



QUEENSLAND COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

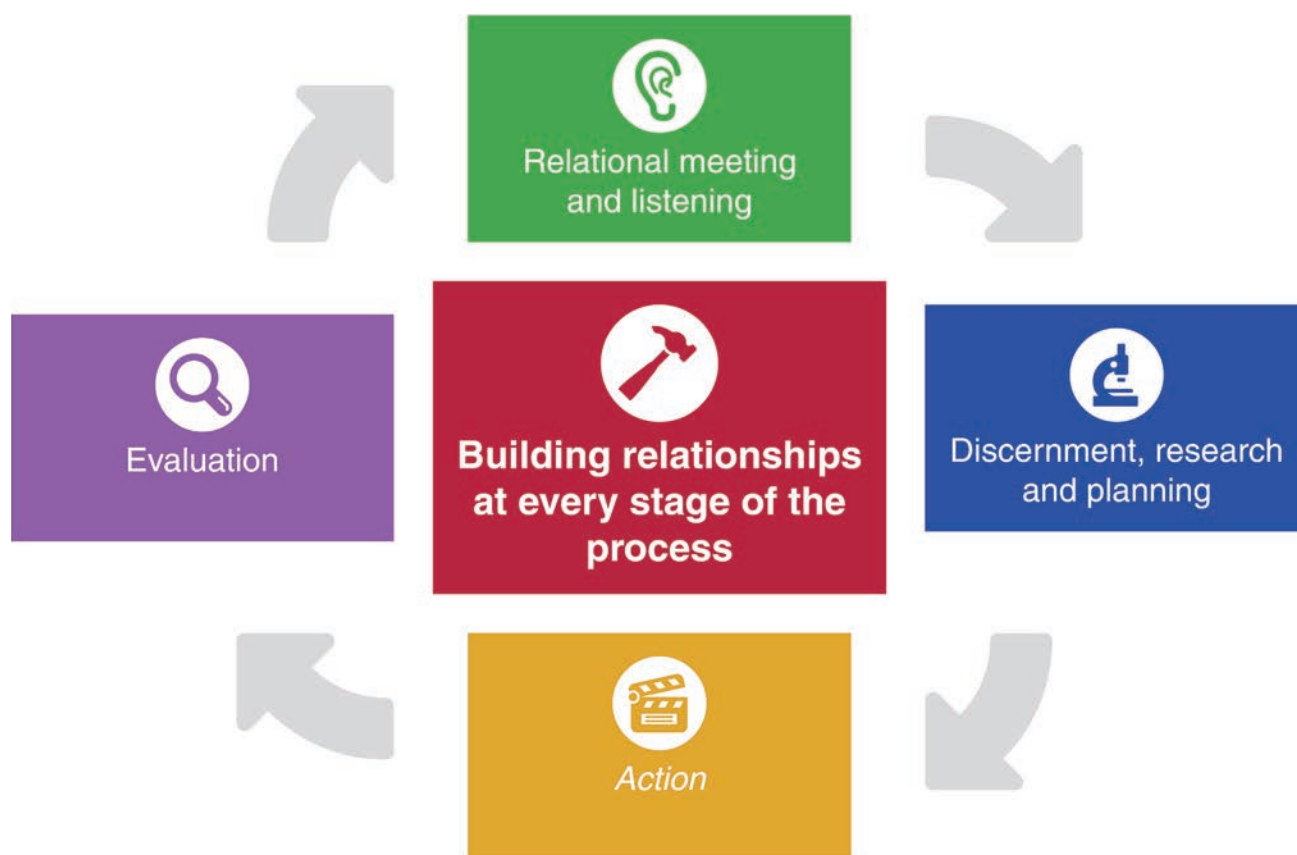


ANNUAL REPORT 2019

FAITH | COMMUNITY | UNION

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

HOW DO WE 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

It has been exciting to see the way in which our Alliance of diverse faith-based, community and union organisations has developed and gone about the task of building its power over the past 12 months. In terms of our actions as an Alliance the year has been a period of transition. Work has been ongoing in progressing initiatives in some of our local areas such as the Ways to Wellness social prescribing project in Mt Gravatt and the road safety campaign around Prince Charles Hospital in Chermside; and in following up on some of the commitments we have won in the past at both the local and broader state-wide levels in other campaigns. However, the main focus has been upon launching into a new organising cycle. We are trying to do this in ways that build upon what we have learned from our past experience and which enable us to strengthen the relational bonds and commitments to shared values and pursuing the common good, which hold us together.

