

# Life Education Queensland ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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Empowering our children and young people to make safer and healthier choices through education

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# **Our patrons**



#### The Honourable Robert 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 more than 20 years.

During this time, he held several senior positions including senior ministries, deputy leader of the Opposition, leader of the Opposition and premier.

Since his resignation from parliament in 2001, he has held numerous board positions in both private and publicly-listed companies.

In 2006 Mr Borbidge 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; a member of the Council of Griffith University; and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Friends of Griffith University (incorporated in the USA).

Mr Borbidge is chairman of Life Flight Australia – one of the world's largest not-for-profit aero-medical and rescue providers servicing 75 percent of Queensland's population with a fleet of 13 helicopters and three jets, operating from eight bases across the state. He is also chair of the Legacy Committee for the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games; chair of Study Gold Coast, a collaborative venture between the region's major universities and education providers and senior counsel for Government advisory services group Govstrat.

Mr Borbidge also served on the Independent Distribution Committee for the public appeal for victims of the 2016 Dreamworld tragedy.



#### The Honourable Dr Anthony Lynham

The Honourable Dr Anthony Lynham is the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. Before entering parliament as the Member for Brisbane seat of Stafford in 2014, Dr Lynham worked as a maxillofacial surgeon. As a surgeon who continuously dealt with the aftermath of violence, Dr Lynham was a prominent advocate of policies to minimise alcohol-fuelled violence, prior to entering parliament.

Dr Lynham graduated in medicine from the University of Newcastle and completed his maxillofacial surgery training in Queensland. He is a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. Dr Lynham spent most of his medical career at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and is part of a research team at Prince Charles Hospital. He has also served in the Australian Army.

Dr Lynham is an Adjunct Professor at QUT and an Associate Professor at the University of Queensland's (UQ) School of Medicine.

# Chairman's report



"Through education, we're helping to instil in the minds of young people, many of the protective behaviours they need to grow up safe and healthy."

### As we approach 2020 and beyond, Life Education Queensland is playing an increasingly important role in the lives of young people, and their future health and safety.

Our program continues to expand, with a growing focus on tackling obesity through new initiatives such as Healthy Eats, as well as an increasing emphasis on supporting children's social and emotional well-being.

In the past year, 233,366 Queensland children have accessed our health and education resources and of those, 205,256 children were directly engaged with Life Education's face-toface health education program, either through our innovative mobile learning centres or directly in the school classroom. This reach is testament to the vision and strategy of our CEO and Board, and the dedication of our amazing team of educators, management, staff and volunteers across the state. I'd also like to acknowledge the tireless efforts of our local committees in Toowoomba, Central Queensland, Townsville and Cooloola-Noosa, and our support groups in Bundaberg and the Moreton Region.

Life Education's exceptional community impact is possible because of our many supporters.

They include parents, school principals, teachers, donors, the Queensland Government, the Primary Health Network, Communities for Children, and our many other partners. To all, I extend a heartfelt thank you. As Queensland's largest NGO provider of health education to children and young people, our preventative program aims to empower young Australians with the knowledge, skills and confidence to make safe and healthy choices in terms of both their physical health and their social-emotional wellbeing.

Through the support of the community, we are putting this mission into action every day in schools across the length and breadth of Queensland.

Our educators and our mobile learning centres are now able to reach the most remote regions of our state including Indigenous communities and areas of disadvantage. Through education, we're helping to instil in the minds of young people, many of the protective behaviours they need to grow up safe and healthy. From cybersafety and healthy relationships, to vital education on nutrition and the harms of drugs and smoking - we are a team united in our goal to empower young people with the knowledge, skills and strategies to keep them safe from harm.

So, I want to thank you for being part of our journey. As you read through this annual report, I hope you will be inspired by the difference we're making in the lives of children and young people, and I hope you'll continue this journey with us.

Peter Morgan Chairman Life Education Queensland

# **CEO'S report**

### "Across the state, our staff and volunteers empower more than 200,000 children to live a safe and healthy life."



### Life Education Queensland's vision is for generations of healthy young Queenslanders to be living to their full potential. That's a bold vision! But what do we really mean by 'healthy'?

The World Health Organisation defines health as "...a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease and infirmity."

At Life Education, we approach health education very much in this holistic sense. Working with children every day, it's clear how interrelated these three dimensions of health really are. For young people to make important decisions around their physical health, it's vital that they have the emotional and social skills to make those choices wisely.

That's why the work of Life Education, partnering with more than 800 Queensland schools and pre-schools is so important. Our program's alignment with the health and physical education curriculum, across all dimensions of health, enables us to be a critical partner to schools in the healthy development of their students, and a valuable support to parents.

In this past year, I'm excited to say we broke new ground in the support we provide. Through funding by the Northern Queensland Primary Health Network, we co-designed a new nutrition education program with communities in Cairns, Townsville and Mackay regions called 'Healthy Eats'. This program not only includes a practical skills-based lesson on nutrition to children, but also incorporates many initiatives to improve the food environment in the school and local community. Everything from helping schools to audit and improve their tuckshop menu, to supporting them to grow vegetable gardens, breakfast programs and incorporate fruit and vegetable breaks during lesson time – Healthy Eats is a multifaceted approach to tackling the problem of obesity and overweight. This is an important initiative because according to the *Queensland Chief Health Officer's Report, Health of Queenslanders 2018*, more than one quarter of Queensland children are now obese or overweight. Two-thirds are in the healthy weight range (66%) and 8% are underweight. Most concerning is the fact that only 1% of children are meeting the recommendation for daily serves of both fruit and vegetables. Since 2013, vegetable consumption among children has actually decreased by 32%.

The more we can work side by side with local communities and schools to tackle this problem, the better. Healthy Eats launched in 19 schools in this past year, and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. We now have a goal to reach more than 50 schools with this program in the coming year.

This is just one example of the amazing work of the Life Education Queensland team. Across the state, our staff and volunteers empower more than 200,000 children to live a safe and healthy life. From remote communities such as Doomadgee to metropolitan areas of Brisbane, Ipswich, Logan and the Gold Coast, and everywhere in between, the Life Education program is a vital part of growing up for an increasing number of Queensland children.

Our kids are the future. Thanks to all of our supporters, donors and funding partners including the Queensland Government, for enabling this wonderful work to continue and to grow.

Michael Fawsitt CEO Life Education Queensland

# LIFE EDUCATION

is Queensland's largest provider of health and drug education to children and young people.

In excess of **1.5 million** students have participated in our program over the past 33 years.

# **Our Vision**

Generations of healthy young Australians living to their full potential

## **Our Mission**

To empower our children and young people to make safer and healthier choices through education

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# **About Life Education**

Life Education Queensland is at the forefront of child health and well-being, as the state's largest health promotion charity providing health and safety education to students from prep to high school. Our renowned program covers everything from nutrition, exercise, drugs and alcohol, to bullying, cybersafety, sexual health and respectful relationships.

The Life Education story began in Kings Cross, Sydney, where founder, the late Reverend Ted Noffs, saw firsthand how drugs and alcohol addiction were devastating the lives of young Australians. While committed to providing crisis relief and rehabilitation, the Reverend Noffs saw a need to reach out to young people before they were in crisis, placing a greater focus on prevention through powerful health education. His vision, and belief that each child is unique and could be empowered through education to make better choices, led to the formation of Life Education.

Remarkably, Life Education has now reached a 40-year milestone in preventative health education, with more than seven million Australians experiencing our program nationally and more than 700,000 children from pre-school through to high school taking part each year.

Experienced specialist educators, award-winning teaching resources, and our lovable iconic mascot, Healthy Harold the giraffe, help us to engage with children and deliver our message with impact.

Life Education Queensland is an affiliate of Life Education Australia. In 2019, we delivered our program to more than 200,000 Queensland children in partnership with roughly 850 schools and pre-schools, through our team of specialist educators.

As an organisation that has been educating young Australians for 40 years, Life Education consistently works with school partners and students to ensure that our current program, content and desired outcomes are relevant and impactful. Now, more than ever, there is a growing demand for us to tackle important issues such as obesity, bullying and cybersafety; as well expand our emphasis on childhood nutrition and social and emotional well-being; and work towards better health outcomes for Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander students.

Over the next decade, we will continue to adapt and transform our program to meet these demands and build on the success of existing programs.

Our popular bCyberwise module, launched in 2013 to help keep children safe online continues to be in high demand, while this year saw the upgrade of our sexual health and relationships program, Talk About It which is now being launched for the first time by Life Education Victoria. In 2019, we also launched our exciting new Healthy Eats nutrition program in 19 schools in Far North Queensland, with the initiative expanding to 50 schools in 2020.

Whilst our program continues to evolve, our vision and mission remain the same: to empower generations of children and young people to make safer and healthier choices through education.

We achieve this by providing children with:

- · Age-appropriate health knowledge
- Skills and strategies to counter peer and social pressures
- An understanding of how values and attitudes can influence lifestyle choices and behaviour.

