



OUR IMPACT

financial year ended 30 June 2024



Every child ready for the world

ABOUT US

Since 1987, Life Ed Queensland has been dedicated to equipping generations of children with the knowledge and skills to navigate life's challenges and opportunities with resilience and confidence.

As the world grows more complex, we continuously adapt our programs to meet the evolving needs of young people. Life Ed now covers a wide range of topics, including digital citizenship and cybersafety, bullying prevention, respectful relationships and consent, sexual health, protective behaviours, mental wellbeing, nutrition and vaping.

In the past year alone, we reached more than 181,000 children across Queensland, delivering critical health, safety and wellbeing education.

Today, more than ever, we are committed to empowering young people with the tools they need to thrive in the 21st century. Our ambition: every child ready for the world.



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

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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.

EVERY CHILD IN QUEENSLAND READY FOR THE WORLD.



As students walk into the classroom, their eyes light up with wonder and excitement at the sight of the specialist Life Ed Queensland educator. Sitting down, they hang on every word, captivated by this unique experience that feels nothing like their usual classes.

The educator instantly forms a bond with the students, creating a safe and trusting environment. As they begin to provide preventative education, the students feel understood and supported, learning how to navigate today's complex world.

Whether it's standing up to bullying, making smart choices online, or managing emotional challenges, our programs are designed to empower children with the knowledge and confidence they need.

MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO AND CHAIR



Jack Ray
Board Chair



Michael Fawsitt
Chief Executive Officer



*With your support,
we've come far, but
there's so much
more to do*

A MILESTONE YEAR

During this past year, 180,000 Queensland children and young people were beneficiaries of the Life Ed program from more than 800 schools and pre-schools - an outstanding achievement.

The vast distances between communities presents a challenge for delivering health education programs in Queensland, especially in regional and remote communities.

That's why we're incredibly proud of the hard work and dedication of our staff and Board to ensuring that the Life Ed program is delivered where it's needed most.

We couldn't do this without the commitment and generosity of our thousands of Kids Protect Team supporters.

Our partnership with the Queensland government's prevention agency, Health and Wellbeing Queensland, along with our local Communities for Children partners (The Smith Family, Mission Australia, Uniting Care and Centacare) are also integral to our reach and social impact.

Last year, we worked alongside more than 800 schools and more than 9,000 classroom teachers, in a shared commitment to strengthening the physical, social and emotional health of our young people, helping them to be ready for the world.

In fact, 2024 was a milestone year for Life Ed Queensland. We launched Stand Up for Respect, a new whole-of-school community program to help prevent bullying and violence. Developed in partnership with Social Marketing @Griffith University, the initiative brings together parents, teachers, and school leaders to foster a safer, more respectful community where children can thrive.

The tragic loss of numerous young lives due to bullying underscored the critical importance of our work in building mental resilience and fostering respectful relationships in Queensland schools.

Already, Stand Up for Respect has inspired more than 5,500 primary students across Queensland to pledge their commitment to standing against bullying, violence, and discrimination, and the early results of our pilot in a small number of Queensland schools has shown exciting evidence of a reduction in physical, verbal and online bullying.

It's vital that we continue investing in primary school programs that address bullying, violence, and disrespect, while empowering young people to grow in confidence and resilience. The futures of individual children and the safety and wellbeing of our entire community, depends on the value we place as a society on prevention.

Thank you so much to everyone who has supported our work over this past year and we look forward to working with you to create an even greater impact in the year ahead.

OUR PATRONS

We are so fortunate to have the Hon. Rob Borbidge AO and Dr Anthony Lynham FRCS Ed. as our Life Ed Queensland patrons. For many years, they have supported and advocated for Life Ed's work with children, bringing a wealth of experience in government, business, health and education.



Dr Anthony Lynham FRCS Ed.

Dr Anthony Lynham is a maxillofacial surgeon devoted to reducing harm in our community. He served for many years as part of the trauma team at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital.

He entered politics in 2014 with the specific aim of reducing the harms of domestic violence, alcohol-fuelled violence and bullying. He served as a senior minister in the Palaszczuk Government.

He was directly involved in the implementation of specific legislation to tighten alcohol trading hours that reduced alcohol-fuelled violence by 30 per cent statewide. There is always more to do, more action to take, but he was proud to take a leading role.

The association with Life Ed has been long and productive, as Dr Lynham believes the education of our young in respecting themselves, and therefore respecting others, is the most effective measure we can take.

Dr Lynham, as well as continuing as a maxillofacial surgeon, is an Associate Professor at the University of Queensland School of Medicine and is an Adjunct Professor at the Queensland University of Technology School of Biomechanical Engineering. He continues to hold many board roles both in government and private sectors.



The Honourable Rob Borbidge AO

The Honourable Robert Borbidge AO was the 35th Premier of Queensland and served in the State Parliament as Member for Surfers Paradise for just over 20 years.

During this time, he held a number of senior positions including senior ministries, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Leader of the Opposition and Premier.

Since his resignation from the Queensland Parliament in 2001, he has held a number of board positions in both private and publicly listed companies.

In 2006, he was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia and awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Griffith University. He is currently Chair of the Board of Advice for the Institute for Glycomics at Griffith University.

He has served as both Chair of LifeFlight Australia and LifeFlight Foundation and is currently Senior Advisor to the Chair and CEO of LifeFlight. LifeFlight is one of the world's largest not for profit aero medical and rescue providers servicing 75 per cent of Queensland's population with a fleet of 11 helicopters and three jets operating from eight bases across the state.

He is also a board member of both LifeFlight Commercial and StarFlight Australia.

He was appointed Chair of the Legacy Committee for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games.

He is also Senior Counsel for government advisory services group GovStrat and served on the Independent Distribution Committee for the public appeal for victims of the 2016 Dreamworld tragedy.

