



Cameron Dick

Doing What Matters for Queensland



Ms Rebecca Fogerty
President
Queensland Law Society
[Redacted]

Dear Ms Fogerty

Thank you for providing the Miles Labor Government with the Queensland Law Society's (QLS) priorities for the 2024 State Election.

The Miles Labor Government recognises the hard work and advocacy of QLS on behalf of the legal profession. Attached is our response to your priorities.

Our Labor Government, led by new Premier Steven Miles, has delivered historic cost of living relief for all Queenslanders. By making multinational mining companies pay their fair share we have delivered \$1,300 off every Queenslanders' power bill, 50 cent public transport fares, cutting rego by 20%, free Kindy, free TAFE, we banned rent bidding, cut stamp duty for first home buyers and delivered \$200 FairPlay vouchers for all Queensland families to help with the cost of kids' sport.

We also have an ambitious plan for Queensland's future – more health workers and more hospitals, more schools, roads, public transport, projects to keep Queenslanders in jobs and a universal free school lunch program at State primary schools. We're building more homes for Queenslanders, delivering our nation-leading Energy and Jobs Plan to power our homes and economy with cheap firm renewable energy and we're acting on community safety with more police and crime prevention. Responses to the issues you have raised are attached.

The Miles Labor Government have a clear plan for Queensland. In contrast, David Crisafulli and the LNP have outlined no vision other than to cut – projects, jobs and essential services. Mr Crisafulli is a risk to Queensland and he will cut what matters to Queenslanders, just like the LNP did last time. When last in government, the LNP cut \$70 million from courts, abolished the Murri Court, Special Circumstances Court and Drug Court and the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council and cut community legal centres funding and cut \$170 million from DJAG.

I would appreciate it if you could communicate our response to your members. Should the Miles Labor Government be re-elected, we look forward to continuing to work with you to continue to do what matters for Queensland.

Yours sincerely
[Redacted]

CAMERON DICK MP
Deputy Premier
Treasurer
Minister for Trade and Investment
24 / 10 / 2024

QLS Request	Miles Labor Government response
<u>Making good law that serves the public good</u>	
1. Increase parliamentary committee reporting timeframes to ensure there is a minimum public consultation period of six weeks to provide written submissions.	A re-elected Miles Labor Government will consider the suitability of current reporting timeframes for parliamentary committees, noting that circumstances sometimes arise where legislation is declared urgent.
2. Ensure that bills and statutory instruments are consistent with the fundamental legislative principles in the <i>Legislative Standards Act 1992</i> and are compatible with human rights in accordance with the <i>Human Rights Act 2019</i> .	A re-elected Miles Labor Government commits to this in-principle, noting that circumstances sometimes arise where legislation may not be consistent, which would be explained by the relevant Minister and considered by the Parliament.
3. Refrain from abrogating the right to claim self-incrimination privilege (including derivative evidence) and review existing instances to determine the appropriateness of any such abrogation.	The Miles Labor Government supports the fundamental right to claim self-incrimination privilege.
4. Fund a comprehensive and strategic review of Queensland's civil justice system to identify opportunities for increased efficiency and enhance access to justice.	The Miles Labor Government supports such a review in principle. If re-elected, the Government would convene a working group of key stakeholders, such as Queensland Law Society (QLS) and Bar Association Queensland (BAQ), to discuss potential terms of reference for a review.

QLS Request	Miles Labor Government response
<p>5. Conduct an academic review of existing legislation to assess the powers of entry, investigation and seizure of evidence conferred on authorised persons, including local governments, statutory agencies and departmental officers to assess whether the powers are proportionate, reasonable and appropriate.</p>	<p>A re-elected Miles Labor Government would conduct this academic review.</p>
<p><u>Accessible Queensland courts, commissions and tribunals – digitisation, infrastructure and support services</u></p>	
<p>6. Allocate long-term funding for a functional electronic filing system and digitisation of registries, including eTrial infrastructure for all courts in all jurisdictions across Queensland without delay.</p>	<p>The Miles Labor Government has provided significant investment for the digital transformation of courts and tribunals to ensure access to a fair, safe, and equitable justice system. The Courts and Tribunals Digitisation Program (CTDP) was funded \$45.6 million in the 2022-23 State Budget, under Phase 2 of the ICT Strategy Implementation Program. CTDP also received \$21.8 million in funding from the Integrated Criminal Justice and Women’s Safety and Justice Taskforce programs to deliver digital solutions.</p> <p>If re-elected, the Miles Labor Government will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure that all practitioners across the state will be able to submit Registry Committal applications through the Legal Practitioner Portal; • rollout improved video-conferencing technology across the state, particularly in areas that are currently poorly serviced; and • release a roadmap for the full digitisation of all court registries and eTrial infrastructure for all jurisdictions.

