School at University of Qld. In August we set up a Working Group with local councillors (Cr Krista Adams and Cr Steven Huang), our state Members of Parliament (Corinne McMillan MLA and Joe Kelly MLA), and the University of QLD. The Working Group was chaired by Rev Pauline Harley (St Bartholomew's) and Deb Crompton (Mt Gravatt Community Centre).

Together we developed a world-leading pilot for a social prescribing network. Social prescribing is a way of linking people within the health system with sources of group support within the community.

At the Accountability Assembly on 7th November we secured \$100,000 in funding from Department of Communities to kick start the project by employing a link worker. The link worker is someone in the middle making sure that health and community are talking to each other and people aren't slipping through the cracks.

We're excited about this great outcome in Mt Gravatt, which is the first step in building people power that can address this step and others.

Who's involved locally: Rail Tram and Bus Union, St Mark's Uniting Church, Mt Gravatt Community Centre, St Bartholomew's Anglican Church, United Voice, Upper Mt Gravatt/Wishart Catholic Parish, Qld Nurses and Midwives Union, Holland Park/Mt Gravatt Catholic Parish.

LOGAN

This year in Logan has been about seeing tangible outcomes from our organising.

3 new community maternity hubs have been established, supporting women and families to have healthy pregnancies and give kids the best start in life. The active centres are at Access Gateway, Logan Central and the Browns Plains Early Years Centre. Work is underway on a second round of centres.

We also continue to see the growth of community ownership of the Logan Together project and it's outcomes. And Australia's first Demand Responsive Transport trial is up and running and has been extended!

It's fantastic to be able to walk or drive around Logan and see things we've fought for and won.

We're organising locally around employment and training. We're running further listening and research-action to identify what we can do locally.

Who's involved locally: Anglican Parish of Logan, United Voice, Logan East Community Neighbourhood Association, Islamic Shia Council of Qld, Together, St Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Parish, Kingston East Neighbourhood Group, St Paul's Catholic Parish, Qld Teachers Union.



DEVELOPING LEADERS

The Alliance provides both formal and informal community organising training.

Informal training is through one-to-one relational meetings, mentoring and coaching of the leaders we work with.

Formal training is through 2-day Foundations of Community Organising Course, and 6-day National Training run as a residential intensive.

FOUNDATIONS IN COMMUNITY ORGANISING

Foundations Training equips takes leaders on a tour of the universals of community organising, and creates a cohort of leaders reflecting on how to adapt and apply these universals locally.

Participants start with the “WHY?” of community organising and move into the “HOW?” They develop the practical tools of organising including one-on-one relational meetings, table talks, and the organising cycle.

Date	Location
17th & 24th February	Qld Teachers Union, Springwood Office (18)
19-20th February	Buddies, Sunshine Coast (15)
2-3rd March	Qld Teachers Union, Milton Office (20)
13-14th March	St Mark’s Uniting Church, Mt Gravatt (10)
24-25th July	St Mark’s Uniting Church, Mt Gravatt (12)
27-28th November	St Paul’s Uniting Church, Stafford (15)
Total participants for 2018:	90
Total Participants since 2014:	524



NATIONAL TRAINING

We deliver National Training in Community Organising as a six-day intensive course together with the Sydney Alliance. The training is run twice a year, alternating between Sydney and Brisbane.

National Training is a key transformative offering to member organisations. The course focuses on the themes of power, relationships, organisation, and leadership. It equips leaders with arts and practices to build a strong alliance that effectively makes change, builds people power, and strengthens their own organisation in the process.

This year we had the special honour of welcoming Lady Carlson as Lead Trainer for the November training. Lady has 27 years organising experience and is Lead Organiser of our sister alliance in Louisiana. Lady’s presence was made possible through the support of Amnesty International Australia.

Date	Location
27th May – 1st June	Mount St Benedict Retreat Centre, Pennant Hills, NSW
4-9th November	Mercy Place, Bardon, Qld
Total Participants in 2018:	14
Total Queensland Participants in National Training since 2014:	86



OUR MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

Amnesty International Australia
Anglican Parish of Logan
Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane
Centacare Brisbane
Community Legal Centres Qld
Electrical Trades Union (ETU)
Islamic Council of Queensland
Independent Education Union Q&NT (IEU)
Islamic Shia Council of Qld (ISCQ)
Logan Community Group Alliance
Multicultural Development Australia (MDA Ltd)
Mt Gravatt Community Centre
Presentation Sisters
Queensland Council of Unions (QCU)
Queensland Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies (QNADA)
Queensland Nurses & Midwives Union (QNU)
Queensland Teachers Union (QTU)
Rail, Tram and Bus Union (RTBU)
Social Responsibilities Committee, Anglican Diocese of Southern Qld
St Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Parish, Kingston/Marsden.
St Mark's Uniting Church, Mt Gravatt
St Mary's in Exile Community
Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart
The Services Union
Together
United Voice
Uniting Church Bremer Presbytery
Uniting Church Moreton Rivers Presbytery
Uniting Church Queensland Synod