In 2023, he was appointed Chair of Experience Gold Coast, incorporating Destination Gold Coast, Study Gold Coast, Major Events Gold Coast, Placemakers and HOTA (Home of the Arts). He is also a member of the Board of Invest Gold Coast.



A SNAPSHOT OF OUR YEAR

2023/2024



795
schools and preschools throughout Queensland accessed our program



8,773
teachers utilised our program either face to face or via the online learning resource platform the Life Ed Hub



181,492
Queensland students participated in a Life Ed session throughout the year



49,014
students took part in the Relationships and Sexual Health Education program *Talk About It*

SEQ



Sunshine Coast - 15,083

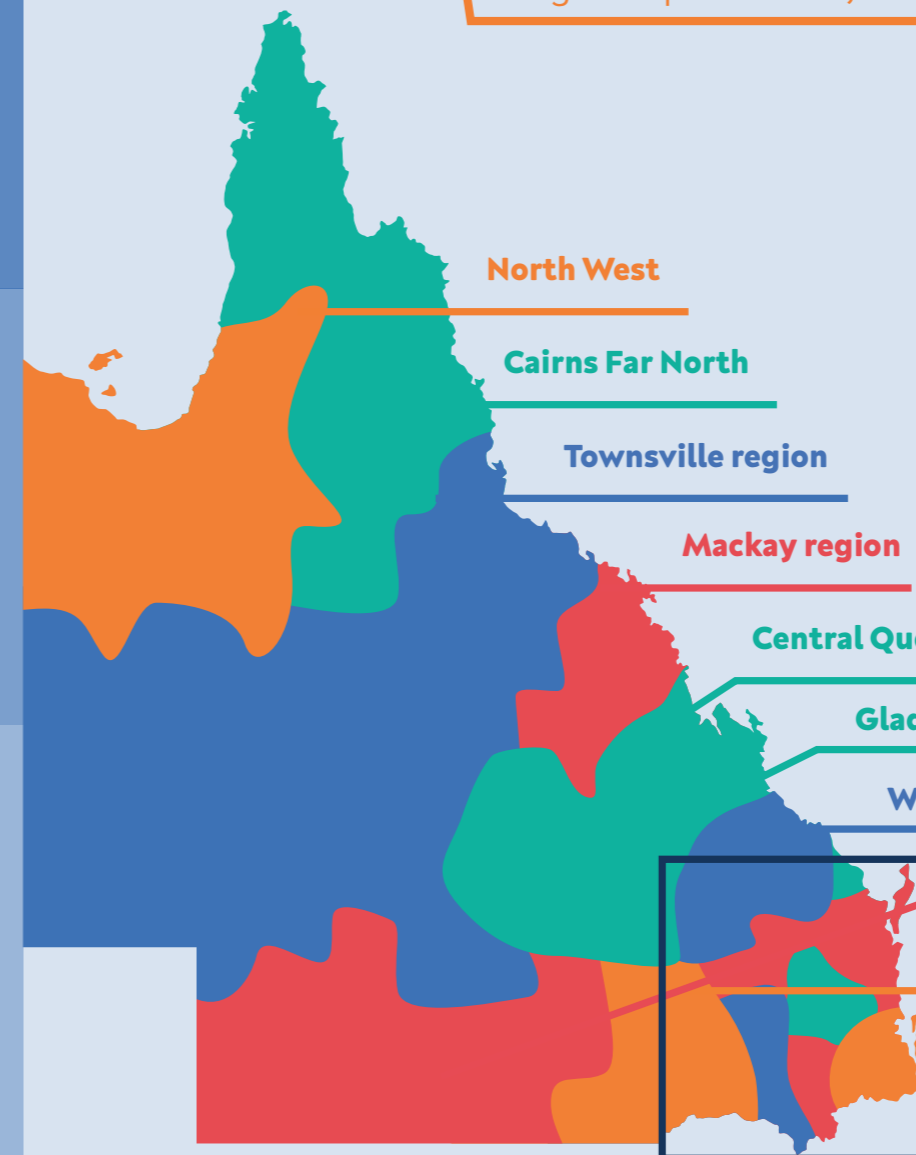
Moreton Bay - 11,433

Brisbane - 23,950

Redlands - 7,934

Gold Coast - 28,246

Logan & Ipswich - 21,888



181,492
children received our specialist health and safety education

| Region | Children & Young People |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| North West | 2,717 |
| Cairns and Far North Queensland | 9,421 |
| Townsville region | 20,379 |
| Mackay region | 10,561 |
| Central Queensland | 9,542 |
| Gladstone | 4,558 |
| Wide Bay | 8,419 |
| South West | 3,651 |
| Darling Downs | 3,710 |

OUR PROGRAM IMPACT



BREAKING NEW GROUND IN BULLYING PREVENTION

Bullying continues to impact far too many school communities, and with today's technology, its reach extends beyond the school gates - following young people into their homes and online spaces, sometimes with devastating consequences.

This year, Life Ed Queensland launched Stand Up for Respect, an innovative, evidence-based bullying and violence prevention program.

Developed in partnership with Social Marketing @Griffith University, Stand Up for Respect supports children in the upper primary years, when research shows bullying is most prevalent.

The innovative program takes a whole school approach, empowering students to identify different types of bullying and develop skills to become upstanders within their school communities. The program also empowers teachers, school staff and parents to play a role in bullying prevention through professional development, parent seminars and other resources.

PILOT RESULTS

A total of 550 children from eight schools took part in the initial pilot across Terms 2 and 3 this year. Four schools adopted all the components of the Stand Up for Respect program in Term 3 and the post program evaluation of these four schools showed a significant reduction in students experiencing frequent bullying and violence (weekly or more frequent).