QLS Request	Miles Labor Government response
<p>7. Improve physical and technological court and tribunal infrastructure to meet the needs of all users, particularly those in regional areas and those with additional accessibility requirements. This should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. access to reliable internet and devices; b. infrastructure for conducting eTrials; c. audio-visual facilities in courtrooms and break out rooms, particularly videoconferencing facilities, configured in such a way as to promote accessibility for all users; and d. security upgrades and the allocation of safe and secure meeting rooms and waiting facilities for court users. 	<p>The Miles Labor Government currently invests \$5.4 million annually in audio-visual technology in courts and remote witness rooms. This is in addition to \$12.8 million in new funding to respond to the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce recommendation to uplift videoconferencing capability in courtrooms and remote witness rooms.</p> <p>A re-elected Miles Labor Government will continue to invest in upgrades to court infrastructure and will prioritise projects that enhance accessibility for remote court users, in addition to providing appropriate facilities that ensure court users feel safe.</p>
<p>8. Ensure proceedings are supported by appropriate numbers of registrars, court liaison officers and other support services (such as the Court Network Volunteer Service) to assist vulnerable people.</p>	<p>A re-elected Miles Labor Government will maintain the current number of registrars, court liaison officers and other court support services to assist vulnerable people and continue to monitor staffing levels for all court support services to ensure they remain appropriate.</p>
<p>9. Construct replacement courts in Beenleigh and Townsville.</p>	<p>The 2024-25 State Budget provides new funding of \$36 million over four years to construct an additional courtroom at Townsville Magistrates Court and provide two new courtrooms in Brisbane Supreme and District Court to enable District Court matters to be transferred from Beenleigh to Brisbane. As published on the Queensland Government Infrastructure Pipeline (QGIP) portal, detailed business case proposals for the replacement of the Beenleigh and Townsville Courthouses are included in the planning pipeline. A re-elected Miles Labor Government will continue to consider improvements to courthouse sustainability.</p>

QLS Request	Miles Labor Government response
10. Upgrade the Queensland Courts website so that court services can be easily accessed and navigated by all court users.	A re-elected Miles Labor Government will direct the Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG) to continue to undertake periodic reviews of the Queensland Courts website to ensure it is modern and fit-for-purpose.
11. Undertake regular review of QTranscripts to ensure the online platform provides timely, accurate and affordable access to audio recordings and transcripts.	A re-elected Miles Labor Government will direct DJAG to regularly report to the Attorney-General on the status of the QTranscripts model, to ensure it is fit-for-purpose.
12. Allocate funding for the Coroners Court for family liaison officers and counselling services. for family and witnesses involved in coronial inquests.	<p>Since 2024, the Labor Government has boosted funding by \$733,472 per annum to increase the capacity of Coroners Court family liaison officers and counselling services. This includes additional support for people in North Queensland and First Nations families.</p> <p>We are also in the process of establishing a cultural space for families at Coopers Plains mortuary.</p> <p>Queensland Health funded EY consultancy (\$295,000) to develop a Family Support Model for the Coronial System. This was in response to Queensland Audit Office (QAO) recommendations and was endorsed by the Coronial System Board at the June 2024 meeting. It outlines an integrated model for delivery of family supports including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of a 7-day service for acute family support in Forensic Pathology and Coronial Service Coopers Plains • Development of a clear approach to compassionate viewing capabilities across Queensland • Establishment of proactive contact points for families • Establishment of co-agency family support teams • Working with Queensland Police Service (QPS) and Coroners Court of Queensland to improve family experience through a more integrated model.

QLS Request	Miles Labor Government response
<p>13. Resource the Mental Health Review Tribunal (MHRT) with technical and administrative support to ensure there are no operational barriers to accessing records of proceedings.</p>	<p>The Miles Labor Government currently has a policy in place that provides no barriers to accessing records. If the consumer requests, they can access an audio recording. In cases where audio recordings are not suitable for the consumer, they will be provided a transcript.</p> <p>The government recently provided 1 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) (permanent position) to assist with backlog.</p>
<p><u>Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) – urgent support required</u></p>	
<p>14. Maintain sufficient ongoing QCAT funding for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. additional permanent, experienced tribunal members; b. administrative and other support staff, including associates for members; and c. preparation and maintenance of a QCAT benchbook for the guardianship jurisdiction. 	<p>In recognition of the importance of QCAT and the important role it plays in Queensland's justice system, the Miles Labor Government committed \$44.419 million in the recent 2024-25 State Budget, representing an uplift of \$16.9 million for the 2024-25 financial year.</p> <p>This substantial funding increase will help meet growing demand and enhance QCAT's capabilities across Queensland.</p>
<p>15. Provide targeted funding to support the guardianship jurisdiction including specific funding for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. comprehensive capacity reports which include consideration of intersectionality and supported decision-making options; b. section 125 separate representative appointments under the <i>Guardianship and Administration Act 2000</i> including funding to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establish a panel of expert separate representatives for complex guardianship matters; 	<p>The Miles Labor Government will continue to provide support to people receiving mental health care or with impaired decision-making capabilities to access justice services; and will commit to exploring additional support that would contribute to effective guardianship, including adequate legal assistance.</p>