Thanks to decades of commitment and innovation, Life Education is highly trusted for the quality and relevance of our health education content, and for the skills of our people who deliver the program. This combination of reach, reputation and relevance places Life Education in an exciting position to build upon our past success and create an even greater impact in the lives of Australian children in the future.

### **Early Childhood**

Body knowledge Personal safety Healthy lifestyle Social skills

### **Primary**

Body knowledge Safety Nutrition Physical activity Puberty Respectful relationships Medicines Cybersafety Decision making Tobacco Alcohol

### Secondary

Peer pressure Decision making Sexual health Tobacco

Alcohol Cannabis Other drugs

# Our reach in 2019

Region	Children & Young People
North West Region	9,145
<b>Cairns and Far North</b>	16,586
Townsville Region	19,885
Mackay Region	14,831
Central Queensland	15,465
Wide Bay/Bundaberg	6,328
Darling Downs	8,648
South West Region	8,648
Sunshine Coast/Coolool	a 20,497
Moreton Bay	14,753
Brisbane	15,715
Redlands	13,111
Gold Coast	35,863
Logan & Ipswich	33,891

Total Early Learning & Primary Health & Drug 233,366

20,497 233,366 14,753 children accessed 15,715 health and wellbeing education. 13,111 33,891 16,586 35,863 SEQ Inset 9,145 19,885 14,831 6,328 15,465 8,648 8,648 See SEQ Inset



If the number of Queensland children who benefited from Life Education's work last year were to stand hand in hand, the line would stretch from Coolangatta to Nambour!



# Our face-to-face delivery in 2019

Of the 233,366 children who benefited from our work, 205,256 children received face-to-face health and well-being education via our team of community-based health educators.



### **30 Educators**

Our 30 Educators travelled a collective 130,000 kilometres across Queensland to deliver our health and well-being program.



### **20 Mobile Learning Centres**

Our iconic mobile learning centres travelled from Coolangatta to the Cape and from Cunnamulla to Camooweal.

## 205,256

### children received face-to-face health and well-being education





# Our early learning program

Healthy Harold, Healthy Me (HHHM) consists of three standalone modules each with a different health focus:

**Harold's Summer Holiday:** Staying safe, incorporating road, sun, and water safety and safety around medications.

**Healthy Play Day:** Healthy life concepts including good nutrition, physical activity, hygiene and rest.

Thankful Heart: Exploring emotions and gratitude

Mapped to The Early Years Learning Framework, HHHM educates our youngest Queenslanders on safety, healthy eating, physical activity and emotional well-being.

Pre and post activities accompany each module to provide support and further learning opportunities for this age group. Complementing this, and extending beyond the classroom, the 'Healthy Harold, Healthy Me' app provides fun activities that are age appropriate, interactive and promote problem solving skills. Comprising six games and featuring Healthy Harold, the free educational app is a terrific resource for children and parents to utilise.

Reaching more than 5000 children aged three to five years, the demand for the program continues to grow. This year, we increased our reach and capacity to deliver by cross training more health and drug and sexual health educators in the early learning program to assist current LEQ educators, Central Queensland Committee educator Brittany Hinz and Townsville educators Tim McKean and Claire Dickson.

In 2020, with an urgent need to address nutrition education in the early years, and in line with funding provided by Queensland Health, LEQ has committed to employing a dedicated early learning educator who will deliver a newlydeveloped nutrition program, that will initially be launched into pre-schools on the Gold Coast, and in Logan and Ipswich, before being extended to early learning centres right across Queensland.

"Our kids are bombarded with information online, on TV, at school and from peers, and a lot of that information is incorrect or inaccurate. Life Education helps separate myth from fact and gives children a clear picture of what healthy really is."

### Parent - Erin, Deception Bay



# Our primary school health and drug education program

This year, our dedicated primary school health and drug educators empowered more than 160,000 Queensland students to make safer, healthier choices through our 12 health modules that included staying safe, nutrition, physical activity, medicines, cybersafety, alcohol, tobacco and drugs.

We continued our relationship with Nutrition Australia Queensland distributing resources to areas of greatest need, and our collaboration with Nature Play Queensland, promoting fun outdoor activities for children in the lower primary school through Nature Play Passports.

Our continued partnerships with Mission Australia, Uniting Care, and The Smith Family through the Communities for Children programs are also supporting many thousands of children in lower socio-economic communities to access the Life Education program. We are incredibly grateful for this support. We are also indebted to the Northern Queensland Primary Health Network for their support.

"The Life Education program makes children more aware of the choices they need to make for a healthy lifestyle in a world where there are so many mixed messages from their role models."

### Teacher - Wulguru State School

Our educators hosted numerous local MPs and funding bodies in their local mobile learning classroom, showcasing the phenomenal work that they do day in, day out while providing their guests with the opportunity to see firsthand the impact their work is having on students.

Area Coordinators, Amanda Bennett and Jennifer Hall shared teaching out of Van 20 and, along with Brad Scarrabelotti and Matthew Dowling, were able to take the program to Doomadgee State School for the second consecutive year.

Life Education Australia launched an exciting new resource called TAM-e, a new and improved version of an old favourite, TAM. Utilising state-of-the-art technology, including augmented reality, students can see the body and its organs come to life in the mobile learning classroom. They can take a dive inside the intestines or follow a bite of an apple through the digestive system. Both students and teachers



alike have marvelled at TAM-e, providing positive reviews and feedback. The inclusion of TAM-e in our programs has added another impressive string to the bow of LEQ educators.

Educators took part in professional development during our state conference held in January, and for the first time, July professional development was facilitated via eLearning modules, topics included:

- Bravehearts Inc. suite of Educator Child Protection Training;
- Life Education Australia's full suite of educator training. This training was facilitated via a new and improved learning management system containing current research and best practice in areas including classroom management, social and emotional learning, nutrition education and alcohol, tobacco and other drug education.
- Educator Safety Self Defence Workshop
- Fire Safety and Emergency Training
- Nutrition Workshop

We welcomed Jessica Caldwell to the team in the Ipswich/ Logan area and celebrated Janet Connelly for 15 years of amazing service to Life Education Queensland.



# Our programs in action

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# Secondary schools' program

Our secondary schools Talk About It (Sexual Health) program has greatest demand in North Queensland where our partnership with the Northern Queensland Primary Health Network has played a vital role in our ability to deliver this important health information service to students in this region.

Our south east Queensland sexual health educators also delivered important messages surrounding sexual health and the legalities and social factors surrounding gender identity, consent and the law.

While secondary health and physical education teachers are well skilled on the topics of drugs and sexual health, there remains an important contribution to be made by Life Education. Our ability to engage the students in an inclusive environment allows a more productive learning atmosphere than may otherwise be possible when dealing with delicate subject matter.

Our experience tells us that the delivery of sexual health education by teachers in both primary and secondary schools is sporadic, and greater support is needed by NGOs to ensure that Queensland young people are empowered to make safe and healthy decisions. Life Education believes that the issues of drug education, sexual health education and resilience (social and emotional well-being) education are intertwined and should be delivered through a more integrated approach, rather than seeing each as separate. Building the resilience skills for effective decision making as well as the skills to create and maintain healthy, respectful relationships, should go hand in hand with drug and sexual health education.

Life Education is well placed to grow into this space, given the very strong awareness of, and respect for our work, among parents, children and teachers. Continuing our education program into secondary schools, building upon what we teach in the primary school years, is an obvious next step that is only constrained by funding.

Life Education has a vision for the secondary school space which encompasses not only educating high school students about their own health and well-being but empowering them to act against bullying and cyber bullying, against alcohol-related violence, sexual violence and domestic violence, and to act against the harms of illicit drugs. Through vital education in this space, we could play a leading role in empowering the adults of tomorrow.

# Our sexual health program

This year saw 36,030 children receive sexual health education across three modules: Puberty, Identity and Healthy Relationships. As a result of the hard work and dedication of our committed, passionate team of sexual health educators, we have seen a notable increase in the demand for the Talk About It (TAI) program. This increase has ensured that all our TAI educators were fully booked in semester two.

During the state conference held in January and July eLearning, Sexual Health educators received invaluable professional development including:

- Bravehearts Protective Behaviours workshop
- Presentation from The Sustainable Period Project
- Life Education Australia's full suite of educator training. This training was facilitated via a new and improved learning management system containing current research and best practice in areas including classroom management, social and emotional learning and nutrition education, and alcohol, tobacco and other drug education.

- Beyond Blue Training BEYOU modules:
  - Mentally Healthy Communities
  - Family Partnerships
  - · Learning Resilience
  - Early Support
  - · Responding Together

The TAI program reach was further expanded in Brisbane and surrounds by increasing the capacity of educator Natalie Nunan from part-time to full-time.

Vicki Bombardieri travelled to Victoria to deliver a TAI pilot program in three schools in term one and provided professional development and training in the TAI program to the Victorian educator group. The pilot was a huge success with Victoria planning to implement TAI as part of their service offering in 2020.

# New Healthy Eats program thrives in North Queensland

This year marked the start of a ground-breaking new education initiative for Life Education – with the nutrition-focused program *Healthy Eats* launched and trialled in schools in Far North Queensland.