56% reduction in students physically hurt by peers

44% reduction in lies or rumours spread

36% reduction in damage to student belongings

29% reduction in social exclusion

25% reduction in hurtful teasing

These encouraging outcomes have already generated interest from other Queensland schools eager to adopt the Stand Up for Respect program.

Research shows that one-third of Queensland children experience bullying and 85 per cent of incidents are witnessed by their peers¹. Targets of bullying are almost 60 per cent more likely to self-harm than those who do not experience bullying².

Interventions that enable students, families and schools to proactively identify and manage the mental health concerns of young people are vital. By collaborating with schools to strengthen their existing bullying prevention strategies, we are proud to foster a culture of upstander behaviour—building self-confidence, empathy, awareness, and mental wellbeing—so students can thrive in a safer, more positive school environment.

1. **Bullying No Way & The State of Queensland (Queensland Family and Child Commission), Growing Up in Queensland 2023 (2023)**

2. **Daraganova, G. (2016). Self-harm and suicidal behaviour of young people aged 14–15 years old. In Australian Institute of Family Studies, Chapter 6 Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC) Annual statistical report 2016. <https://growingupinaustralia.gov.au/research-findings/annual-statistical-report-2016/self-harm-and-suicidal-behaviour-young-people-aged-14-15-years-old>**

RESPECT IN ACTION



Eagleby State School

Year 5 student Carter knows all too well the pain of being bullied.

"The bullying I went through was mostly verbal and physical," Carter recalls. "It included mean words, and they did some really hurtful things to me physically as well."

Carter reported the incidents to his teachers and parents, who quickly involved the principal and other staff to address the situation.

Carter's confidence has since grown, thanks in part, to Life Ed's Stand Up for Respect program at Eagleby State School. Carter's mum, Amy, explains how the program empowered him to have open conversations with his parents, grandparents, and friends, helping Carter to better understand how bullying affects emotions.

"We've definitely seen a change in him at school," Amy says. "His grades have improved because he's more focused. He's found the confidence to deal with his problems, and now he's happier and can focus on the things that matter most to him."



Deputy Principal Elly Patterson says the program positively benefited the entire Year 5 cohort.

"Within just a few weeks, we saw a decrease in discriminatory language and a huge decrease in physical violence among the students. There's also been an increase in upstander behaviour," she says.

Ms Patterson said she would strongly recommend the Stand Up for Respect program to schools across Australia. *"It has enlightened our staff, our families, our community, and it has brought a real sense of positive change."*



Woongoolba State School

Woongoolba State School Year 5 and 6 students are also standing taller after completing the new Stand Up for Respect program.

"Before the program, I didn't realise that there were so many types of bullying," says Year 6 student Archie. "There's cyberbullying, verbal bullying, physical bullying and social bullying. Now, I know how to spot it if it's happening and how to stand up for people."

The pilot evaluation found a big increase in Woongoolba students' confidence to recognise bullying, take appropriate action to manage bullying behaviours and implement measures to prevent bullying.

"Students are more aware of their own actions, speaking with more kindness, and including peers in lunchtime activities," says Acting Principal Tracy Pryce. "It's also given them a boost in confidence as they prepare to transition to high school."

HOW A KINDNESS MOVEMENT SPREAD ACROSS QUEENSLAND

Imagine a stunning showcase of vibrant, coloured pledges, each one a heartfelt message from a primary school student about standing up for kindness, inclusion and tolerance.

This was the powerful display that took shape at the Life Ed Queensland Centre when more than 5,500 Queensland students joined forces to launch our new bullying prevention initiative, Stand Up for Respect.



Each pledge symbolised the 5,576 individuals affected by assault and sexual assault in Queensland each month, according to the latest ABS police data from 2023.



Life Ed Queensland's ambassadors, including Eva Milic from Nine News, cybersafety expert Brett Lee, parenting expert Dr Justin Coulson, Olympian Brooke Hanson OAM and Gold Coast Titans player Lauren Brown, added their voices to the movement through a social media video campaign.



As Stand Up for Respect gained momentum across the state, it became a powerful movement, inspiring the next generation to take a stand against violence, bullying, and discrimination. The campaign encouraged students to be strong role models within their school communities and reflect on the characteristics of respectful relationships.

Special thanks also go to the student leaders from Miami State School, who joined the media launch and shared their inspiring stories of leadership and kindness.



CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE: MEET THE QUEENSLAND JUNIOR UPSTANDER AWARD WINNERS



As part of the Stand Up for Respect influence campaign, we invited the community to nominate outstanding student upstanders who go above and beyond to embody respect, empathy and kindness.

We were thrilled to announce the four student winners of the inaugural Queensland Junior Upstander Awards - Nimea, Hannah, Dominic and Jaxon (pictured) – each of whom has made a lasting impact in their school communities by promoting respect, fostering positivity and standing up against bullying.

Through their actions, these exceptional students have not only helped create safer and more inclusive school environments but have also inspired others to be kind, fair and courageous.

Here's a snapshot of their remarkable nominations.



Meet Nimea

"Nimea has strong voice and does not hesitate to stand up for others. She is an upstander because she consistently speaks out when she hears others using inappropriate names, speaking firmly and respectfully to stop derogatory language. She courageously reports incidents of bullying, demonstrating a strong commitment to fairness. Nimea's commitment to creating a safe and inclusive school environment makes her a remarkable role model. Her actions inspire others to be kind, fair, and courageous."

Meet Hannah



"I have chosen to nominate myself, Hannah, as an Aussie upstander. Sadly, around our country, over two million students have been afflicted by this devastating matter, unable to stand up for themselves. Not just once, but many times I have recognised and put a stop to bullying. When someone was continuously teased and called names, I put a stop to it by telling the bully not to make fun of others. When someone kept repeatedly mocking me, I told them to stop it because I didn't like it. My motto: Respect everyone, no matter their colour, culture, religion and appearance."