One of the most notable features of the year has been the growth in membership of the Alliance. We now have 36 member organisations compared with 29 at this time last year. This has been one of the factors that has contributed towards pleasing progress towards ensuring that one of the Board's main responsibilities is met; that is, ensuring the ongoing financial viability of the Alliance. Other factors that have helped in this regard are the support of the Leadership Council and member institutions for changes to our dues structures; and the constraint that has been applied in order to put a hold on the running costs of the Alliance.

Over this year it is pleasing to observe the way in which Devett Kennedy and Elise Ganley have grown into their respective Lead Organiser and Organiser roles. The Board is also very cognisant of the contributions made by a number of our member organisations and in some cases individual volunteers associated with the Alliance through them, in providing in-kind support to the Alliance

in the shape of members of their staff to undertake both organiser work and to assist in some administrative tasks.

In addition to placing a priority upon assuring an improvement in the Alliance's financial situation, the Board has also placed emphasis in the past 12 months upon tightening up on the governance and administrative processes and procedures of the organisation and upon developing ways to work in collaboration with both the Organising Team and the Leaders' Council in developing the strategic directions that the Alliance will take in the months and years to come. Whilst all of these areas of responsibility are equally important, it is the latter that captures our imagination and fires us up for the work of the Alliance.

As we reflect upon our success in over 2000 people sharing stories in the listening phase of our fresh organising cycle; as we launch into the research action and discernment phases around the broad themes of 'Safe and Connected Communities' and 'Real Jobs for a Real Future'; and as we anticipate receiving Dave Copeman's scoping report on the prospects of expanding by establishing the Alliance in regional centres of the state, we feel that there is good reason to be optimistic about the future of the Queensland Community Alliance.



Beth Mohle
Co-chair



Roger Marshall
Co-chair

OUR BOARD AND STAFF

OUR BOARD

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

BOARD CO-CHAIRS:

Mr Roger Marshall, Convenor, Logan Community Groups Alliance.
Ms Beth Mohle, Secretary, Qld Nurses and Midwives Union.

BOARD MEMBERS:

Ms Kerrin Benson, CEO, Multicultural Australia.
Rev Andrew Gunton, Chair, Bremer-Brisbane Presbytery, Uniting Church in Australia.
Rev Geoff Hoyte, Member, Diocesan Council, Anglican Church Southern Queensland.
Ms Sheila Hunter, Assistant Secretary, Queensland Branch, United Voice.

BOARD MEETINGS:

5th March 2019

Attendance: Kerrin Benson, Rev Andrew Gunton, Rev Geoff Hoyte, Sheila Hunter, Roger Marshall (Co-chair), Beth Mohle, Devett Kennedy.

8th April 2019

Attendance: Kerrin Benson, Rev Andrew Gunton, Rev Geoff Hoyte, Sheila Hunter, Roger Marshall (Co-chair), Beth Mohle (Chair), Devett Kennedy.

23rd May 2019:

Attendance: Kerrin Benson, Rev Andrew Gunton, Rev Geoff Hoyte, Sheila Hunter, Roger Marshall (Co-chair), Beth Mohle (Chair), Devett Kennedy.



29th August 2019:

Attendance: Kerrin Benson, Rev Andrew Gunton, Rev Geoff Hoyte, Roger Marshall (Chair), Beth Mohle, Devett Kennedy.
Apologies: Sheila Hunter

25th September 2019:

Attendance: Rev Andrew Gunton, Rev Geoff Hoyte, Sheila Hunter, Roger Marshall, Beth Mohle, Devett Kennedy.
Apologies: Kerrin Benson

21st October 2019:

Attendance: Rev Andrew Gunton, Rev Geoff Hoyte, Sheila Hunter, Roger Marshall (Chair), Beth Mohle, Devett Kennedy.
Apologies: Kerrin Benson

OUR STAFF

Devett Kennedy is Lead Organiser of Qld Community Alliance. Our organising staff team is Devett, Elise Ganley and Dave Copeman.