Funded by the Northern Queensland Primary Health Network, the innovative program was initially delivered to 2000 students in 19 primary schools in Cairns, Townsville and Mackay during term two, but will now be expanded to 50 schools in 2020.

Featuring fun mascot Frankie Fresh, *Healthy Eats* is an extension of Life Education's 12 existing primary school education modules and is designed to empower primary school children to make better diet choices and eat more fruit and vegetables.

With poor diet a leading contributor to heart disease, obesity and other chronic illnesses, educating children about healthy habits when they are young is a key aim of the innovative project.

With invaluable input from education manager Sharon Lansley, the *Healthy Eats* team at head office, including Di Robertson and Lisa Murray, coordinated program content and resources. Dr Abi Badejo led the project in its initial stages and contributed to the formative research for *Healthy Eats*.

Health and nutrition officer Matt Dowling delivered the lively and interactive sessions to Years, 4, 5 and 6 students at schools in north Queensland. Key to the sessions, were interactive demonstrations showing children how to prepare easy and healthy snacks; and lessons focused on helping kids make the link between nutritious food and a healthier mind and body.

More than just a class module, the *Healthy Eats* program adopts a whole of community approach incorporating other resources such as fruit and vegetable gardens, breakfast programs, healthy 'brain breaks' at school, as well as parent and teacher resources, competitions in schools and tuckshop assistance. In addition to funding partner NQPHN, the program is also supported by the Queensland Association of School Tuckshops; Deadly Choices; and Woolworths and Bunnings which provided a grant and equipment to build and plant school vegetable gardens. CEO Michael Fawsitt visited Slade Point State School in Mackay, mid-year, to see the *Healthy Eats* program in action and was delighted to observe its impact on children's nutritional awareness and everyday eating habits.

"Before the program, only 25 per cent of children in the three regions knew how much fruit they should be eating, while only 33 per cent could identify the recommended daily serve of vegetables, but our survey post-program, showed as many as 90 per cent of children were thinking more carefully about what they are eating and making healthier choices," Mr Fawsitt said.

The filming of a *Healthy Eats* promotional video at East Ayr State School was another highlight - LEQ's Matt Dowling, along with students and school leaders, delivering fantastic interviews about how the program has inspired a long-term commitment to healthy eating.

With poor diet a leading contributor to heart disease, obesity and other chronic illnesses, educating children about healthy habits when they are young is a key aim of the innovative project.

NQPHN Area Manager Jennifer Burnham said the *Healthy Eats* program was about changing community attitudes and creating environments that support children and their families to make healthier choices.

"Research shows us that healthy habits and behaviours learned in childhood, transition into adulthood. This project creates healthy environments – at home, at school, and in the community – which make choosing the healthy choice, the easy choice."

Michael Fawsitt said the success and momentum of the program in its pilot year was phenomenal, laying a strong foundation for the program's future implementation.

"It's really the beginning of a journey for us to better understand and increase our impact.

"Healthy Eats couldn't have been implemented without the strong school partnerships that already exist through our current program, and that is a credit to our educators and staff who have built up those partnerships over many years through their great work.

"This is a great example of what can be achieved when innovation is encouraged to flourish, and how important it is to work alongside communities in a more collaborative and cohesive approach to health promotion, to help address local challenges." 100% of schools said Healthy Eats had made a positive difference



177

100

# 89%

now understand that food affects your health and the way you feel

## 80%

100

of schools reported a significant improvement in fruit and vegetable consumption

# 88% would make

healthier decisions with the food they eat

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# Our program in Indigenous communities

As our program continues to evolve, extending our reach to more Indigenous children across the state, under 930 ICSEA schools, and disadvantaged communities in regional and remote areas, is part of our vision for the future.

In April this year, educators Jennifer Hall and Brad Scarrabelotti, along with health and nutrition officer Matt Dowling travelled to the isolated Aboriginal community of Doomadgee near the Gulf of Carpentaria, for the second consecutive year, to deliver the Life Education program to children at Doomadgee State School.

Our educators presented to students from pre-school right through to Year 6. The visit was also an opportunity for Matt to present LEQ's new nutrition-focused Healthy Eats program to the remote school community for the first time. The team did an outstanding job and the feedback from the school was extremely positive.

Educator Jennifer Hall said it took two days of weekend travel for the team to reach Doomadgee via Mt Isa, but the welcome was uplifting.

"The community really embraced us, especially as we were returning for the second time," Jennifer said. "After school, we had community members taking us to visit the local swimming hole and inviting us around to their homes to spend time with them. It was such an experience."

Doomadgee State School students loved taking part in the Life Education program and interacting with Healthy Harold.

"Because the community is so remote, the children do not receive many visitors. Our program is so important, because those children are not exposed to health and well-being messages on a regular basis. Until we go in there, many children do not have a basic awareness of issues such as the risks of too much sugar and just nutrition information in general."

"What we noticed, which was pleasing, was that this year, the children actually retained information from the previous visit. For example, one child recalled how many chemicals there are in a cigarette.

"We can't wait to get to Doomadgee again next year and work with these children again. We are developing strong relationships with the community."

In addition to the Doomadgee visit, during May, Brad and educator Amanda Bennett travelled to the remote coastal mining town of Weipa on the Cape York Peninsula to deliver the Life Education program to students at Western Cape College and Napranum Early Childhood Centre. It was the third time Life Education Queensland has visited the small community, and our primary school health and drug education programs were enthusiastically received by both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students.

"The highlight was seeing how much information the students had retained from our Weipa visit last year. It was impressive that senior students were able to recall important health and nutrition information and demonstrated their knowledge of how healthy food benefits the body."

Brad recalls: "The highlight was seeing how much information the students had retained from our Weipa visit last year. It was impressive that senior students were able to recall important health and nutrition information and demonstrated their knowledge of how healthy food benefits the body. We were fortunate to visit various parts of the river to view stunning sunsets in the evening."

From 2020 onwards, Life Education Queensland is exploring opportunities to expand our program to reach other Indigenous communities, including Normanton, Burketown, Cooktown and Mornington Island and to ensure that we return to these communities at least annually to maximise learning outcomes.



# School and community Partnerships

It has been a very exciting year for the School and Community Partnerships team. As a newly-formed team, the focus has been on reaching more communities across the state and identifying areas of highest need.

Crucial to this are our partnerships with Queensland Health, the Northern Queensland Primary Health Network and Communities for Children (via The Smith Family, Uniting Care and Mission Australia). These partnerships enable us to focus greater resources across regional Queensland as well as areas of disadvantage in the south-east corner of our state. Our partnerships with some of our funders have been in place now for more than seven years, and we're very grateful for their ongoing support of our work.

Last year we collated feedback from 2,738 teachers, 2,355 children and 2,668 parents which has provided our funders with important evidence of our impact in the lives of children. Here are just a few examples of the amazing feedback we receive from teachers on a regular basis:

### Teacher responses

"This is the most important space for the next generation coming through. We cannot underestimate how vital sessions like these are at this point in a child's development. Brilliant module and a gifted presenter."

"The Life Education program provided age-appropriate information to the children about the importance of eating a

balanced diet, and then allowed the children the opportunity to apply what they had learned in an interactive and engaging way."

"A great multimodal presentation and approach to teaching health."

"The program gives students the opportunity to learn about some unfamiliar and sensitive content in a safe and supportive environment. They also had opportunities to ask questions if they needed to and they felt comfortable doing this."

"The program has given the students the information they need to make informed decisions."

"The Life Education program covers topics which some children may not learn about at home."

"It has given them information that we otherwise don't usually get time to talk about in class."

We've now successfully completed our transition to using Salesforce as our school database, which has greatly streamlined our processes and is enhancing our ability to meet school needs.

Overall, the team has done a wonderful job in supporting and growing the delivery of vital health and safety education to Queensland children and we look forward to making an even bigger difference in the year ahead.

L – R: Reporting and statistics officer Sam Floyed; School Partnerships Officer Mitchell Coveney; School & Community Partnerships Manager Megan Connors and Bookings Coordinator Lynn Reeves.

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# Our impact

### Lily's story

Lily\* was just nine years old when her mother's partner began sexually abusing her. Confused and fearing for her family's safety and her own, she kept her harrowing ordeal to herself for two years, until a visit from Life Education to her school helped her find the courage to speak out.

It was 2017, and Lily was now 11 when her class attended the Life Education mobile learning centre.

Although the Life Education program does not specifically address abuse, educators help children recognise their emotions and feelings of being unsafe. They give them an action plan to manage situations in which they feel something is not right, including identifying trusted adults to talk to.

Lily's mother Sue\* explains that it was this part of the lesson that helped her daughter realise that what she was experiencing wasn't her fault.

"During that visit to the Life Education van, my daughter received messages about appropriate boundaries and healthy relationships. Afterwards, Lily spoke to the school counsellor, who then told the school principal, who then called me."

Sue says she was devastated to learn that her precious daughter had been the victim of abuse; the perpetrator a person Sue had been in a relationship with for 10 years.