Meet Dominic



"Dom noticed his friends were refusing to let a girl sit at their lunch table. He knew this behaviour was wrong. Despite feeling nervous, Dom took a deep breath and spoke up. 'That's not right,' he said firmly. 'She can sit here with us.' His friends were surprised and annoyed. They got up and moved to another table, leaving Dom alone with the girl. Dom didn't let this bother him. Instead, he smiled and welcomed her, making sure she felt included and respected. We believe that kids like these are worth recognising and celebrating. Through the Stand Up for Respect program, we know that by teaching children to use respect, compassion and empathy to face bullying, we can dramatically reduce violent behaviours and mental illness later in life. Thank you for supporting this incredible program."

Meet Jaxon



"There was a new kid at school, Danny, who was being made fun of because he had a genetic condition. He was being teased by students and me and my friend saw this and thought how rude and mean it was. I said to them, 'How would you like to be bullied for the way you were born?' and told them to not do it again and they didn't do it again. Now, me and Danny are really good mates and sit together at lunch."

TALK ABOUT IT PROGRAM



We surveyed more than 650 teachers for our Teacher Feedback - Talk About It program evaluation:

100%

of teachers recommend their school rebooks the Talk About It program

100%

of teachers rated the Talk About It program a positive experience for their students

92%

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

98%

rated the content of the program very high or high quality

Life Ed Queensland's Talk About It program offers a series of innovative, age-appropriate sessions designed to address crucial topics in Relationships and Sexual Health Education (RSE) such as consent, body safety, respectful relationships, puberty and identity.

Aligned with the Health and Physical Education Australian Curriculum, the program equips children with the knowledge and skills they need to navigate the physical, social, and emotional changes they experience as they grow.

Since its inception in 2014, with funding from Queensland Health, Talk About It has helped thousands of children approach these challenging subjects with confidence and understanding. It has since become the largest Relationships and Sexual Health program offered in Queensland primary schools.

Last year alone, our team of 10 educators reached 49,014 students across Queensland – demonstrating the growing demand for this critical education. We now cover content from Prep, with the introduction of the Safe Kids, Safe Bodies module, empowering the youngest students to learn about consent, early warning signs, anatomical names for private parts, help-seeking and identifying trusted adults.

Beyond Queensland, the program's success has sparked expansion into other states. Life Ed affiliates in South Australia, Victoria, and the Northern Territory are already delivering Talk About It, and Life Ed New South Wales is preparing to launch the puberty module next year.

TEACHER FEEDBACK:

"Your way of talking to the kids, answering their questions and prompting their thinking was outstanding. I could tell they really trusted you and felt really safe in the space."

- Cairns teacher

"Amazing experience for kids. Well balanced and great that all students shared learning about female and male puberty together, in a positive, safe way."

- Brisbane teacher

"We previously haven't had much in the way of puberty education and so our kids were very nervous. The wonderful educator made them feel safe, calm and at ease and had them laughing and participating. I am positive that our kids have walked away empowered."

- Brisbane teacher

STUDENT FEEDBACK:

"I learned about consent and asking friends for permission before you do something that may affect them. Also, reporting people who make you feel uncomfortable online or in real life." - student, Airlie

HOW THE TALK ABOUT IT PROGRAM EMPOWERED TWO STUDENTS TO NAVIGATE PUBERTY



Carly highlights how the Talk About It program addresses body safety, consent, puberty, identity and personal relationships in a way that's both engaging and age appropriate.

"Even the practical aspects of adolescent health, like hygiene, are incredibly helpful," she adds. "Harrison's now more mindful about things like washing his hair, brushing his teeth, and using deodorant."

"The sessions that he has been a part of have really driven his curiosity but also been messaged in a way to our children that there is no stigma, shame or embarrassment about asking questions about what is happening for them."

As Harrison prepares to enter high school, Carly is grateful for the program's positive influence. *"I want him to have all the emotional and social tools he needs to grow into the best version of himself. The more he learns, the more curious he becomes - and that opens more conversations for us to have."*

"Knowledge is a strength, and this program is gifting him that additional level of strength."

HARRISON'S STORY

When 11-year-old Harrison participated in the Navigating Relationships and Thriving in Puberty modules at his Gold Coast school as part of the Talk About It program, he came away with newfound confidence and awareness.

His mother, Carly, noticed the immediate impact. *"The program sparked his curiosity and helped him prepare for the changes and emotions puberty brings," she says. "He was genuinely intrigued by what he learned, which relieved a lot of pressure for me as a parent. He wasn't embarrassed or shy - just curious. And that's a great thing."*

MINTY'S STORY

The Talk About It sessions, Discovering Identity, Thriving in Puberty and The Journey of Human Reproduction came at a pivotal time for Minty, a Year 6 student in Brisbane.

Her mother, Mary, explains:

"Minty had just started her period a few months earlier and was going through an identity crisis. She wasn't comfortable with her body or the changes she was experiencing," Mary says.

"I kept reassuring her that it's normal, and everyone goes through it. But being the tallest in her class and the first among her friends to start menstruating, it felt overwhelming."

The Talk About It program became a turning point for Minty, fostering greater self-esteem and self-acceptance.

"There were two major changes I saw in Minty—she began to accept her body, and she learned to manage stress," Mary continues. *"Now, when she feels stressed, she takes time out to listen to her favourite music and reflect on her emotions."*

Minty says the Talk About It program not only helped her understand puberty's milestones and relate better to peers, it also helped instil pride in her Pakistani heritage.



"I feel much prouder of who I am now," Minty says. *"I learned how to calm myself down. I especially liked how everything was taught through games. It was fun, and I learned about hygiene during puberty and what shapes my identity."*

Mary believes the Talk About It program is invaluable for both parents and children.

