

8 Recommendations

8.1 Targeted Strategies and Programs to Address Locational Disadvantage

Targeted Strategies and Programs to Address Locational Disadvantage

1. That the Federal and State Governments in collaboration with non-government partners, adopt integrated strategies to reduce social exclusion that address universal policy priorities such as poverty reduction, employment, family support, social cohesion, housing affordability as well as targets for reducing spatial disadvantage in specific localities.
2. That the Queensland State Government in partnership with the Commonwealth, Local Government and non-government partners, expand and/or replicate successful state level, place-based programs, such as Community Renewal. An evaluation framework should be developed to assist with monitoring performance and enhancing implementation of any new or expanded programs. Place-based responses should include the following:
 - strategies that reduce the factors pushing people on lower incomes from more advantaged areas into areas that are more disadvantaged
 - responses to economic exclusion through a range of measures such as job creation, sustainable local economies and enterprise development (including social enterprise)
 - specific strategies to address community economic development, community development and participation, as well as improvements to service planning and delivery
 - processes to identify the particular needs, issues and strengths of a community as part of a local or regional planning process.
3. Areas targeted for place-based responses to disadvantage should include urban communities with a high number of people in Quintile 1 SLAs as well as communities where the proportions of people in Quintiles 1 and 2 are very high compared to the overall population.
4. That the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments work in collaboration with non-government partners, to implement more flexible funding and service delivery arrangements including multi purpose service hubs and place-based budgets for particular locations characterised by high levels of spatial disadvantage.
5. That the Queensland Government continues to improve the integration of health, education and social and community services planning in relation to localities or regions including strengthening regional planning and governance arrangements in areas of significant disadvantage.
6. That the Queensland Government in collaboration with the community services sector, with non-government partners, develops a web-based clearing house for sharing practice about strategies aimed at reducing disadvantage with a strong focus on success and measurable outcomes.

Targeted Strategies and Programs to Address Indigenous Disadvantage

7. That the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments implement specific, targeted responses to Indigenous disadvantage in all urban, regional, and remote areas that show high Indigenous disadvantage. Governments should continue to ensure that such responses are grounded in partnerships with Indigenous people.

UnitingCare Queensland (UCQ) Place-Based Responses

8. That UCQ work with government (all levels) and local communities to prioritise a small number of disadvantaged locations for new strategic and integrated interventions aimed at measurably reducing spatial disadvantage.
9. That UCQ develop a research consortium involving government agencies, non-government services and universities to undertake targeted small area level analysis of disadvantage.
10. That UCQ, the Queensland Government and academic partners convene a summit for researchers and practitioners to present and debate place-based responses to poverty, disadvantage and social exclusion.
11. That UCQ develops partnerships with community development finance institutions, government and the private sector to investigate the formation of a Community Development Corporation or a Community Economic Development Foundation with the purpose of generating alternative and flexible funding sources for place-based initiatives.
12. That UCQ continues the development and implementation of an Indigenous Reconciliation Strategy with particular focus on:
 - the recruitment and retention of Indigenous staff
 - increasing the access of Indigenous people to UCQ services
 - responding positively to requests from Indigenous communities to assist them to build the capacity of their local Indigenous services.
13. That UCQ work with the Commonwealth and State Governments to pilot flexible multi-purpose services to respond to the needs of aging and disabled people in rural and remote communities.