"You honestly just feel like someone pulled the rug out from under you," says Sue, who had broken off the relationship by the time Lily reported the abuse. "I wondered why she hadn't come to me or her older siblings because she's very close to me, but then she explained that he had threatened her that if she told anyone he would kill her and me."

The day after Lily reported the abuse, the 48-year-old perpetrator was arrested, and in May 2019, the case went to criminal trial. Lily had to go to court and give evidence via a live video link.

"The trial itself was a terrible ordeal," Sue says. "It was a day and a half of inquisition. Even when I was being crossexamined, it was suggested that I wasn't a very observant mother; that I allowed things to happen on my watch," Sue reveals.

"But one of the child sexual assault support officers explained that as a family, we were all groomed. He said: 'You are all victims', and I found that a small comfort in a way, because I remember really blaming myself."

Now in Year 8, Lily is described by her mum as creative and clever, with a talent for music, drama and singing. Although

the ordeal has taken its toll, she has been receiving regular counselling - and with the support of her family - is gradually working towards emotional recovery.

"I feel like we're healing," Sue says. "I worry about how she will be in the future; if she will be emotionally scarred. It's going to be a tough road. It was something I never saw coming.That's the thing that kicks you the most. I wouldn't ever have expected it to happen to any of my children.

"Now, when Lily sees something on the news about child abuse, especially where someone is not believed, she finds that very stressful. She says: 'I'm lucky they believed me because I didn't think they would."

"The Life Education program can give children the ability to know what is right and what is wrong in an age-appropriate context, and just give them the tools to work out that they can speak out and can say something."

Sue is grateful that Lily encountered the Life Education program and found the courage to speak out. She believes that if the Life Education program empowered her daughter to speak up about the sexual abuse she had experienced; it may also help other children who have been suffering in silence.

"The sad part is, statistically, child abuse offenders are often someone you know, not a stranger. Letting kids know what is acceptable and what is not, is so important. Awareness is the big thing. The Life Education program can give children the ability to know what is right and what is wrong in an age-appropriate context, and just give them the tools to work out that they can speak out and can say something. They might think: 'I know I'm a child, but adults aren't always right.'"

The perpetrator was charged with several offences and was sentenced to eight years in prison.

"It definitely stopped him in his tracks and stopped him from being able to do it to somebody else," Sue said.

"I'm so thankful to the Life Education program for helping Lily to find her voice and teaching her that she has the right to speak out."

\*DISCLAIMER: Names and identifying features have been changed to protect identity.



### Rainey's story

When Rockhampton girl Rainey Countryman took part in the Life Education program last year, she inspired change – her story leading to a new wheelchair lift being installed in the iconic Healthy Harold mobile learning centre in central Queensland – as well as raising awareness about disability and inclusion.

Rainey was born with spina bifida - a birth defect that results in damage to the spine, spinal cord and surrounding nerves. She also has hydrocephalus which needs to be closely monitored.

But the tenacious nine-year-old doesn't let disability stop her from living life to the full.

It was typical of Rainey's plucky attitude, that when the Life Education mobile learning centre visited her school, Mount Archer Primary, she used her arms to crawl up the steps of the Healthy Harold van so that she could join in the learning session with the rest of her Year 4 class.

Rainey's mum Amber, a tireless advocate for disability awareness and inclusion, says she couldn't be prouder of Rainey for making a difference on behalf of children with disabilities.

Seeing Rainey's predicament, Liz Hills, an experienced educator with the Life Education program, decided to take positive action. She filmed Rainey to illustrate the access issues faced by children with disabilities; and the video was sent as part of two grant applications.

Rainey's story won hearts, and Life Education Central Queensland received \$36,000 in grants from the Queensland Government's Gambling Community Benefit Fund and The Courier-Mail Children's Fund for a new hydraulic wheelchair lift to be installed in the van.

For Rainey and other children with mobility issues, the modifications to the van make an enormous difference – meaning all children can access the Life Education program safely and with dignity.

"It's about accessibility and independence," says educator Liz Hills.

"Self-respect and respect for others is central to the Life Education program, along with children's physical and emotional health and well-being. Making our van wheelchair accessible for children like Rainey is fundamentally about respecting people's dignity and making sure they are safe."

Rainey tried out the lift for the first time at Rockhampton's annual Beach Day Out, a popular family fun day held during Disability Action Week. The inspirational youngster, her mum Amber and educator Liz were featured on WIN News and 9 News Central Queensland, as well as ABC Capricornia.

"I'm glad that we have the lift now, because I won't have to be carried or crawl up the stairs anymore," Rainey says. "It's fun being in the Life Education van and I love seeing Harold and doing the program in there. I love it when the lights go off and you look up and see the stars. It's really nice, and that is when we watch videos on the big screen."

Rainey's mum Amber, a tireless advocate for disability awareness and inclusion, says she couldn't be prouder of Rainey for making a difference on behalf of children with disabilities.

"I don't think people understand when you're kept away from experiences constantly what it does to you and your family. There are lots of activities that we just can't do," Amber said.

"We can't just spontaneously go the beach, the park, go shopping or even public toilets, because when you have a mobility issue or a disability, everything that you do, has to be thought out and planned and there's a very good chance that you're not going to get to do it.

"For Life Education to bring about this change and demonstrate inclusiveness is overwhelming. To enable Rainey to have the experience that people take for granted - for us to not have to face a battle every time we leave the house – it just makes life that little bit easier."

The CQ van is one of 14 Life Education vans state-wide that are now wheelchair accessible, with plans to adapt other vehicles as funding becomes available.



Rainey Countryman, 9, at Rockhampton's Beach Day Out with mum Amber, Healthy Harold and educator Liz Hills





Rainey, with her brother Rye and mum Amber

# **Our Queensland media coverage**

Extensive media coverage bears testament to the relevance, credibility and continued impact of Life Education Queensland's work with children. From being at the forefront on important community issues such as junk food advertising and the harms of smoking; to positive

media reporting of our nutrition, health and well-being programs; and major funding partnerships right around the state - LEQ has featured consistently across all media platforms in the past year - print, digital, radio and TV news.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2019 THEMORNINGBULLETIN.COM.AU Can you believe Healthy Harold turns 40? 11111 And HAPPY BIRTHDAY. They say life begins at 40, and one very healthy and very loved giraffe is celebrating the big one this year. Students at Bouldercombe State School gathered to say happy birthday to Healthy Harold. Healthy Harold is the mascot of Life Education, a charity that works to promote childrer's health and wellbeing. Yover the past 40 years, Life Education has reached six million Australian children about staying safe around drugs, cigarettes alcohol, bulying and healthy eating and exercise. Photo Contributed



Townsville Bulletin | Digital Editions Mental Health Guide

### Harold helped kids cope

#### KATE BANVILLE

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housands of Queensland primary school students regard Healthy Hardod as a household name. He'ss he face of Life Education's travelling chool program teaching life lessons neluding nutrition and the importance of mental health. of m

"There's no other health education program like it and it's unique because we use the mobile learning centre, which takes children out of the normal

In our program, even from the carry year, we have quite a lot of content that's about emotions and feelings and elling yout. "A Farswitt such We erent children to natice how their body responds to that and the signals in your body that can make you fed uncomfortable." Two Oonconha State School Year 6 students found the program's lessons particularly helpful at a time of uncertainty after losing their lessons particularly helpful at a time of uncertainty after losing their homes in this year's historical Townsville floods. Chelses pirth and LiA Quinn, both 11. lived in the same suburb when floodwaters swept through their homes in a wave of destruction. "I got

devasting floods this year with the heip evacuated by the army and they basically told us we had to get out now, so we had our whole family, two dogs and three other people from our street packed into a car and ute." Lin said. "We didn's layer phat night. It wan't sure what would be left at home." The girls found comfort in knowing their friends had gone through the same experience and could len on each other throughout the ordeal. "Healthy Harold has heiped all of us cope." Cheises and "they did loss for and, when we were talking about a topse through their fact has the land say these things can help you after the floods."

Lila said everyone was feeling a lot more settled being back at their own school but the devastation of the floods was still very real for her and her friends

friends. "Our house still hasn't started rebuilding yet, but as friends we became a lot closer afterwards because we can understand what's

because we can understand what's happening." The said. With the help of Life Education's school visits these girls have a new perspective on what they're capable of. "It's taught me that I'm capable of solving problems and now I know if I face something like this and these feelings when I'm older, I'll know what to do, "Chelsea said.

#### Courier Mail, Thursday, May 30, 2019,

### Smoking still kills as older addicts fail to get the message

WW ITH so much focus on the harms associated with alcohol and illicit drugs, it's easy to forget that there's a drug that continues to kill far more Australians each year than any other. Yes, for all the success we've

achieved in reducing smoking rates in Australia, it is estimated that roughly 18,800 Australians are dying prematurely from tobacco-related diseases each year. According to the World Health Organisation, smoking kills more than seven million people on the planet.

On World No Tobacco Day tomorrow, we can say that Australia has, in many ways, led the way in our approach to reducing smoking rates. But there are warning signs that after VI- BOMEDIZDIMA



decades of success, the decline in smoking has stalled, with an estimated 2.4 million Australians still smoking.