Stephen Secomb joined us in May as our Administration Officer. Chris Coombes has been a project worker to organise the Common Good Conference in November.

Many thanks to Mel Sutton and Ian Kaye who worked with us on secondment in the first half of 2019.



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019

2019 has been a period of consolidation and growth. We have used the time to both strengthen our existing programs and conducted a Listening Campaign to lay down the foundations for the next two or three years.

Listening Campaign

- 2,039 people engaged in sharing stories through relational conversations.
- 1,570 stories shared and recorded
- Two broad themes identified for action
 - Safe and Connected Communities
 - Real Jobs for a Real Future

Progress in Mt Gravatt

- Engagement of Link Worker
- June launch of Ways to Wellness
- 39 clients with more coming each week
- Received \$213,631 in Federal funding for a 2nd Link Worker to work specifically with local GPs
- University of QLD School of Psychology awarded an ARC Grant of \$260,310 to fully evaluate the success of the social prescribing project



Wins in Stafford

- Move Safe Plan for Prince Charles Hospital
- No right turn at Staib Road
- Design work completed and commitments to realign Hamilton/Staib/Zenith intersection



Numbers for the year

- 3 pre-election assemblies with more than 360 people attending
 - Stafford/Lilley Community Assembly – 10th March.
 - Mt Gravatt/Bonner Community Assembly – 21st March.
 - Rankin Assembly – 28th April.
- 53 leaders completed Foundations of Community Organising in 2019.
- 15 Qld leaders participated in National Intensive Community Organising Training (6-day training).
- 36 Member organisations.

Friends of the Alliance

We launched a new “Friends of the Alliance” program where organisations not eligible for membership can support our work. Our first three Friends are:

- Windsor Income Protection
- Hall Payne Lawyers
- Sisters of the Good Shepherd



LISTENING CAMPAIGN – OVERVIEW

WHAT IS A LISTENING CAMPAIGN?

Our listening campaigns in community organising are about identifying what we act on together. We are looking for:

1. Leaders.
2. Powerful stories.
3. Pressures/Issues.

Our aim is to build people power together to be able to make change. We want to bring our shared values to life in the public square.



HOW DOES IT WORK?

Choose emerging broad themes based on ongoing listening inside and across organisations

Safe and Connected Communities
Real Jobs for a Real Future



Formal Listening Campaign: 2,000 Stories

- Test energy – are these the right areas that people are passionate about and will act on?
- Building the connections, relationships, and stories that help us build power at scale.
- July – September 2019.

Stories

Table Talks
One-to-Ones
Door-knocking
Community Picnics

Other Listening

Surveys
Online Engagement
Stalls



Multi-Stage Discernment

- **Confirm or Adapt Themes** – Alliance Leaders Council meeting – 23rd October.
- **Values Discernment Conference** – build broad agreement around shared values – 16th November.
- **Issues Discernment Assembly** – choose specific “cut” issues to act on based on our research-action – Feb/March 2020



Action Phase – Taking action together! In our districts and across the Alliance.
Building up to State Election in October 2020 and beyond!



LISTENING CAMPAIGN – SUMMARY

On 2nd July we launched our Listening Campaign at Multicultural Australia's headquarters in Woolloongabba.

From July – September 2019 Alliance member organisations heard stories in relational conversations in over 40 locations across South East Queensland.

This was done after church services and Muslim prayers, during union conferences, at ethnic association events, volunteer gatherings, in shopping centres, online, and more. It was in large groups, small groups and one-to-one.

Stories were shared with each other in a method that doesn't just collect information, but focused on identifying possible leaders and developing the relationships that move people to action.

Through this process we've built a solid base of people power to address the issues raised.

2039 people shared stories through relational conversations. The stories shared fell into two broad themes that were identified by our Listening and Discernment Team and confirmed by the Alliance Leaders Council.



SAFE AND CONNECTED COMMUNITIES:

Our Alliance shares a belief that every Queenslanders should be able to live in a safe, connected community.