QLS Request	Miles Labor Government response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • expand Legal Aid Queensland's (LAQ) Mental Health Legal Practice program to facilitate these appointments; • the legal assistance sector to promote the adult's rights and interests before, during and after a hearing; and <p>c. independent legal representation to support the QCAT hospital hearing program, particularly for complex matters.</p>	
16. Deliver the five yearly review of QCAT. This should encompass a broad strategic, legislative and process review.	A re-elected Miles Labor Government commits will deliver the five yearly review of QCAT.
17. Conduct the five yearly review of the Queensland Capacity Assessment Guidelines.	As required by s250(5) of the <i>Guardianship and Administration Act 2000</i> , a re-elected Miles Labor Government will conduct a review of the Queensland Capacity Assessment Guidelines in 2025, five years after the guidelines were published.
<u>Judicial commission for Queensland</u>	
18. Establish and resource a Queensland judicial commission that has the core functions of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. preparing and implementing programs for the continuing education and training of judicial officers; and b. receiving complaints, investigating and recommending action against judicial officers. 	<p>This Labor Government made a commitment to consult with legal stakeholders about whether Queensland should establish a Judicial Commission at the 2020 Queensland General State Election. In addition, the Government supported in principle the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce's first report which included considering whether there is a need for an independent statutory judicial commission in Queensland.</p> <p>On 28 September 2022, a discussion paper <i>Safeguarding independence, Ensuring accountability: Exploring the need for a Judicial Commission in Queensland</i> was released to key legal stakeholders. A response to this discussion paper was received in January 2023.</p>

QLS Request	Miles Labor Government response
	A re-elected Miles Labor Government consider funding for a judicial commission as part of the 2025-26 Budget.
<u><i>Responding to the legal needs of all Queenslanders</i></u>	
<p>19. Implementing a new Access to Justice Partnership to replace the National Legal Assistance Partnership Agreement consistent with the recommendations of the Independent Review of the National Legal Assistance Partnership 2020-25.</p>	<p>The Miles Labor Government is proud to support the work of our Community Legal Centres (CLCs) and recognises that their contribution is vital for many Queenslanders.</p> <p>That is why, in the 2024-25 State Budget, the Miles Labor Government provided the first significant State funding injection for the CLCs since 2011-12, totalling \$13.966 million.</p> <p>On 6 September 2024, National Cabinet endorsed a Heads of Agreement for the new National Access to Justice Partnership (NAJP), through which the Commonwealth will invest \$3.9 billion over five years, ongoing, for frontline legal assistance services. The NAJP will commence on 1 July 2025.</p> <p>A re-elected Miles Labor Government will continue to fight for Queensland's fair share of funding to ensure CLCs have the resources they need.</p> <p>The Government is undertaking extensive engagement with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to work through the details of the NAJP. Once the NAJP is settled, a re-elected Miles Labor Government will be in a position to assess whether further funding assistance by the State is required.</p>
<p>20. Increased funding to Queensland's CLCs to ensure community legal services can respond to workforce and operating demands.</p>	<p>See 19.</p>

QLS Request	Miles Labor Government response
21. Implement recommendations of the Independent Review of the National Legal Assistance Partnership Final Report to reform existing modes of funding distribution, including indexation of all state funding streams and the removal of competitive tendering for legal assistance.	See 19.
22. Maintaining the increased funding provision provided to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service for the 2023-2024 period to support ongoing workforce demands.	See 19.
23. Increase the rates paid for grants of legal aid to private practitioners so that they are set at the same level as provided in the relevant court scales.	Once the NAJP is settled, the Government will assess what further action is required in relation to this issue.
24. Targeted legal assistance funding for prisoners to address the high numbers of people, including children, in correctional facilities, youth detention centres and watch houses.	Once the NAJP is settled, the Government will assess what further action is required in relation to this issue.

QLS Request	Miles Labor Government response
<p>25. Increase funding for civil law services including family law disputes, LGBTIQA+ legal services, domestic and family violence (DFV) matters, immigration and citizenship law issues, housing disputes (including renting), consumer disputes, anti-discrimination and vilification matters, elder law issues, guardianship issues, disability issues, and employment and workplace relations disputes.</p>	<p>Once the NAJP is settled, the Government will assess what further action is required in relation to this issue.</p>
<p>26. Funding for a state-wide specialist financial rights legal service for persons with consumer, credit and debt issues, similar to the Financial Rights Legal Centre NSW and the Consumer Law Action Centre in Victoria.</p>	<p>The Miles Labor Government notes the strong advocacy from organisations such as the McKell Institute for a specialist financial rights legal service. Noting negotiations regarding NAJP are on-going and several jurisdictions operate specialist financial rights legal services with substantial contributions from the Commonwealth, a re-elected Miles Labor Government will review the service of the Queensland Consumer Credit and Debt Service (Caxton Legal Centre) to determine whether to expand to a state-wide specialist financial rights legal service.</p>
<p>27. Establish a small grants program for innovation and technology access to justice concepts to permit community legal centres, not-for-profits and law practices to invest in pilot technology projects, which will bring significant access to justice benefits to Queensland.</p>	<p>The Miles Labor Government is committed to ensuring that Queensland businesses and organisations are supported to innovate – including in the legal sector.</p> <p>If re-elected, the Miles Labor Government will consider options for targeted legal sector technology and innovation grants through Advance Queensland.</p>
<p>28. Resource a free court transcription service to ensure that parties can access free transcripts in appropriate cases.</p>	<p>The Miles Labor Government has returned the recording and management of these services in house, with transcription being outsourced to a panel of select providers, which is ensuring that the recording and transcription of proceedings is safe, secure, more accessible, and more competitively priced.</p> <p>This is in contrast against the sole provider scheme, which was introduced under the LNP, which the QAO strongly criticising the contract with the single supplier.</p>

