



# Queensland Advocacy Incorporated

Our mission is to promote, protect and defend, through advocacy, the fundamental needs and rights and lives of the most vulnerable people with disability in Queensland.

*Systems and Legal Advocacy for vulnerable people with Disability*

13 June 2018

Media Release

## Human Rights Act commitment in the Budget

Queensland Advocacy Incorporated (QAI) applauds the Queensland Government for committing funding to support the operation and administration of a Human Rights Act for Queensland in the 2018-19 State Budget. Funding of \$2.3M over four years, in addition to \$616,000 a year in ongoing funding, has been allocated to the Anti-Discrimination Commission for this purpose.

‘We are thrilled to see this allocation of funding – funding is vital to enable a commitment such as this to be realised,’ QAI Director Michelle O’Flynn said today. ‘This is a very tangible expression of the Government’s commitment to enact this legislation during this term of Government. More broadly, it is an expression of the Government’s support for the development of a culture in Queensland in which the human rights of all people are respected and protected.’

‘Our organisation works with some of the most vulnerable people with disability and mental illness in Queensland. The enactment of legislative protection for human rights, whilst of benefit to all Queenslanders, will be particularly important to people such as those we support, many of whom experience violations of their basic human rights, such as the right to privacy and the right to freedom from inhumane treatment or punishment, on a daily basis,’ Ms O’Flynn said. ‘The enactment of this legislation will be a significant step forwards for this state and will be an important legacy for this Government.’

With the enactment of a Human Rights Act, Queensland will join Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory in having legislative protection for human rights. ‘We are hopeful that the enactment of Queensland legislation will push us one step closer to having a federal human rights act or charter,’ Ms O’Flynn said.

QAI was also pleased to see the commitment of continuing support for disability advocacy in the State Budget, and for funding for the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal and the Public Guardian to address increased demand resulting from the roll-out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

QAI is an independent, community-based systems and individual advocacy organisation and a community legal service for people with disability with thirty years’ experience advocating for systems change, through campaigns directed to attitudinal, law and policy reform and by supporting the development of a range of advocacy initiatives in this state.

QAI has been part of a broad collective of organisations that have worked together for nearly three years on a campaign for a Human Rights Act in Queensland. Information on the campaign is available from: [www.humanrights4qld.com.au](http://www.humanrights4qld.com.au).

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QAI endorses the objectives, and promotes the principles, of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Patron: His Excellency The Honorable Paul de Jersey AC