"I had already discussed these topics with Minty but hearing it from educators really validated everything I'd said. Sessions like this help kids develop in a positive way. The timing of the program was perfect for Minty."

*Names were changed in this story to protect privacy



A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

LIFE ED'S NEW VAPING EDUCATION PROGRAM SPREADS AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE

This year, Life Ed rolled out a new nationwide vaping education program to address the concerning rise in e-cigarette use. The program, Take a Breath: Your Voice, Your Choice, is designed to reach Years 5 and 6 students before they transition to high school, cutting through misinformation to present young people with the important facts, to avoid vaping.

Co-designed with educators and students and funded by Consumer Healthcare Products Australia (CHP Australia), Take a Breath is evidence-based and delivered in classrooms by Life Ed's team of specialist educators. The peer-to-peer program encourages students to think critically and explore health and environmental impacts, evolving laws, and the social pressures around vaping.

The program was launched in response to new data which shows vaping has become a major public health issue and is now endemic in many Australian high schools.

While nicotine vapes are illegal without a prescription, the Queensland Health Report reveals a steep rise in e-cigarette use among young adults in Queensland. In 2022, 45.3 per cent of Queenslanders aged 18-29 were vaping, almost twice the rate reported in 2018 (23.5 per cent).*

*Queensland Health, 'Electronic cigarettes' in The health of Queenslanders. Report of the Chief Health Officer Queensland. Queensland Government, Brisbane 2023, https://www.choreport.health.qld.gov.au/our-lifestyle/electronic-cigarettes#section__trends

VAPING SURVEY

Life Ed Queensland's 2023 survey of primary school students, Queensland parents and teachers, found that around 30% of Year 5 and 6 students might try vaping in the future, with students more than three times as likely to vape if they had seen others vaping. Key findings included:

45% of students had seen someone they knew vaping.

25% were unsure if vapes contained nicotine.

20% were unsure if vapes contained harmful chemicals.

While the long-term effects of vaping aren't yet known, medical experts report that vaping can cause permanent lung damage and harm brain development, making it crucial to reach young people with the message that there is no such thing as safe vaping.

Vapes can contain up to 200 toxic chemicals, including nicotine, formaldehyde, acetone and heavy metals like nickel, tin and lead.

Since Take a Breath launched in Term 1, 6,922 Queensland students have participated in the program, with students gaining valuable knowledge and strategies to resist vaping in the future.

TEACHER AND PARENT FEEDBACK

"This is a huge epidemic, and it's imperative to talk to kids at this age," shared Julie, a special needs teacher from Logan. "I've seen Year 4 boys hiding vapes at school. After the Life Ed vaping session, many were surprised to learn vapes contain nicotine—they thought it was just 'sweet stuff.' Making informed choices is empowering."

A parent from Cooloola Noosa Christian College said, *"The Healthy Harold van sparked an instant conversation with my boys about the dangers of vaping versus smoking. Our daughter, in Year 4, also highly benefited from it. It started conversations about keeping her body healthy, which she learns at home, but hearing someone else confirm what we try to teach her just helps it all sink in that little bit better. This knowledge is invaluable, and we as parents are grateful for programs like Healthy Harold that truly care for our kids' health."*

Early intervention is vital so that young people continue to receive trusted, factual information on vaping risks, equipping them with refusal skills and supporting them to make safe, informed choices.



PARENTS AND TEACHERS EMBRACE THE HUB

In Term 2, 2024, we relaunched The Hub, Life Ed Queensland's online platform that provides all lesson plans, resources, program details, and session information in one accessible, free site.

Designed to support teachers in health and wellbeing education, The Hub offers easy access to pre- and post-visit materials that extend Life Ed's impact in the classroom.

The platform's updated, contemporary design features 26 Life Ed modules, interactive lessons, worksheets, and videos, all aligned with the Australian Curriculum. Since the relaunch, 957 teachers from 465 schools and early learning centres have signed up, with increased engagement seen across all lesson resources.

Principals, class teachers, curriculum heads, special education teachers, and guidance officers are using The Hub to enhance learning from early childhood through upper primary. Teachers report that the resources are a game-changer:

"There's so much information, beautifully presented. The lesson structure is super easy to follow—a huge time saver. Resources like these are amazing." – **Year 4 teacher, Marsden State School**

"The Hub and Talk About It resources helped consolidate what students learned during their Life Ed session, encouraging them to talk openly about the content and feel comfortable discussing puberty with their teacher." – **Year 5 teacher, Redland Bay**

With the convenience and depth The Hub provides, teachers have everything they need to enrich Life Ed learning in the classroom.



EMPOWERING FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITIES: LIFE ED'S IMPACT IN WOORABINDA INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY

Access to specialist health and wellbeing education is often limited in remote First Nations communities, yet this is where education and support is often most needed.

Each year, during Term 4, Central Queensland Life Education eagerly returns to Woorabinda State School, the only primary school in the remote Aboriginal community.

Located 170 kilometres southwest of Rockhampton, on the traditional lands of the Wadja and Gungaloo Aboriginal peoples, Woorabinda has a long-standing relationship with Life Education.

"We've visited Woorabinda annually since 1993, only missing a face-to-face visit in 2020, due to COVID," says Dr Liz Hills, Central Queensland Life Ed educator.

"The school's motto is 'Proud and Deadly', and the school values — 'We are deadly by being kind, strong, and respectful'—align perfectly with Life Ed's mission," Dr Hills adds.

This year, educators Liz and Fiona delivered the Healthy Harold program to nearly 200 children from kindergarten to Year 6, in a four-day visit.

"Life Ed's programs reinforce the school's goals by equipping children with the knowledge, skills, and strategies to enhance social and emotional wellbeing and make safe, healthy, and respectful choices," says Dr Hills. *"We're empowering young people now, for their future."*

A special highlight was inviting local Elder Milton to attend a session in the Life Ed mobile learning centre.