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	<p>The Miles Labor Government is providing increased funding of \$33.4 million over four years and \$13.6 million per annum ongoing and capital funding of \$250,000 in 2024-25 to support the continuation of the court recording and transcription services.</p> <p>For those members of the community who cannot afford to pay for a transcript, full and partial waivers are available where financial hardship can be demonstrated.</p>
<p>29. Maintain sufficient funding for the Queensland Human Rights Commission (QHRC) and for legal assistance for those whose rights under the <i>Human Rights Act 2019</i> have been breached.</p>	<p>The Miles Labor Government will always support the QHRC to ensure it can undertake its important work. That's why, in the 2024-25 State Budget, the Government provided increased funding of \$5 million over five years and \$1.1 million per annum ongoing to support the operations of the Commission.</p> <p>If re-elected, the Miles Labor Government will continue to work with the Commission to ensure it is appropriately resourced.</p>
<p>30. Allow legal representation, as of right, in all actions in QCAT, the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission (QIRC) and the QHRC and legal assistance sector funding for this to be provided.</p>	<p>The Miles Labor Government maintains that self-representation is a core principle of tribunals such as QCAT, QIRC and QHRC, and does not intend to make any changes in this regard.</p>
<p><u>Youth justice and child protection</u></p>	
<p>31. Increase the minimum age of criminal responsibility to at least 14 years old or, at the very least, commit to not detaining children and young people under 14 years of age.</p>	<p>There are no plans to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility in Queensland at this time. However, the Queensland Government participated in the National Age of Criminal Responsibility Working Group. The Standing Council of Attorneys-General (SCAG) has published the Working Group's 2023 report, which focusses on how jurisdictions may support children diverted from the criminal justice system, particularly First Nations children.</p>

QLS Request	Miles Labor Government response
	<p>The Miles Labor Government is delivering a wide range of early intervention, prevention and diversionary services that are consistent with the intent of the principles contained in the Working Group's report with the \$502 million <i>Putting Queensland Kids First</i> plan, which helps set our youngest Queenslanders on positive and healthy pathways and empowers families to build the best foundations for their children at every stage of life. It strengthens preventative and early supports for Queensland children and families at critical milestones and periods of development.</p> <p>The Miles Labor Government has also significantly invested in prevention and intervention with the Community Safety Plan for Queensland, which is accompanied by \$1.28 billion in additional investment across criminal justice, policing, health, education, sport, employment, domestic, family and sexual violence (DFSV) and housing sectors.</p>
32. Appoint more judges to the Childrens Court to manage its increasing workload.	A re-elected Miles Labor Government will continue to monitor workloads in the Childrens Court in partnership with heads of jurisdiction to ensure they are operating effectively.
33. Enhance strategies to reduce the high rate of young people on remand, that is, those awaiting a court hearing. This should include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. maintenance of 'detention as a last resort'; b. repeal of the breach of bail condition offence as it relates to children; c. ensuring there are appropriately funded and safe housing options for children in the youth justice and child protection systems including those seeking bail; and d. resourcing fast-tracking programs (including targeted legal assistance sector funding) being trialled across the state to ensure children and young people spend less time on remand. 	See 31.

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<p>34. Implement a legislative requirement consistent with the QPS operation manual that, as far as practicable, children and young people should not be held in a watch house. Where children are held in a watchhouse it should be for no longer than 24 hours.</p>	<p>We are committed to moving people held in watchhouses to an adult correctional centre or youth detention centre as quickly as possible. The development of additional custodial capacity through the construction of the Wacol Youth Remand Centre, Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre, Woodford Youth Detention Centre and Cairns Youth Detention Centre will add more than 1,600 additional beds to the custodial system.</p>
<p>35. Address the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in the child protection and youth justice systems. This must include sufficient and ongoing resourcing of First Nations organisations and bodies to provide culturally appropriate programs and support.</p>	<p>The Miles Labor Government was proud to release the <i>Better Justice Together: Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Justice Strategy 2024-2031</i>, which specifically aims to improve the way the criminal justice system works for, and with, First Nations peoples.</p> <p>If re-elected the Miles Labor Government, underpinned by three Action Plans, will continue to address and reduce the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Queensland's criminal justice system.</p>
<p>36. Review the effectiveness of the Joint Agency Protocol to Reduce Preventable Police Call-outs to Residential Care services with a view to reducing the criminalisation of children in care.</p>	<p>The Miles Labor Government is strongly committed to reducing the unnecessary exposure of children to the justice system.</p> <p>If re-elected, the Miles Labor Government will request that the Queensland Family and Child Commission (QFCC) reviews the <i>Joint agency protocol to reduce preventable police call-outs to residential care</i>.</p>
<p>37. Ensure that the best interests of all children are protected and that child protection system failures and inequities are addressed by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ensuring that the statement of standards under section 122 of the <i>Child Protection Act 1999</i> is enforceable under the mechanisms of the <i>Human Rights Act 2019</i>; 	<p>Childrens Court magistrates are the ultimate decision-making authority as to whether a child comes into out-of-home care. If a parent of a child is found to be unwilling or unable to care for their children and orders are granted by a magistrate, these orders can be repealed.</p> <p>The Department of Child Safety delivers a Queensland best-practice three-tiered complaints process, in line with PSC recommendations. A re-elected Miles Labor Government would continue to deliver this transparent and accessible complaints mechanism.</p>