The 2016 National Drug Household Survey tells us that 19.1 per cent of males and 14.8 per cent of females aged 40-49 are daily smokers, and that daily smoking rates in this age group have actually increased compared with 2013, the first increase in decades

The alarming fact is that Australians aged between 40 and 60 are our biggest smokers. Among females, the 40-49 age group smokes more than any other, closely followed by women aged 50-59 (14.1 per cent). Contrast this with younger Australians who are increasingly

choosing not to smoke. Only 1.6 per cent of boys and 1.3 per cent of girls aged 12-17 are daily smokers, and this rate has declined dramatically over recent years. The same trend is seen among 18–24 year olds, with daily smoking rates for young men reducing from 14 per cent to 12.3 per cent and for young women from 12.7 per cent to 10.8 per cent, in the space of just three years. Clearly, when it comes to saying "no" to tobacco, it's our younger

generation who are getting the

At Life Education, we see this daily

in the reaction from young people when we explain the harms of tobacco, and in their determination afterwards to never smoke.

It's our goal to see every young person make this decision. Why? Because not only is smoking potentially deadly, it's highly addictive.

With most adults starting the habit when they are teenagers, educating young Australians not to smoke in the first place is surely our best strategy and will have a dramatic effect on the quality and quantity of life for tens of thousands of Australians into the future

While the data on youth smoking is encouraging, there's no time to be complacent. The rise of electronic cigarettes or

vaping poses a new challenge. Despite claims they may help long-term smokers quit the habit, a recent study found more than half of the ecigarettes sold as "nicotine-free" in Australia do in fact contain nicotine. The Australian Medical

Association fears there's not enough evidence about the long-term potential harms of vaping and says e-cigarettes glamorise smoking as cool and acceptable – an image peddled by Big Tobacco that health bodies have spen years trying to dismantle.

We need to maintain our vigilance. not just on World No Tobacco Day, but every day – because every cigarette is doing you damage vsitt is CEO of Life Education Michael F.



PICTURE SHAE BEPLAT



#### **06 NEWS**

FRIDAY, JUNE 28, 2019 DAILYMERCURY.COM.AU

# Kids learn how to eat healthily

#### Slade Point school chosen for new program to boost veggie intake

ANGELA SENG

PRIMARY school students at Mackay's peninsular suburb of Slade Point are getting the chance to learn the importance of eating healthy every day.

Slade Point State School was chosen to take part in a new healthy eating program that has been rolled out in schools

has been rolled out in schools across north Queensland The Healthy Eats campaign, lead by Life Education Queensland and Northern Queensland Primary Health Network aims to boost the daily intake of fruits and vegeta-bles in the diets of year four to six children the state's north.

Lunch bag mascot Frankie Fresh is the face of the nutrition-focussed program target-ing 17 primary schools in Cairns, Townsville and Mackay.

Mackay. Less than 10 per cent of Queenslanders meet the rec-ommended guidelines for daily fruit and vegetable consump-tion and the Healthy Eats pro-gram is designed to encourage children to get into the habit, while they are still young, to eat a more healthy diet.

Life Education chief Michael Fawsitt said Healthy Eats program was an extension of the organisation's existing schedule of a dozen education

modules taught in the 'Healthy Harold' mobile learning vans that visits schools across Queensland.

This is a vital phase in their lives, and eating healthy at this age is so important for their healthy development and to reduce their risk of preventable chronic disease in the future,"

he said. Mr Fawsitt said Queensland

#### IT'S STARTING TO GET THE CHILDREN TO TAKE NOTICE OF WHAT THEY'RE EATING AND HOW THAT AFFECTS THE WAY THEY BEHAVE.

DIVERSE LEARNERS CO-ORDINATOR KELLY ARMSTRONG

Health data from 2018 showed 243,000 children did not meet recommendations for fruit consumption, while 805,000 children did not meet the recommendations for vegetable consumption. Diverse learners co-ordina-

tor Kelly Armstrong was thrilled when Life Education approached the school to set

up the healthy eating program. "Students in years four through six took part in a 50minute talk about healthy eating and then our tuckshop was given a healthy eating audit," "It's starting to get the chil-dren to take notice of what they're eating and how that affects the way they behave and

"t also is getting the school to recognise what we are serving

and Angella Lyons

she said.

feel. 1

the children and consider healthier options." Mrs Armstrong said the school also had been fortunate enough to win a grant from

VEGGIES GALORE: Life Education chief Michael Fawsitt, Sofia Bull, Willow Muller, Life Education nutrition officer Matt Dowling, Soloman Sigai

with veggies from the garden

with veggtes from the garden being used in the tuckshop and the scraps from the preppies fruit snack going to compost and the compost feeding our worm farms," she said. NQPHN manager Jennifer Purphene said the arrisect re-Woolworths to establish a veg-gie garden. "We have created a real cir-Burnham said the project re-search showed us that healthy cle of healthiness at the school

habits and behaviours learnt in childhood, transition into

to: JIM CULLEN

adulthood. "This project is looking to create healthy environments at home, at school, and in the community – which make choosing the healthy choice, the easy choice."

### NEWS APRIL 23, 2019 - 2:00PM

# Life Education Queensland throws support behind state government junk food advertising bans



A HEALTH education charity that regularly visits local schools has supported a junk food advertising ban, urging parents to make healthy choices for their child's lunchbox as term two begins.

Life Education Queensland - the organisation behind wellknown health mascot Healthy Harold - has applauded the state government's move to ban junk food advertising on publicly-owned sites.

The ban, announced on Sunday, will see advertisements for foods deemed unhealthy phased out at government-owned outdoor advertising spaces including billboards and public transport.

Foods will be ruled in or out based on their salt, sugar and fat content, Health Minister Steven Miles said.

Head of Life Education Queensland Michael Fawsitt said one quarter of Queensland children were overweight or obese and the growth of junk food advertising should be a concern to the whole community.

"There's no doubt that policies that restrict or prevent advertising can contribute to a positive change in behaviour," he said.

"Banning cigarette advertising is one example of this."

Mr Fawsitt said although many parents did try to implement healthy eating practices at home, an onslaught of junk food messages made it tough to get the

message across

"At Life Education, our educators work ... to provide nutrition education to children ... but we're competing with a constant stream of advertising messages that are often very much designed to appeal to a young audience," he said.

"This is where parents have such an important role to play, not only in restricting the family's consumption of junk food and sugary drinks, but also in what they prepare for their children in their school lunch box."

The LNP criticised the ban, saying it was intended to draw attention away from bed shortages in hospital emergency departments.

Deputy opposition



HEALTHY HAROLD: Students from St Anthony's Catholic Primary School with the Life Education mobile classroom.

Tim Mander leader called on the government to rethink its priorities.

Mr Fawsitt said urgent community re-

sponse was needed to reduce the burden of chronic disease. "If our kids are phys-

ically active and eat healthy most of the time

and if we as parents try to set a good example, we're potentially adding decades to their life and to ours," he said.

# **Educator reflections**

The Life Education program is delivered in more than 800 schools and pre-schools across Queensland thanks to our team of 30 dedicated and experienced educators. Each term, they travel the length and breadth of the state sharing their passion and knowledge with young students and inspiring them through education, to make safer and healthier choices for life. We asked four of our educators from four corners of the state to share their happiest memories from 2018/2019.

Gemma Ewin Far North Queensland educator



As the health and drug educator for Far North Queensland, I travel to a vast array of schools and communities. One of the most rewarding parts of my role is the opportunity to visit areas and schools which normally wouldn't have access to our program because of the challenge posed by distance. Seeing the students light up and get to learn about how amazing their bodies are, how everything works and how to make safe, responsible choices is by far the most exciting part of my role. One feature of our FNQ mobile classroom that the students have particularly enjoyed is our TAM-e program and getting to see the organs in real time! I love turning up to my schools and meeting so many students from so many backgrounds and bringing everyone together for a Life Education session. No matter who they are or where they are from, we get to explore together, with Harold, and learn life-changing skills.

"They know that what we are learning about is important and they are passionate about sharing their ideas and gaining new and interesting knowledge." "Seeing the students light up and get to learn about how amazing their bodies are, how everything works and how to make safe, responsible choices is by far the most exciting part of my role."



What makes working for Life Education so special is that when students come to visit the van, they are just so excited. They know that what we are learning about is important and they are passionate about sharing their ideas and gaining new and interesting knowledge. There are so many rewarding moments while visiting schools for Life Education: moments that make me grin from ear to ear, burst into laughter or pump my fist in the air after the kids have just left the van. I love it when students are in hysterics, tears rolling down their faces, over something that Healthy Harold has done. But my most memorable moment from this year was when a class invited me to their classroom so they could sing "Ruby Tuesday" to me. Harold and I even got some hand-made Rolling Stones bookmarks! Jessica Cameron Logan educator

This year, I was fortunate to begin my journey with Life Education Queensland. The memories I have already made have been beyond compare. I treasure those little light bulb moments when students begin to ask more questions to fully understand how their body works whilst acknowledging what choices might impact upon their future. I love teaching Life Education's programs because of what Harold represents and the magic he brings to schools. Seeing the excitement when students finally get to meet Harold is so rewarding, and it's gratifying to know we are all making a positive impact with every school we visit in Queensland.