"Involving a respected Elder allows for the exchange of knowledge, language, and culture—a truly enriching experience," says Dr Hills. *"There is so much heart and passion in Woorabinda and we feel privileged to work with the community's young people."*

Life Ed's delivery in the Central Queensland region is supported by the Central Queensland Life Ed Committee, run by a dedicated team of volunteers. Last year, the CQ program delivered 505 sessions to 9,551 students at 58 schools and 23 early learning centres across the region. The major partner for the region is Capricorn Communities for Children, funded by the Australian Government and facilitated by The Smith Family.



LIFE ED TOWNSVILLE'S HUGE REACH

Our incredible Life Ed Townsville team has had a huge year, delivering 893 program sessions to 17,789 children at 68 primary schools and 65 early learning centres across the vast region.

Passionate educators Donna and Rhiannon are supported by a dedicated group of committee members, who give their time and support to ensure Life Ed continues to achieve a big impact in Townsville and the surrounding districts.

The committee acknowledges the support of Communities for Children funded by the Australian Government and facilitated by The Smith Family Townsville West, Quota Club of Thuringowa, Port of Townsville Rotary, Townsville Central Rotary, Alice River Lions Club and Home Hill Lions Club.



EDUCATOR RHIANNON RECALLS MEMORABLE VISITS TO KINDERGARTEN AND YEAR 1 AND 2 STUDENTS:

"During one session, we talked about ways to deal with big feelings. For example, it is helpful to take deep breaths."

Towards the end of the session, a child was having a hard time with the transition back to their classroom.

A classmate helpfully piped up: 'Hey, if you're angry and you know it, take a breath!' I was so pleased to hear the Life Education skills and strategies being applied."

EDUCATOR DONNA RECALLS HER 2024 HIGHLIGHT:

"I love hearing feedback from teachers and students about how the lessons inspire them to create a project or set a goal in their classroom, such as a friendship garden or a challenge to pack more nutritious foods in their lunchboxes."

During a visit to Townsville Grammar School Northshore, Healthy Harold inspired one student so much with his lesson on cybersafety, she decided to make her own version of Harold at home. It wasn't long before her classmates caught the creative bug. They launched a project to each craft their own Harold, and we can't wait to meet all his new 'cousins' on our next visit!"



WENDY'S MILESTONE

Wendy Flynn has been secretary/coordinator of Life Ed Townsville for almost 32 years. She juggles a busy timetable: liaising with schools, supporting the educators, preparing their schedules and handling the office administration and fundraising activities.

Wendy says she feels privileged to be part of Life Ed's legacy, helping to make a difference for future generations.

"We know from our interactions with schools and the public, that our impact has been positive and, in some cases, life changing," Wendy says.

"The program content and the skills of our educators ensure that the Life Education experience remains a lifelong memory. This is evident from the number of times I am stopped by adults and told that going to the Life Ed van was the best memory of their primary school years. I am always amazed by the many details of their Life Education visit they can recall."

"Today more than ever, I feel the Life Education message is desperately needed to provide children with the vital skills they need for a safer future."



HAROLD'S KINDNESS WEEK: PROMOTING RECONCILIATION WEEK IN THE NORTH WEST



Connecting with First Nations communities around Queensland is a highlight of our program calendar, so we were delighted to travel to Mount Isa and Cloncurry in May this year to support National Reconciliation Week.

Eight schools, kindergartens and community groups across North West Queensland welcomed Healthy Harold as part of Harold's Kindness Week, a week-long celebration filled with creative, educational and cultural activities. This initiative was made possible through a partnership with Centacare North Queensland and funded by the Australian Government's Communities for Children program.

Each participating school and community group had the opportunity to apply for a \$500 grant to create activities centred on kindness, respect, and healthy relationships. Life Ed Queensland worked closely with each group, supporting them as they developed their unique event plans.

Michelle Pipino, Life Ed Queensland's Partnership Coordinator, said the activities highlighted the power of collaboration:

"By involving Elders and children, we were able to bridge generational gaps, foster respect for Indigenous culture, and demonstrate the role of kindness in building a harmonious community."

One standout event, "Caretakers of Kindness," took place at Mt Isa's Ngukuthati Children and Family Centre.

Local Elders gathered to judge an art competition where children under eight showcased drawings and photos depicting acts of kindness within their community—whether through people, places, or things.

Michelle Paulsen, Remote Operations Manager at Centacare North Queensland, said she was proud to witness the community's enthusiasm:

"It was truly inspiring to see how many groups embraced Harold's Kindness Week and integrated it with National Reconciliation Week."



EXTENDING RECONCILIATION WEEK

Beyond the northwest, Life Ed Queensland educators also connected with students in other Queensland communities, including Yarrabah, Gordonvale and Weipa, during National Reconciliation Week.



SUPPORTING PARENTS AND CHILDREN THROUGH TRIPLE P

Thanks to our partnership with the internationally recognised Triple P – Positive Parenting program, Life Ed Queensland hosted 18 interactive sessions, reaching 245 parents throughout the year.



Our Life Ed Queensland Centre at Broadbeach has become a hub for parenting seminars, complementing school-based sessions and offering parents additional support in their crucial role of raising healthy, resilient children.

These seminars, covering topics such as Raising Resilient Children, Fear-Less, The Power of Positive Parenting, and Triple P teen sessions, provide parents with practical, evidence-based strategies. Designed to help parents of children of all ages, these sessions offer tools to navigate the challenges of parenting with confidence and positivity.

This year, Life Ed Queensland strengthened its partnership with Triple P by appointing Narelle Watkins as our resident parent education specialist. This appointment further highlights our commitment to supporting parents in nurturing resilience in their children, preparing them to thrive in the world.