QLS Request	Miles Labor Government response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. implementing a legislative mechanism of review with respect to whether an application is made by an officer of Child Safety to approve or not approve a decision to refer a child into care, including allocation of legal assistance sector funding; c. implementing a transparent and accessible complaints mechanism in the child protection system, and d. increase funding to all parts of the legal assistance sector to facilitate legal assistance for parents and caregivers in child protection proceedings. 	
<u>Advancing the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples</u>	
38. Meaningfully engage and take active steps to implement all of the recommendations in the Productivity Commission's final report on its review of progress on the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.	The Miles Labor Government remains committed to the agreed targets.
39. Consider new targets, including justice targets, under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, to ensure they are achievable and work towards reducing rates of Indigenous imprisonment.	See 38.

QLS Request	Miles Labor Government response
<p>40. Prioritise the finalisation of the review of the Cultural Heritage Acts, namely, the <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i> and <i>Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i> and introduce meaningful reform to ensure the Cultural Heritage Acts meet their purpose and provide for First Nations justice.</p>	<p>The Queensland Cultural Heritage Acts review process has been extensive, with multiple rounds of public consultation and stakeholder engagement on detailed reform proposals.</p> <p>The Commonwealth Government is progressing reforms to the national cultural heritage landscape, which will impact on state and territory legislation.</p> <p>It is appropriate to take the time for this national process to play out before we progress legislative changes in Queensland, given the need for certainty for all involved.</p>
<p>41. Continuing the Path to Treaty Process, through culturally safe and respectful engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. Governments must undertake due diligence and consult with the right community member/s and Elders to speak on behalf of their communities and ensure contributors are financially compensated for their time and expertise. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples frameworks must be utilised as a primary tool and that the cultural and psychological safety of contributors are prioritised.</p>	<p>Queensland's Path to Treaty has truth-telling and healing at its very core and commits our state to a path of reconciliation and dedicated effort to closing the gap in life outcomes of First Nations Queenslanders.</p> <p>It will help inform improved legislation, policies, programs, and government investment on issues such as health services and education, with benefits for all Queenslanders, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.</p> <p>The First Nations Treaty Institute is an independent statutory entity responsible under the Path to Act for developing a treaty-making framework which will guide the Government and Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples in undertaking treaty negotiations.</p> <p>The Institute is responsible for these essential first steps – it will co-design a treaty-making framework that sets the ground rules for treaty negotiations and will guide treaty-making in Queensland.</p> <p>The Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry is an important part of the truth-telling and healing process in Queensland. It acts independently to provide a public platform to listen and record stories, educate and build understanding about First Nations history and culture, and make recommendations for next steps.</p>

QLS Request	Miles Labor Government response
<p>42. The efficient and effective resolution of native title compensation claims, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. early, comprehensive and free access to all tenure information held by the State that relates to extinguishing acts done prior to the commencement of the <i>Racial Discrimination Act 1975 (Cth)</i> – this will assist Traditional Owners in case preparation and settlement negotiations; b. a commitment that, where there is a contiguous native title determination (often by way of consent), the State will admit that that native title would exist but for the compensable act – this would reduce the number of issues to be resolved; c. a commitment to enter into good faith negotiations to explore comprehensive settlements, rather than a piecemeal ‘lot by lot’ approach, and d. assisting with legal funding for Aboriginal and Torres Islander Peoples unable to access Native Title related legal assistance. 	<p>In 2019, this Labor Government made a public commitment to reframe its relationship with First Nations Queenslanders.</p> <p>The Queensland Government’s Reframing the Relationship Plan, aligns with the <i>Human Rights Act 2019</i> and supports Queensland’s direction towards treaty readiness.</p> <p>The <i>Path to Treaty Act 2023</i> provides for a Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry to hear and record the historical and ongoing impacts of colonisation on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders.</p>
<p>43. Implementing a statutory requirement in Queensland under which police must contact an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander legal service whenever an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person is detained in custody for any reason, including protective reasons.</p>	<p>Work to significantly expand Queensland’s Custody Notification Service (CNS) is already underway, with the QPS, and DJAG’s First Nations Justice Office co-designing the expanded service with First Nations Queenslanders.</p>

QLS Request	Miles Labor Government response
<p>44. A culturally viable and equitable Blue Card system that promotes better outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.</p>	<p>The Miles Labor Government recently passed the <i>Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024</i>, which includes amendments to put in place the recommendations from two QFCC reports, including removing the requirement for kinship carers and their adult household members to hold a blue card before being approved to care for children who are kin.</p> <p>A re-elected Miles Labor Government will continue to work towards a Blue Card system that promotes positive outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.</p>
<p><u>Criminal law reform</u></p>	
<p>45. Refrain from the creation of new mandatory sentencing regimes and to take steps to repeal the current mandatory sentencing regimes.</p>	<p>A re-elected Miles Labor Government will not introduce new mandatory sentencing regimes, noting there are some circumstances where mandatory sentencing is appropriate, such as for existing mandatory sentencing scheme, including for murder and repeated serious child sex offending.</p>
<p>46. Expand and appropriately resource the Committals Project to allow the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions to conduct the prosecution of all matters listed for committal across the state.</p>	<p>A re-elected Miles Labor Government will review the Committals Project, which will inform future decisions regarding funding and possible expansion.</p>
<p>47. Implement, following appropriate stakeholder consultation, the recommendations of the Criminal Procedure Review Magistrates Courts Summary Report 2023.</p>	<p>A re-elected Miles Labor Government commits in principle to the implementation of recommendations of the Criminal Procedure Review Magistrates Courts Summary Report 2023.</p>
<p>48. Establish an independent body to investigate and make prosecutorial recommendations with respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths in custody.</p>	<p>All deaths in custody are required to be dealt with as reportable deaths under the Coroners Act.</p> <p>This legislated requirement recognises that there is an inherent power imbalance between a person in custody and those who are detaining them, and the broader criminal justice system.</p>