"It is always a positive experience visiting rural/remote schools that have never had a visit from Healthy Harold before. The children are so excited, and the school and communities are very accommodating." "Seeing the excitement when students finally get to meet Harold is so rewarding, and it's gratifying to know we are all making a positive impact with every school we visit in Queensland."



2019 has been another fantastic year in the South West (and beyond]. It is always a positive experience visiting ruralremote schools that have never had a visit from Healthy Harold before. The children are so excited, and the school and communities are very accommodating. A bonus is learning more about the areas and the lifestyles of the people who live there. Re-visiting schools, listening to children recalling what they have learnt from previous visits, and of course how much they love Healthy Harold is so rewarding. One experience that was particularly memorable this year, was a boy of about 10 years old who had behaviour issues developed from a very difficult background. After the class visit, he asked his teacher if he could come back to the Life Education van. The principal brought him over at break time and he sat and talked and talked. Although his story was very sad, it was also uplifting to know that his experience in the van had made him feel comfortable enough to open up to someone, as apparently, he rarely did this. I feel extremely privileged and proud to work for Life Education and with such a dedicated and passionate team of staff.

# **Celebrating 40 years of Life Education**

It's been an exciting year for Life Education Australia with our service celebrating 40 years of empowering children and young people through education.

Although at the state level, Life Education Queensland has achieved 33 years of impact, we marked the 40-year milestone with a stellar event at Parliament House in Brisbane.

Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk, government ministers and members of parliament from all sides of politics joined supporters, Life Education board members and staff for the glowing tribute evening held in March.

The premier acknowledged Life Education's four decades of work empowering young people to make safe and healthy choices, saying generations of Queenslanders had been inspired to live their lives to their full potential thanks to the lessons learned in mobile classrooms in schools across the state. Life Education CEO Michael Fawsitt told dignitaries the charity's impact in Queensland was the strongest it had ever been, with children accessing the program even in the most remote parts of Queensland.

"In 2013, barely 107,000 children could access our health and well-being program," Mr Fawsitt said.

"That's now grown to more than 200,000 children and young people. Our educators can now reach the length and breadth of the state from Camooweal in the north to Coolangatta in the south."

Dozens of MPs lined up to have their photo taken with Life Education mascot Healthy Harold at the event - and help celebrate Life Education's remarkable work educating kids about drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, bullying, cybersafety, eating well and keeping active.



Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk with Life Education Queensland chairman Peter Morgan

Life Education Queensland co-patron the Hon. Dr Anthony Lynham



Premier Palaszczuk, CEO Michael Fawsitt & mascot Healthy Harold, with patrons Hon. Rob Borbidge and Hon. Dr Anthony Lynham and Queensland ministers and MPs



Member for Coomera Michael Crandon





Life Education Queensland co-patron the Hon. Rob Borbidge

"Children remember these lessons for the whole of their lives. You remember when Healthy Harold visited your school. You remember those lessons and how important this is."

Mr Fawsitt and co-patrons, the Honourable Rob Borbidge and the Honourable Dr Anthony Lynham MP, said the bipartisan support of previous and current governments had enabled Life Education to achieve its vision, with more than 1.5 million Queensland students and seven million Australian children accessing the health and well-being program and its vital messages.

Mr Borbidge said: "We will never know how many lives have been saved. We will never know how many lives have been changed as a direct consequence of the work carried out by Life Education, not just in the cities, but in regional and remote communities right across Australia and particularly here in Queensland."



Dr Lynham said primary health prevention played a vital role in minimising risk-related harm:

"Children remember these lessons for the whole of their lives. You remember when Healthy Harold visited your school. You remember those lessons and how important this is. It's effective, it works and that is why I have supported Life Education over many years."

The event was a great opportunity to reflect on our impact and legacy ... as well as look to the future.

Michael Fawsitt said: "Forty years is an incredible milestone. There is so much to celebrate in terms of Life Education's impact, but there is still so much work to be done and we are so grateful for the support of government, our donors and supporters."



# Fundraising report 2019

Community support is at the heart of our capacity to educate generations of children and help them live to their full potential. Without our generous and passionate supporters, Life Education Queensland would be unable to reach the more than 200,000 children who each year receive the skills and knowledge they need to keep themselves healthy and safe from harm.

### Our partnerships

FOR

- The Courier Mail Children's Fund and State Government Gambling Community Benefit Fund supported the installation of wheelchair lifts on six of our mobile learning centres, making our program accessible to every child, regardless of physical ability.
- Gin Gin Community Bank branch of Bendigo Bank supported 1000 students to participate in our program across the Wide Bay region in term three thanks to a \$6000 grant.
- Cairns Regional Council assisted us with the purchase and installation of a HearCheck Soundfield System in our Cairns Mobile Learning Centre. The Soundfield System has been very beneficial for students (both Indigenous and non-Indigenous), with hearing loss, impairments or hearing hardship. This device helps to project the educator's voice to all parts of the classroom ensuring all students have the opportunity to learn and be involved without disadvantage.

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- Queensland Community Foundation regional grant helped us to purchase a locally manufactured brand new life-size Healthy Harold suit; providing Harold with a welldeserved make over and making him more aesthetically pleasing to his young audience.
- Gold Coast City Council funded \$5000 towards the delivery of the bCyberwise program to 541 school children in the Gold Coast region. This program positively impacted upon children, school communities and families as the issue of cybersafety and bullying continues to be addressed within school environments.
- The Commonwealth Bank has continued to assist the funding of program resources across Queensland.
  This three-year funding grant has provided significant outcomes for children, teachers, parents and extended families participating in the Life Education program.

Educator Ellen Patane with students from Childers State School, one of 12 schools in the Wide Bay region to benefit from the Gin Gin Community Bank grant

# **RTER LIFE**



### Kids' Protect Team

Our regular giving program, 'Kids' Protect Team' explored new avenues of growth this year with the roll-out of promotions in shopping centres across the state. Our face-to-face fundraising teams tell us that their presence in shopping centres has provided them with the opportunity to have more in-depth conversations about our work with a very broad range of potential donors. They were surprised at the level of awareness in the community about Life Education and our mascot Healthy Harold, with many people having fond memories of our program from their school days, proving that our impact is now multi-generational.

Our regular giving program had 5336 supporters join the Kids' Protect Team in the 2018/2019 financial year, adding to the growing number of Queensland donors who are making a difference in the lives of children throughout the state.

Established in 2014, Life Education Queensland's regular giving program is vital because the generosity of our donors enables us to support children who live in some of the most disadvantaged and remote communities in our state.

### Donor Services Team

Our friendly Donor Services Team have been busy supporting our donors throughout the year. For the first time, the inhouse team began making calls to welcome and thank each and every one of our new regular donors for making the decision to support our program. The team has also been managing relationships with previous supporters, with many of them choosing to resume their monthly donation.





# Our committees

Life Education has four main regional committees: Toowoomba, Central Oueensland, Townsville and Cooloola-Noosa, plus two support groups in Bundaberg and the Moreton region. They all work tirelessly in key regions across the state.

Our committees are run by local community volunteers who bring vast experience, passion and dedication to

### Bundaberg Volunteer Support Group

Wendy MacDonald is one of nine volunteers who make up the Bundaberg Volunteer Support Group.

### What were some of the highlights from 2019?

The Bundaberg Support Group has attended the Bundaberg Regional Council Flourish Family Fun Day for many years. This year's theme was "My Hero", and as we all know, Healthy Harold is a terrific hero. He is always encouraging and supporting our young generation and their parents to live a healthy and happy life in line with the programs delivered by our dedicated educators, with a great team of supporters behind them. The event - which is always held at the start of the June school holidays - was a great success again this year with support from many different groups and a big public attendance.

Just before the September school holidays, Bundaberg Support Group attended the Phoenix House Rainbow Day. This event is for children under the age of five, and we have also been attending this activity for many years. An easyflowing crowd was in attendance again this year which gave the children and their parents/carers plenty of time to enjoy the fun and activities available on the day which included: painting stones, singing and dancing, listening to stories, making Indigenous items, tenpin bowling and generally just having a lot of fun.

their roles, supporting Life Education's mission to engage with children across the state. Life Education Oueensland is indebted to both the committee members and our committee educators for their dedication, enthusiasm and professionalism.

We asked committee members and inspiring educators from each region to name their highlight from 2019.

### Kathy **Bayliss** Educator -Bundaberg

"I'm proud to reach my 24th year working with Life Education in the Wide Bay region. Since the restructure in our region, I've enjoyed working in different parts of Wide Bay, including Maryborough and Hervey Bay. After all these years, I still believe it is a huge honour to be working with Life Education and have the chance to make a difference in children's lives. I love the fact that the Life Education programs give us the opportunity to present information to children that empowers their physical, social and emotional well-being. I still find it incredibly rewarding seeing students completely engaged in their learning. Our program is enduring... and children think about the messages they receive long after they've left the Healthy Harold van."