The issues that affect us are not separate.

Social isolation, racism, and domestic violence all thrive when we don't know each other: when we are afraid to meet each other, afraid to offend, afraid to interfere.

These issues can all be addressed if we rebuild the fabric of our society and build a movement rooted in our neighbourhoods and deep relationships.

Specific problems identified in this Listening Campaign include: social isolation, language barriers, violence and crime, mental health concerns, discrimination and cross cultural cohesion.

REAL JOBS FOR A REAL FUTURE:

Our Alliance believes in a fair and sustainable future for all.

- We deserve real jobs that are secure, dignified and deliver a real future for us, our family and our community.
- We deserve a safe planet that delivers a real future for our grandkids and all humanity.

We heard strong stories around both these ideas. They came from across the breadth of the Alliance.

When the rest of society seeks to divide these two issues and pit them against each other, we are committed to bringing them together. Our member organisations agree that real jobs and climate justice should not be addressed separately, but as two sides of a coin.

The Alliance can play a unique role in bringing people together across these issues. Our task is to ensure we are united, not divided as we tackle these two great challenges – the future of work and the future of our planet.

Specific problems identified in this Listening Campaign include: wage theft, insecure work, impacts of climate change such as rising sea levels on Pacific Islanders and bushfires in Queensland, water security, and lack of support from Centrelink and Job Actives.





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 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
25 th May	United Voice, South Brisbane (20)
13-14 th September	Uniting Church Synod, Brisbane (19)
14-15 th October	St Alban's Anglican Church, Goodna (14)



Total participants for 2019: 53
Total Participants since 2014: 577

NATIONAL TRAINING

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.

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.

DATE	LOCATION
21-26 th July	Sydney (25 - 5 from QLD)
3-8 th Nov	Sydney (24 - 10 from QLD)

Total Participants in 2019: 49
Queensland Participants in 2019: 15
Total Queensland Participants in National Training since 2014: 101



DISTRICT REPORTS

MT GRAVATT

2019 has seen the Mount Gravatt and surrounds social isolation project move from planning to implementation. After securing funding from the Department of Communities in late 2018, the Mt Gravatt Community Centre engaged Wendy Blackmon early in 2019 to initiate the project and then transition into the role of Link Worker. The Ways to Wellness Social Isolation Project was officially launched in June 2019.



A collaboration between the Mt Gravatt Community Centre and the University of Queensland, Ways to Wellness is supported by a steering committee which also includes Corrine McMillan – State Member for Mansfield, the Brisbane City Council, the Mount Gravatt Men's Shed, St Mark's Uniting Church and the Mt Gravatt community.

The project aims to reduce social isolation, improve community cohesion and assist in preventing the negative health consequences of loneliness. At its core is social prescribing – a pathway for isolated and/or lonely patients to be referred to a Link Worker within the program. On receipt of a referral, the programme's Link Worker then connects the participant with meaningful group activities and programs within the community. The model provides medical professionals with non-medical referral options that can operate alongside existing treatments, and for ancillary health and community organisations as well as individuals, it provides a contact point for social connection for the people who need it most.

To date, 39 clients have participated in Ways to Wellness and over 90% have participated in a group or activity. Feedback from clients include:

- they now feel a part of their community

- they feel supported
- they know who to turn to and have made many new social connections

Most clients have reported that they now feel more positive about their life, and their health and wellbeing has improved.

The rate of referrals has continued to increase with numerous new referrals now being received on a weekly basis. Over 30 local organisations are now referral partners supporting the project.

Mt Gravatt Community Centre went on to advocate for and then receive a further \$213,631 from the Federal Government to hire a second link worker. They have been specifically working from local Medical Practices with GPs.

With the support of our local leaders, the University of QLD was awarded an Australian Research Council Grant of \$260,310 to fully evaluate the success of our social prescribing network. This will be run by a Postdoctoral Researcher and supported by PHD students. It is anticipated that one of the outcomes of this research will be a validated social prescribing model that can be implemented in multiple settings across Australia.