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	The Coroners Court will investigate the death and has the power to make broad reaching recommendations in order to prevent similar deaths in the future.
49. Greater resourcing of existing and new projects, processes and programs to address the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the criminal justice system.	<p>The Miles Labor Government remains committed to addressing the underlying causes of crime, and the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the criminal justice system.</p> <p>That is why the Miles Labor Government established the First Nations Justice Office (FNJO) in response to Recommendation 1 of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce's Hear Her Voice Report 1.</p> <p>It is also why this Labor Government restored Murri Courts in Queensland, following the LNP axing these valuable courts. Under the Miles Labor Government, there are now 15 operating in locations across Queensland.</p> <p>More broadly, the Miles Labor Government remains committed to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.</p>
50. Reduce rates of remand by investigating bail assistance programs for young people and adults, with specific reference to the incarceration rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.	See 49.
51. Implement community-led Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elder visitor and other culturally appropriate programs in Queensland correctional facilities with a view to reducing incarceration and recidivism rates.	<p>The Government funds Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elder groups across the state, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a minibus which is used by the Binga Birry Justice Group to provide regular visits by Elders for prisoners at Capricornia, Townsville and Townsville Women's correctional centres. - Community Corrections maintains and continues to source relationships with local culturally appropriate stakeholders to address the needs of First Nations individuals subject to supervision - First Nations individuals have access to the full range of criminogenic programs offered in every correctional centre and community corrections office.

QLS Request	Miles Labor Government response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In July 2022, the Government piloted a bespoke program 'Strong and Solid Spirit' (SSS). SSS is a hybrid program which all First Nations men convicted of sexual or sexually motivated offences are eligible to participate - Cultural Liaison Officers (CLOs) are employed at all high-security correctional centres and many community corrections offices across Queensland to provide cultural support to First Nations people within its care - In 2022 the Labor Government funded an additional 34 Cultural Liaison Officer positions in Community Corrections - Released in January 2024, the Reframing the Relationship Plan 2024-2027 to enhance QCS' capacity to build our cultural capability and deliver sustainable and impactful services - The Murridhagun Cultural Centre, provides advisory, planning and support services to Corrections staff, prisoners and offenders. <p>A re-elected Miles Labor Government will engage with QLS and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elder groups around continued delivery of programs to help reduce offending and recidivism.</p>
<p>52. Continue to investigate and implement rehabilitative programs as alternatives to incarceration, including empirically-based drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs.</p>	<p>The Miles Labor Government is committed to delivering evidence-based interventions to curb offending and allow at-risk Queenslanders to play a productive and fulfilling role in our community. That is why the Miles Labor Government has committed to various intervention programs under the Community Safety Plan, including the Community Youth Response and Diversion On Country, Intensive Bail Initiative and Intensive Case Management Program.</p> <p>The Miles Labor Government is also proud to have expanded the Police Drug Diversion program, allowing more minor drug offences to be diverted out of the criminal justice system and provide a tiered health response. This common-sense approach is based on evidence that if you divert people at an early stage to health and education services, they are significantly less likely to reoffend. The expansion also has a positive flow-on effect for court and police workloads, freeing up valuable resources.</p> <p>A re-elected Miles Labor Government will continue to fund Adult Restorative Justice and Justice Mediation programs and will review these programs with a view to possible expansion.</p>

QLS Request	Miles Labor Government response
53. Expand and appropriately fund adult restorative justice and justice mediation options.	See 52 above.
54. Maintain all diversionary and specialist courts.	A re-elected Miles Labor Government will maintain all diversionary and specialist courts.
55. Specialist training for the QPS and prosecutorial bodies to respond to the new coercive control offence, sexual assault reports and complaints.	A re-elected Miles Labor Government commits to continuing the specialist training already being rolled out. The QPS has already rolled out training to improve the recognition, response and investigation of coercive control, with more than 17,000 Police Personnel completing this training as at 31 August 2024.
<u>Responding to domestic and family violence in our community</u>	
56. Maintain existing specialist Domestic Violence Courts and continue the roll out of additional specialist domestic violence courts throughout Queensland.	A re-elected Miles Labor Government commits to maintaining existing specialist DFV courts and the continued roll out of additional specialist DFV courts throughout Queensland.
57. Appropriately fund modern infrastructure at all Magistrates Courts across Queensland to facilitate court appearances in a safe way, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. proper teleconference and videoconference facilities to facilitate mentions by way of technology and avoid the need for parties in unsafe situations to attend in person; b. safety rooms; c. panic buttons in interview rooms; d. safe entry and exits of courthouses for aggrieved parties; and 	See 7.