OUR FUNDRAISING IMPACT

THE GENEROSITY OF THE QUEENSLAND COMMUNITY

Life Ed Queensland relies on the generosity of the Queensland community to help equip children with essential life skills to prepare them for the world they're growing up in.

Thanks to the collective generosity of individuals, grant partners, Communities for Children, companies and Queensland Government (Health and Wellbeing Queensland)

AN INCREDIBLE \$3,801,119 WAS RAISED FOR VITAL LIFE EDUCATION DURING FY24.

KIDS PROTECT TEAM

Our Kids Protect Team is made up of thousands of dedicated supporters from every corner of Queensland, each contributing to create a lasting impact. Their ongoing generosity is truly the backbone of our mission. This year, thanks to the remarkable kindness of 5,770 Kids Protect Team members, we've raised **\$1,755,753.75** to continue empowering children through life-changing education.

These donations allow us to adapt and grow our programs to meet the evolving needs of schools, students, and parents—even reaching the most remote areas of Queensland.

Because every child, no matter where they live, deserves equal access to the essential knowledge and skills that keep them safe and healthy.

\$1,969,037
from grants

5,770
members of the Kids Protect Team

\$1,755,753.75
donated by the Kids Protect Team

73
members of the Kids Protect Team
donated to our Giving Day



MEET TWO OF OUR KIDS PROTECT TEAM SUPPORTERS

Supporter Brett:

For Brett, supporting Life Ed Queensland isn't just about giving back – it's deeply personal. A supporter since 2015 and a proud Kids Protect Team member, Brett's connection to the program began in his own school days, where Healthy Harold left a lasting impression.

"I remember looking forward to Life Ed like an exciting excursion," he recalls. "It taught me the importance of staying healthy – and I've carried those lessons with me my whole life."

Now, as a father, Brett's reason for giving has deepened. His son's experience with bullying and his daughter's early journey through puberty have only strengthened his belief in the vital role of Life Ed.

"My 7-year-old son was being bullied at the last school he was at," he recalls. "As a parent, you want to fix everything, but you can't always stop it. Life Ed gives kids the guidance they need when we can't."

Brett says it's deeply satisfying to be able to make a difference.

"There's no handbook on parenting, so you don't always know what to say but you guys deal with it a lot and know what to say a bit better. Also, there are families out there who don't have the best home situation, and children may not learn the right things at home."

"If you have kids of your own, you want the best for them. It's as simple as that."



Supporter Anna:



"As a grandmother, I hear from my family how bullying is a major issue in schools, and I know how deeply it can affect children – not just in childhood, but into adulthood," Anna explains.

"That's why I began donating to Life Ed Queensland in 2015. When I learned about the charity's focus on prevention through education – helping children avoid problems later in life – I knew I wanted to get involved."

Anna believes it's crucial to reach children during their primary school years, helping them build awareness about the different forms of bullying, staying safe online, seeking help, and developing positive relationships both in person and online.

"The fact that Life Education focuses on respectful relationships, including friendship-building and bullying prevention, is so important to me as a donor," she says.

For Anna, supporting Life Education is a meaningful way to contribute to the wellbeing of future generations.

"Life Education's commitment to Australian children's futures makes it such a worthy charity to support," she adds. "It feels good to know that, in some small way, I'm helping equip young children with the coping skills they need in an increasingly complex world."



OUR PEOPLE AND CULTURE

STAFF CONFERENCE: CONNECTING AND INSPIRING

Life Ed Queensland hosted two impactful staff conferences during the last financial year - in July 2023 and January 2024. These events connect staff from throughout Queensland, providing valuable opportunities for professional development and alignment on the mission for the coming year.

Educators and the wider team explored the latest trends in vaping awareness, sexual health education, cyberbullying, and practical strategies to support children's social and emotional wellbeing, including tools for anxiety management. We acknowledged several staff service milestones and enjoyed mindfulness and yoga sessions.



A highlight of the 2023 conference was the participation of three student leaders from Norfolk Village State School—Emily, Jedd, and Wil—who shared heartfelt stories about the lasting impact Life Ed has had on their primary school journey and their ability to make important choices.

At the 2024 conference, we acknowledged the tireless service of Peter Morgan as a founding member of the Life Ed Queensland Board since 1987 and a nine-year tenure as Board chair.

The staff conferences are a cornerstone of our culture, helping to foster a strong team ethic, enhance professional development, and reinforce our commitment to empowering Queensland children to live safer, healthier lives.



LEADERS OF TOMORROW

Jedd, Emily and Wil are among the millions of young people whose lives have been positively enriched by the Life Ed program. Their reflections at our staff conference left us inspired.



Jedd

"I have been learning from the Life Ed educators since Prep and I have taken away some very important information over this time...from learning how to manage the changes in our bodies to learning how dangerous some things are to put into our bodies, including cigarettes, and the newest fad, vapes. They have given me the advice and knowledge in preparation for adulthood and helped me to understand the responsibility we all have to look after our bodies ... as they are irreplaceable."

Emily

"Life Education has helped me make the right decisions and behaviours in different situations and taught me how to stay safe and healthy in the future. Some important information that was discussed regarding bullying and social skills, were to be aware of other's feelings and how your words and actions can affect others. This is an important topic because it teaches kids to speak and act respectfully towards others and themselves."



Wil

"Life Education always puts the students first. Whenever we feel a bit uncomfortable in a situation, Life Education leaders are always there to help make an awkward topic a little bit easier to discuss. I always walk away from these discussions feeling like I have the tools I need to make an informed decision. Life Ed has been an amazing experience, and I would like to thank each and every one of you for having an impact on the way I now make decisions."