LOGAN

The Logan District has been co-chaired this year by Geoff Leeming (Kingston East Neighbourhood Group), Linda Revill (United Voice) and Christine Lapalapa (St Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Parish).

As always Logan has been a powerhouse of our organising. This particularly came through in our Listening Campaign with more than 500 people involved in sharing stories from Logan out of the total of 2000 across the Alliance. This was particularly driven by Logan East Community Neighbourhood



Association, St Maximilian Kolbe Parish, and Logan Anglican Parish; plus listening activities at Eid Down Under and Logan Hyperdome to reach out into the wider community.

In April we ran a pre-election Assembly in the electorate of Rankin. Federal MP Dr Jim Chalmers attended, recognising the Alliance and committing to work with us on the NDIS, and on the issues that emerge from our Listening Campaign. Following the election Dr Chalmers is now Shadow Treasurer.

2019 has also seen continued implementation of our previous wins such as Community Maternity Hubs and Demand Responsive Transport.

STAFFORD

In November of 2018 Solita Honorio was hit by a car leaving the Prince Charles Hospital. She was a valued QNMU member and member of the Light of Jesus Catholic Community.

Her loss was deeply saddening to the local leadership and they quickly came together to respond.

The car accident happened at a very dangerous intersection that people had been trying to fix for two decades. There is lots of traffic in this area and so is both technically and politically complex. It has remained deadlocked for twenty years. After meeting with local decision makers (the Hospital CEO Michele Gardner, Cr. Hammond and Dr. Lynham) they chose to act to fix the intersection and improve safety around the Hospital.

Led by Michelle Byard, Debbie Ranson and Fr. Denis, members from across the local area held an Assembly in March to obtain commitments from the State Government and Brisbane City Council to fix the intersection. Over 200 people attended but

Councillor Hammond did not attend. No deal was reached.

Instead local leaders quickly launched a petition to the Lord Mayor to organise a meeting to resolve the issue. Hundreds of people signed the petition and leaders got the meeting in three days!

The Lord Mayor, Cr. Cooper and Dr. Lynham agreed to work together on fixing the intersection. Cr. Cooper's office agreed to fund and complete the design work to get things moving as soon as possible. This has now almost been completed and we hope to see work start on the lights next year.

The Hospital and Brisbane City Council have implemented a move-safe plan around the roads of the Hospital, and the intersection now prevents a right-hand turn coming out of the Hospital and on to Hamilton Road.

Stafford leaders have begun listening before moving to the next issue to act upon!

IPSWICH

2019 opened in our Ipswich district with a flurry of relational activity. Leaders were challenged by organiser Ian Kaye to have 100 relational meetings over December/January to form the foundation of what would happen next.

These relational meetings unearthed a deep period of uncertainty and transition - both at the city council level, and inside many member organisations. Leaders made the decision to focus the year on building our member institutions and return to collective organising in future.

Ipswich residents have been engaged in the Listening Campaign through the internal listening of their member organisations in unions, churches and community groups.



OUR MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

Amnesty International Australia
Anglican Parish of Logan
ASRC Brisbane Hub
Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF)
Australian Youth Climate Coalition (AYCC)
Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane
Centacare Brisbane
Communify
Community Legal Centres Queensland
Democracy in Colour
Electrical Trades Union (ETU)
Islamic Council of Queensland
Independent Education Union Q&NT (IEU)
Islamic Shia Council of Queensland (ISCQ)
Logan Community Group Alliance
Multicultural Australia (formerly MDA)
Mt Gravatt Community Centre Inc
Presentation Sisters
Queensland Conservation Council (QCC)
Queensland Council of Unions (QCU)
Queensland Nurses & Midwives Union (QNMU)
Queensland Program of Assistance to Survivors of Torture and Trauma (QPASTT)
Queensland Teachers Union (QTU)
Rail, Tram and Bus Union (RTBU)
Social Responsibilities Committee, Anglican Diocese of Southern Qld
St Bartholomew's Anglican Church (St Bart's)
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
Together
United Workers Union (formerly United Voice)
Uniting Church Bremer Presbytery
Uniting Church Moreton Rivers Presbytery
Uniting Church Queensland Synod
Wesley Mission Queensland