### Moreton Bay Sub Committee Townsville

Larry Burke is the president and secretary of the Moreton Bay Sub Committee and one of six dedicated volunteers.

#### How has the committee delivered an impact over the past vear?

This year saw our numbers reduce due to some members retiring, but even though we are only a small group of six, we are still very passionate about the children in our region having access to the invaluable Life Education program.

Some of our members have been part of our committee for 30 years, and this long association has allowed us to build strong connections within the community, particularly with the Moreton Bay Regional Council. The local council again provided us with \$10,000 funding, \$9000 of which was utilised to subsidise 10 disadvantaged schools in the Moreton Bay region. This vital sponsorship reduces the cost for families and ensures more students can participate in the Life Education program. This year we have updated the sheeting on our van and look forward to having a new wheelchair lift installed.

Our committee keenly supports our wonderful educator Brigette and thanks LEQ for providing extra assistance to cover schools - that due to the size of our region - would not be covered by a single van.

### **Brigette** Cavanagh

Educator -Moreton Bay

"A standout for me this year, is the amount of positive feedback not only from teachers, but especially from students, about TAM-e - our new computerised version of TAM (transparent anatomical

model). Seeing the awe and excitement on students' faces when we use the 'augmented reality' and they can literally see the organs inside their own bodies, is so rewarding. Working as an LEQ educator for 15 years has enabled me to develop close relationships with teachers, students and the wider community. I feel incredibly lucky to be working for an organisation that has a real impact on students' lives: helping them to develop skills and strategies to make healthy lifestyle choices; whether that's around physical health like nutrition and drugs, or social and emotional health with developing coping strategies for bullying, peer pressure and self-regulation of emotions."

Mark Purvis is the President of the energetic Townsville Life Education Committee and has been involved since 2006.

#### Name the greatest committee achievement/impact during 2019 within your local community?

Once again, this year has been very busy for the Townsville Life Education Committee. Our dedicated committee has overseen the delivery of the Life Education modules to 52 primary schools and 43 early learning centre visits in the Townsville region, where we saw 18,471 children. Our excellent educator Tim continues to deliver the program to his usual high standard and receives regular accolades from both schools and parents.

The highlight of the year was the purchase of our new hightech mobile learning centre. The self-drive RV-style MLC is a first for Life Education and is evidence of our committee's innovative approach to program delivery. The feedback from students has been fantastic, with several students excitedly visiting 'Harold's new van' during term three and four. However, in some cases, feedback from teachers has been even more enthusiastic! Several school staff have commented on how wonderful and modern the new classroom looks.

The committee is committed to thinking outside the box and we look forward to expanding the program into the future. I must acknowledge the continuing terrific work of our secretary Wendy Flynn who we rely on to be our front office contact person. Well done Wendy.

### Timothy **McKean**

Educator -

"I could wax poetic for hundreds of pages about why I love my work, but to sum up in one word: Connections. Connections with schools. Connections with communities. Connections with students, teachers, parents ... all sorts of passionate individuals focused on making our communities stronger, safer and healthier. Working for the Life Education Townsville committee, I have the pleasure and privilege to work each day with others to help build a foundation for a better world we all hope our children will inherit."

### Central Queensland

**Jo-Anne Shephard** is the principal of Byfield State School north of Yeppoon and has been president of Life Education's Central Queensland Committee for six years.

#### How would you summarise the activities of 2019?

Central Queensland Life Education committee supports our two educators in the delivery of Life Education's health and drug programs to primary schools and early learning centres on the Capricorn coast, Rockhampton and some regional Central Queensland schools. Nearly 100 per cent of state and private schools within this area had booked either an annual or a biennial service delivery in 2019.

The committee also manages the financial and administration processes of CQ Life Education and ensures that these processes meet good financial management principles.

The committee is investigating implementing Life Education programs in Year 7 at Rockhampton and Capricorn Coast high schools. A trial will soon get underway with one local high school.

Our small volunteer committee comprises dedicated people who have full-time jobs but are passionate about the important health outcomes of children. A future goal is the replacement of our current very well-used mobile learning centre through accessing grants and donations.



### **Liz Hills** Educator -Central Queensland





### Cooloola – Noosa

**Trish Radge** is the president of the Cooloola – Noosa Life Education committee.

#### What were some of the committee highlights from 2019?

2019 was Cooloola-Noosa Life Education's 24th year of continuous operation. Remarkable long-term stability in our committee and staff helped us deliver the Life Education program to 7,500 participants during 2019. However, the key to our continued success is the incredible dedication of our educator, Niki Andrinopoulos.

Niki continues to bring the same high levels of enthusiasm and commitment to her role as she did on her very first day over 10 years ago. Around 750,000 Life Education participants have benefited from Niki's infectious, engaging and caring personality. It's obvious to everybody involved how much Niki cares about the welfare of children. What is not obvious to all, is the scope of Niki's role.

Niki does it all, single-handedly. She plans and organises the annual school timetable from Coolum to Tin Can Bay. She coordinates the tow truck operators who relocate the van. She prepares classroom materials, invoices, and reports, and of course, she delivers the Life Education program to 25 schools.

Thank you, Niki, for 10 years of dedication.

### Toowoomba

**Brian Shackleton** is president of the Toowoomba and Darling Downs Life Education committee.

### What has been the greatest committee achievement for 2019 within your local community?

Toowoomba was blessed with fine weather for our annual Carnival of Flowers, the 70 anniversary of the event this year, making it one of the longest running festivals in Australia.

We were again fortunate to have Val Peachey's exhibition garden to look after, with Life Education Toowoomba being made the beneficiary of all funds raised by almost 3000 visitors who paid the entry fee to see the cottage garden. Last year we raised more than \$15,000 over the 10 days of carnival, and this year we reached \$13,000. This fundraiser will go a long way towards paying for the latest upgrade to our mobile classroom's undercarriage, which was revamped during the semester break.

It was a highlight to receive help from former Life Education students who now attend Centenary Heights State High School. They filled nearly a quarter of the gate roster for us. It is always nice to work with young people who volunteer to help Healthy Harold during their school holidays. Many of our visitors were impressed by the efforts of these students.

### Niki Andrinopoulos Educator -

Cooloola Noosa

"2019 has been yet another amazing year working with Harold and the wonderful Cooloola-

Noosa schools. It's been a year packed with lots of fun, games, laughter and learning. There are so many memorable moments it's extremely difficult to pick just one. Each day is an adventure filled with amazing energy. I absolutely love my job and my favourite thing about the job are the kids: their energy is infectious. The Life Education van and Harold are always greeted with enthusiasm and joy and when the van is filled with kids and those doors close, we're in a whole different dimension. It's a magical world filled with enthusiasm, adventure and fun. The kids don't even realise they're learning. Now that's a true highlight! Yet when we reflect, the magic appears!" Jane Jackson Educator -

#### "It's the funny

things that kids say that makes me love my job: the smiles, the intrigue, the magic. That's what makes being an educator with Life Education so rewarding. There are many children in our area who face struggles every day and if we can make them forget about those problems for an hour or two, then we are accomplishing something. We take it for granted that children know the basics of health and nutrition, but unfortunately, many don't. As I have been an educator for nine years, I see the growth and change. The best thing is when a child answers a question and gets it right. How proud they feel and how encouraging others are towards them. I love being an educator. It is the best job in the world."

# **Our ambassadors**

### Government support for Life Education continues to grow

Life Education Queensland is fortunate to receive invaluable support from all sides of politics - with our program educators, CEO Michael Fawsitt and other leadership team members greeting numerous elected officials at school visits throughout the year.

High profile MPs were treated to a firsthand look at the Healthy Harold van and the Life Education program, each receiving a unique framed picture of children's drawings to thank them for sharing our vision to help generations of Queensland children to live a safe and healthy life.

#### Our ambassadors in parliament include:

Hon Dr Anthony Lynham MP – Member for Stafford – Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy

Hon Leeanne Enoch MP – Member for Algester – Minister for Environment and Minister for the Arts

Hon Mark Furner MP – Member for Ferny Grove – Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries

Hon Mick de Brenni MP – Member for Springwood – Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport

Hon Shannon Fentiman MP – Member for Waterford – Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development

Hon Di Farmer – Member for Bulimba – Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence

Hon Mark Bailey – Member for Miller – Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Mr Stephen Bennett MP – Member for Burnett – Shadow Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Shadow Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Shadow Minister for Veterans

Mr Trevor Watts MP – Member for Toowoomba North -Shadow Minister for Police and Counter Terrorism, Shadow Minister for Corrective Services

Mr David Janetzki MP – Member for Toowoomba South – Shadow Attorney-General and Shadow Minister for Justice

Mr Don Brown MP – Member for Capalaba – Chief Government Whip

Ms Nikki Boyd MP – Member for Pine Rivers – Deputy Government Whip



Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women Hon. Di Farmer MP with students from Saints Peter and Paul's Catholic School, Bulimba.