QLS Request	Miles Labor Government response
e. increased and improved security at courthouses to protect vulnerable parties.	
58. Develop appropriate protocols to allow remote appearances where physical infrastructure upgrades are not yet available.	See 7.
59. Ensure a sufficient allocation of funding for domestic violence duty lawyers, including in regional areas.	<p>LAQ provides services for duty lawyers for DFV matters. LAQ are funded via Commonwealth and State funding, administered in accordance with the National Legal Assistance Partnership.</p> <p>On 6 September 2024, National Cabinet signed a Heads of Agreement for a new National Access to Justice Partnership. The Commonwealth Government committed to investing \$3.9 billion in the legal assistance sector through this new five-year agreement, commencing 1 July 2025.</p> <p>In the 2024-25 State Budget, the Miles Labor Government committed increased funding of \$35.3 million over two years to strengthen and support court reform initiatives to address increases in adult and youth crime. This includes \$8.4 million over two years for LAQ. This initiative is part of the \$1.28 billion Community Safety Plan for Queensland.</p> <p>The Miles Labor Government will continue to work with the Commonwealth Government to ensure all Queenslanders have access to justice and equality before the law.</p>
60. Provide ongoing information and training for magistrates and Magistrates Court staff regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. exchange of information with the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia; and b. effective use of information gathering powers. 	<p>In response to the first Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce report (Recommendation 51), the Miles Labor Government supported this recommendation in full and committed to developing a trauma-informed and intersectional strategy for Court Services Queensland, as well as updating relevant policies, procedures and training modules to reflect the strategy.</p> <p>Work has already begun with the introduction of a mandatory DFV training module and trauma-informed training across specialist courts and programs and stakeholder information sessions to improve accessibility for vulnerable groups.</p>

QLS Request	Miles Labor Government response
	<p>In June 2024, DJAG finalised development of the trauma-informed and intersectional DFV Training and Change Management Strategy for Court Services Queensland.</p> <p>Through National Cabinet and SCAG, the Miles Labor Government is continuing to advance actions to improve information sharing across systems, courts and jurisdictions.</p> <p>A re-elected Miles Labor Government will continue to advocate to the Commonwealth Government to improve the exchange of information between Queensland Courts and the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia.</p>
<p>61. Adequately fund diversion programs contemplated under the <i>Criminal Law (Coercive Control and Affirmative Consent) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024</i>.</p>	<p>The <i>Criminal Law (Coercive Control and Affirmative Consent) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024</i> was passed by Parliament on 6 March 2024. The establishment of a court-based domestic violence diversion scheme for adult defendants will commence by proclamation, once supporting implementation activities have been undertaken.</p>
<p>62. Finalise and implement the Queensland DFV perpetrator strategy addressing primary prevention, early intervention, response and systemic reform. This will include continuation and expansion of perpetrator programs, education programs, DFV services and court-based support for victims of DFV and respondents to ensure:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> timely access to services, including in regional and rural areas; availability of free-of-charge programs for self-referred perpetrators; 	<p>The Miles Labor Government remains committed to ending DFV across Queensland. In July 2024, we released <i>Broadening the Focus: Queensland's strategy to strengthen responses to people who use domestic and family violence 2024–28</i> (the Strategy). The Strategy is an Australian-first that places greater emphasis on responding to people who use violence in domestic and family situations and will be implemented over four years.</p> <p>In addition, the Miles Labor Government has also released <i>Queensland's Plan for the Primary Prevention of Violence Against Women 2024-2028</i> (the Plan), which aims to prevent violence from occurring in the first place to reduce the number of victim-survivors and the demand on the criminal justice and service system. The Plan is supported by \$16 million for prevention initiatives.</p> <p>The Miles Labor Government provides \$27.4 million per annum to First Nations services to provide culturally appropriate support for First Nations women, men, children, and young people who are experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, or perpetrating DFV. Additionally, funding of \$3.5 million per annum is provided to an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Organisation.</p>

QLS Request	Miles Labor Government response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. ongoing DFV prevention education in schools and availability of appropriate DFV education and counselling in youth detention centres; d. availability of DFV programs and counselling for perpetrators in custody in all correctional centres across Queensland; e. availability of culturally appropriate perpetrator programs developed with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and funding for long term follow up and support within communities; and f. availability of perpetrator programs to meet the needs of a diverse range of participants, including women, the LGBTIQ+ community and young people. 	<p>A number of different approaches to holding persons using DFV to account are currently underway including designing and trialling programs specifically for culturally and linguistically diverse people, LGBTIQ+ people, and people with disability.</p> <p>The Miles Labor Government has also committed to several initiatives under the National Partnership on Family Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses 2021-27 to hold persons using DFV to account and provide opportunities to change their behaviour.</p> <p>A re-elected Miles Labor Government will continue to build on the work that is progressing and will continue to work with the DFV sector and relevant stakeholders to implement policies and initiatives that target those using violence.</p>
<p>63. Review the impact and effectiveness of domestic violence orders in respect of respondents with impaired capacity.</p>	<p>A re-elected Miles Labor Government will review the impact and effectiveness of domestic violence orders in respect of respondents with impaired capacity</p>
<p>64. Continue to fund ongoing training and education for QPS officers on DFV, including coercive control, to enhance understanding of the dynamics of relationships involving violence and to improve the capacity of first responders to properly identify perpetrators of violence.</p>	<p>The Miles Labor Government is committed to doing everything it can to ensure full public confidence in the ability of our police to protect victims of DFSV and hold people using violence to account.</p> <p>In response to the <i>Domestic and Family Violence Protection (Combating Coercive Control) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023</i>, the QPS updated the Domestic Violence - Protective Assessment Framework to support identification of the person most in need of protection.</p>