OUR BOARD



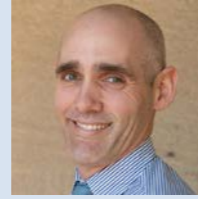
Jack Ray
Chair

Jack joined the board of Life Ed Qld in 2010. He was born and raised on the Gold Coast where he attended Somerset College. In 2005 he graduated from Bond University with a Bachelor of Business Law Degree. Following graduation from university, Jack worked as development manager for the listed Consolidated Properties Group and Trinity Funds Management Group in a role which included the construction management and leasing of several Coles and Woolworths anchored shopping centres. Prior to becoming executive director of Ray Group in 2009, Jack was Ray Group's director of sales based in both its Mount Hotham and Salt Village, Kingscliff project marketing offices. He holds a commercial helicopter pilot's licence and was the former managing director and chief pilot of Helicopter Services Queensland.



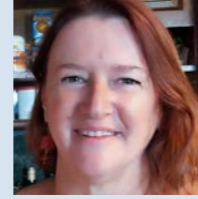
Mark Lacy
Deputy Chair

Mark is the Managing Partner of Hickey Lawyers, one of the Gold Coast's largest commercial law firms. With over 30 years' post admission experience, Mark's expertise spans all aspects of the development process, including site acquisition, approvals, appeals, community title structuring, consultation with government, negotiating and drafting complex joint venture agreements, construction contracts and funding facilities. Mark is a life member of the Mermaid Beach Surf Club and has been past President of the Mermaid Beach Supporters Club, Junior Activities Director and Surf Sports Director. He has held non-executive director positions with two ASX listed public companies.



Brad Andrews
Treasurer

Brad joined the board of Life Ed Qld in 2023. He was born and raised on the Gold Coast with his family establishing the first General Store in Southport in 1879. In 2006 he graduated from Griffith University with a Bachelor of Business majoring in Accounting and Finance. Brad has experience working in accounting firms on the Gold Coast, Germany and Hong Kong and is currently the General Manager of Finance at Bond University. Brad is currently the Chair of CPA Australia – Gold Coast Branch and sits on the Audit and Risk Committee for Anglicare Southern Queensland.



A/Prof Caroline Salom PhD
Secretary & Strategic Advisor –
Mental Health & Substance Use

Caroline is a Principal Research Fellow at the Institute for Social Science Research, University of Queensland and Adjunct Associate Professor at the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre at UNSW. She joined the LEQ Board in February 2016. She has worked in health and medical research for more than 30 years and specifically in the alcohol and other drugs field for over 20 years. Caroline specialises in substance use, mental health, service development and epidemiology, and brings extensive experience in community and school-based health education and prevention design.



Michael Fawsitt
Chief Executive Officer

The Life Ed Qld team is led by chief executive officer, Michael Fawsitt, who has 30 years of experience working in non-profit organisations. Michael was one of four finalists for the 2005 Queenslander of the Year Awards for his contribution to the alleviation of poverty through his work at World Vision Australia. He has been with Life Ed Qld since 2006, during which time Life Ed's reach has doubled to more than 200,000 children and young people each year. Michael leads a committed and growing team who share a common vision to see generations of young Queenslanders living to their full potential.



Peter Morgan

Peter was a founding member of Life Ed Qld's Board and has served continuously ever since. Peter has worked as a solicitor since 1979 and has been a member of Rotary for more than 30 years. During this time, he was also a member of the finance board of one of the largest church congregations in Australia. He is married with three adult children, all of whom have experienced the Life Ed program.



Prof. Susan Moloney
MBSS FRACP

Susan joined the LEQ Board in 2024. She is the Director of Paediatrics at the Gold Coast University Hospital and has overseen expansion of children's services locally over the past 25 years. She was involved in the implementation of new medical schools on the Gold Coast and is Professor at Griffith University and Adjunct Professor at Bond University. She is a previous board member of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and has served on many commonwealth and state advisory committees. She has an interest in postgraduate medical education and volunteers internationally with operation SMILE.





OUR AMBASSADORS

Our amazing ambassadors help spotlight Life Ed Queensland's work with children. From supporting fundraising campaigns, to lending their expertise in our parent podcast series, and advocating for Life Ed's impact, we are so grateful for their valuable contribution.



Eva Milic
Nine News Gold Coast presenter and journalist



Dr Judith Locke
Clinical psychologist, author and media commentator



Brett Lee
Cybersafety expert, educator and author



Kate Di Prima
Dietitian, author and media commentator



Dr Justin Coulson
Parenting expert, author and media commentator



Jimmy Morrison
Mental health advocate



WE THANK OUR MANY PARLIAMENTARY AMBASSADORS

Life Ed Queensland is privileged to have the backing of government ministers, members of parliament, and local councillors from across Queensland. Their ongoing support is vital in advancing our mission to empower generations of Queensland children to lead safer, healthier lives.

Mr 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

Hon Amanda Camm MP – Member for Whitsunday

Mr Michael Crandon MP – Member for Coomera

Hon David Crisafulli – Member for Broadwater

Mr Mick de Brenni MP – Member for Springwood

Ms Leeanne Enoch MP – Member for Algester

Ms Di Farmer MP – Member for Bulimba

Ms Shannon Fentiman MP – Member for Waterford

Mr 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

Dr Christian Rowan MP – Member for Moggill

Ms 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

Special thanks to the **Hon Tim Nicholls, Minister for Health and Ambulance** and **Hon Dan Purdie, Minister for Police and Emergency Services.**

OUR PARTNERS

MAJOR PARTNER



**Queensland
Government**

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



FINANCIAL SUMMARY



\$5,614,556
Revenue

Grants



School Service Fees



Fundraising



Other Income



\$6,032,775
Expenditure

Programs



Operations



Marketing



Fundraising



Non Operating Expenditure



Total Operating Expenditure: \$5,884,927



For every \$1
invested in
fundraising



\$3.81 was invested
in programs and
operations



helping
181,000 young
Queenslanders



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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