Mr Linus Power MP – Member for Logan – Senior Government Whip

Ms Joan Pease MP – Member for Lytton – Senior Government Whip

Mr Steve Minnikin MP – Member for Chatsworth – Shadow Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Mr David Crisafulli – Member for Broadwater – Shadow Minister for Environment, Science and the Great Barrier Reef, Shadow Minister for Tourism

Mr Jarrod Bleijie – Member for Kawana – Shadow Minister for Education, Industrial Relations, Manager of Opposition Business

Ms Jess Pugh – Member for Mount Ommaney

Ms Ros Bates MP – Member for Mudgeeraba - Shadow Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, Shadow Minister for Women

Mr John-Paul Langbroek MP – Member for Surfers Paradise - Shadow Minister for Sport and Racing and Shadow Minister for Multicultural Affairs

Ms Meaghan Scanlon MP – Member for Gaven – Assistant Minister for Tourism Industry Development

Mrs Julieanne Gilbert MP – Member for Mackay – Assistant Minister for State Development

Mr Andrew Powell MP – Member for Glass House -Shadow Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning

Ms Jennifer Howard MP – Member for Ipswich – Assistant Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Assistant Minister of State

Mrs Brittany Lauga MP – Member for Keppel - Assistant Minister for Education

Minister for Transport and Main Roads Hon. Mark Bailey MP with Life Education Queensland's Megan Connors and students from Graceville State School

Life Education Queensland CEO Michael Fawsitt, educator Jennifer Rousset and Shadow Minister for Education Jarrod Bleijie MP, with Kawana Waters State College principal Colin Allen-Waters and students.





#### We would also like to thank the following for their support:

Mr Tim Nicholls MP	Member for Clayfield		
Mrs Jo-Ann Miller MP	Member for Bundamb		
Mr Michael Crandon MP	Member for Coomera		
Mr Ted Sorenson MP	Member for Hervey Ba		
Mr Jon Krause MP	Member for Scenic Rin		
Mr Duncan Pegg MP	Member for Stretton		
Mr Jason Costigan MP	Member for Whitsund		
Dr Mark Robinson MP	Member for Oodgeroo		
Mr Shane King MP	Member for Kurwongb		
Mr Jim Madden MP	Member for Ipswich W		
Mr Joe Kelly MP	Member for Greenslop		
Mrs Jann Stuckey MP	Member for Currumbi		
Our ambassadors in the Gold Coast City Counc			
Pauline Young	Division 12		
Rob La Castra	Division 8		

ndamba omera rvey Bay enic Rim etton nitsunday dgeroo wongbah wich West enslopes rrumbin Council include:

Division 9 Glenn Tozer

Sean K Choat Former Member for Ipswich West S A Holswich Former Member for Pine Rivers Michael Latter Former Member Waterford F K Ostapovitch Former Member Stretton T J Ruthenberg Former Member Kallangur A Shorten Former Member Algester D E Shuttleworth Former Member Ferny Grove Neil A Symes Former Member Lytton Hon I B Walker Former Member Mansfield Dr C A C Rowan Former Member Moggill Jim Pearce Former Member Mirani Sid Cramp Former Member Gaven Robert Pyne Former Member Cairns Life Education Queensland Ambassador

Jimmy Morrison

Member for Mount Ommaney Jess Pugh MP with children from Darra State School



# **Our partners**

### WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE SUPPORT FROM ALL OUR PARTNERS.

### Major Partner



Government

### **QUEENSLAND HEALTH**

We would like to acknowledge the generous support of our major partner, Queensland Health. The support of the Queensland Government has been instrumental in enabling Life Education to expand our services throughout the State, enabling tens of thousands more Queensland children to gain access to vital health education.

### Partners



# Our governance



### Peter Morgan, Chairman

Peter was a founding member of Life Education Queensland's Board and has served continuously ever since. He has worked as a solicitor since 1979 and has been a member of Rotary for more than 20 years. During this time, he was also a member of the Finance Board of one of the largest church congregations in Australia.

### **Jack Ray, Deputy Chair**

Jack's experience encompasses development management, residential sales and commercial leasing, having worked across some of Australia's most successful master-planned communities. In 2008, Jack left Ray Group to take a position as Development Manager for the publicly listed Consolidated Properties Group. In early 2009, Jack was re-appointed at the Ray Group as Head of Commercial Retail. He joined the Board of Life Education Queensland in 2010.





### **Gary Williams, Secretary**

Gary joined the Board of Life Education Queensland in 2010. He commenced his banking and finance career with NAB in 1985 and more recently has worked with BOQ Specialist assisting medical, dental and veterinary clients with all forms of finance and investment. Gary has occupied numerous roles in retail, business and private banking in the Gold Coast and Northern NSW regions.

### Sue Davis, Treasurer

Sue joined the Board of Life Education in 2014 and is currently the Chief Financial Officer of Infinite Care Group overseeing its financial, commercial and technology business units. Sue brings more than 20 years of senior executive financial and business management experience in large-scale private, globally-listed and not-for-profit organisations. Sue is passionate about giving back to the community and has held a number of volunteer roles in local organisations.





### **Dr Caroline Salom**

Caroline is a Research Fellow at the University of Queensland's School of Public Health and the Queensland Centre for Mental Health Research. She has worked in medical research for more than 30 years and specifically in the alcohol and drug field for more than 15 years. Caroline holds a PhD in substance use, mental health development and epidemiology, and brings extensive experience of community and school-based health education and prevention.

### **Dr Martin Wullschleger**

Martin is the Director of Trauma Services at the Gold Coast University Hospital. In addition to his clinical commitments, Martin is a passionate leader in surgical education and training and undertakes trauma research. Martin brings broad experience to the Board including involvement in prevention programs and professional committees.





### **Michael Fawsitt, Chief Executive Officer**

The Life Education Queensland team is led by Chief Executive Officer, Michael Fawsitt, who has 25 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 Education Queensland since 2006, during which time Life Education'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.

# Our team

### STAFF

Michael Fawsitt Sharon Lansley Deanne Lugton Megan Connors Zoe Shearer Tracey Challenor Sandy Newson Uri Bookman Lynn Reeves Gemma West Lane Prowd Maddison Gerada Michele Cable Renee Fraser Jennifer Hall Amanda Bennett Mitchell Coveney Sam Floyed Malin Bergendahl

CEO Health Education Manager Human Resources & Operations Manager School & Community Partnerships Manager Services Marketing Manager PR and Media Manager Office Manager ICT Manager **Bookings Coordinator** Social and Digital Marketing Coordinator Fundraising and Data Coordinator Database Officer Donor Services Officer Donor Services Officer Area Coordinator Area Coordinator School Partnerships Officer Reporting and Statistics Officer Maternity Leave

### SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATORS

Brad Scarrabelotti Lane Norman Megan Humphreys Megan Stanton Narelle Watkins Natalie Nunan Vicki Bombardieri



Gold Coast Sunshine Coast Mackay Cairns Brisbane Brisbane Townsville

### HEALTHY EATS PROJECT TEAM

Dr Abi Badejo Di Robertson Matthew Dowling Social Marketing Program Manager Project Coordinator Health and Nutrition Officer Project Support Officer

Lisa Murray

#### HEALTH AND DRUG EDUCATORS

Brigette Cavanagh Claire Johnson Ellen Patane Gemma Ewin Donna Walker Elizabeth Hills Jane Jackson Niki Andrinopoulos Janet Connolly Jennifer Rousset Jessica Caldwell Kathy Bayliss Lisa Barber Louise Shailer Megan Stacey Michele Tabrett **Emily Trundle** Sue Osmond Timothy McKean Jessica Cameron

Moreton Bay South West Gladstone Far North Queensland North West Central Queensland Toowoomba Cooloola Noosa Gold Coast 2 Sunshine Coast Ipswich/Logan Bundaberg Redlands Mackay Logan Brisbane lpswich Gold Coast 1 Townsville **Relief Educator** 

#### EARLY LEARNING EDUCATOR

Brittany Hinz



# **Our financials**

### STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For year ended 30 June 2019

For year ended 30 June 2019	2019 \$	2018 \$
Revenue (Note 2)	6,256,893	6,794,466
Expenses		
Fundraising and Community Engagement Expenses	1,766,743	1,974,050
Health Promotion Expenses	3,257,081	3,010,082
General Administration Expenses	1,095,039	1,102,708
Depreciation and Amortisation Expense	137,019	126,865
	6,255,883	6,213,705
Total comprehensive income/(Loss) for the Year	1,010	580,761
Note 2		
Net School Service Fees and Sales of Publications	1,014,585	965,933
Interest Income	34,529	14,013
Fundraising & Grants	5,118,851	5,732,048
Franchise and Membership Fee	31,284	26,439
Other Income	57,644	26,033
	6,256,893	6,794,466

### SOURCE OF FUNDS: 2019



Dear Harold Dear Harold I liked you talking about healthy food Thank you for letting us come. I really and how to be healthy. I like you. I'm love you. It was cool in the van. I hope your friend. you can come again one day. Do you From Ruby. want to come to my house to check it out? From Elijah 9 1

dit in

Dear Harold I wish you could come to my house today? Can you come to my house? I want you to come to my house now. I am your friend forever. From Braxton J Thank C Harold you for teaching us how to be Safe. . Jayde.





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