QLS Request	Miles Labor Government response
	<p>The QPS is dedicated to enhancing the specialist skills and expertise of its members, ensuring their ability to respond effectively to DFV. The QPS has funded 42 QPS members to undertake a Graduate Certificate studies in Domestic and Family Violence at Central Queensland University or the Queensland University of Technology. These studies provide leading, contemporary knowledge and insight to prevent, disrupt, investigate and respond to DFV.</p>
<p>65. Increase funding for emergency accommodation and medium-term housing for victim-survivors of DFV.</p>	<p>The Miles Labor Government is focused on ensuring specialist DFV support services in our communities continue to have the funding and support to undertake their effective work and provide safe and ongoing housing options for those in crisis.</p> <p>In 2024-25, the Miles Labor Government, through the DJAG, is providing more than \$54 million to 46 funded organisations to deliver 59 specialist homelessness services including shelters across Queensland.</p> <p>A further \$600,000 has been allocated to commission a suitable provider to develop and implement resources with DFV services, shelters and disability services (co-design resources and undertake state-wide training) in 2024-25.</p> <p>Through the <i>Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses 2021-27 National Partnership</i> Queensland is also delivering the DFV Rent Assist Brokerage Grants program and the Housing Connectors crisis accommodation pilot model.</p> <p>Under this Labor Government, we have supported the establishment of eight new shelters in Queensland – the first new shelters in 20 years.</p> <p>Under <i>Homes for Queenslanders</i>, the Miles Labor Government has committed to 10 new or replaced DFV shelters – to provide immediate safety and protection for women and children. The Miles Labor Government is committed to ensuring that every person fleeing DFV can access safe emergency housing and we will continue to work with the housing and DFV sectors to provide support to victim-survivors escaping DFV.</p>

QLS Request	Miles Labor Government response
<u>Health law reform, disability and meeting the needs of older Queenslanders</u>	
66. Fund a dedicated team to examine the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability ('Disability Royal Commission') and publish the Queensland Government's response, including an implementation and funding plan.	The Miles Labor Government responded to the Disability Royal Commission on 31 July 2024. We also released a Disability Reform Framework to drive long-lasting and meaningful change.
67. Appoint a state monitor to oversee Queensland's response and implementation of the Disability Royal Commission recommendations.	The Disability Reform Ministerial Council (of Commonwealth and State Disability Ministers) is nationally tracking recommendations made by the Disability Royal Commission, including Queensland's response and implementation of recommendations.
68. Provide a meaningful response to the Public Advocate's November 2022 'Adult Safeguarding in Queensland Volume 2: Reform Recommendations' report.	The Miles Labor Government recognises the valuable findings of the Public Advocate to enshrine adult safeguarding as an embedded function within the community, supported and promoted by government. It is noted that there will be intersectionality between the Public Advocate's November report and the Disability Reform Framework. The Miles Labor Government will ensure these recommendations are considered in broader policy work as part of further significant guardianship reform to better protect vulnerable Queenslanders.
69. Fund health justice partnerships to support vulnerable people with complex legal, health and social needs, with a focus on intersectional responses and resources, particularly for prisoners and young people.	The Miles Labor Government supports this policy commitment in-principle and will explore options to better support individuals with needs across government service delivery areas.

QLS Request	Miles Labor Government response
70. Expand the Queensland Intermediaries Scheme to facilitate allied health assistance to all parties and provide assistance to the courts and tribunals in civil, criminal and youth justice matters.	In the 2024-25 Budget, the Miles Labor Government is providing increased funding of \$2.2 million for the continuation of the Queensland Intermediary Scheme to support vulnerable victims through the court process. This initiative is part of the \$1.28 billion Community Safety Plan for Queensland.
71. Increase access to justice for people receiving mental health care or those requiring support for their decision making, particularly those involved in complex QCAT matters. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. supporting multidisciplinary approaches to assessing decision-making capacity by adequately funding allied health and other supports and funding effective training and resources for people carrying out capacity assessments; and b. funding for effective education to increase genuine understanding of human rights, capacity, and supported as well as substitute decision-making across all stakeholder organisations and bodies and for community members including for principals, attorneys, family/friend and other supports. 	See 15.
72. Funding to ensure that persons who are the subject of a hearing in the MHRT have access to legal representation.	The MHRT in collaboration with the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist is currently undertaking a project to develop a model of legal representation focusing on consumer choice - where the consumer will have the choice to have a legal or non-legal advocate.

QLS Request	Miles Labor Government response
73. Coordination of state and national regulation of restrictive practices and resourcing training across all sectors with a view to minimising their use across all health, aged care and disability care settings.	The Disability Royal Commission made recommendations (6.35, 6.36) in relation to the use of restrictive practices. The Miles Labor Government accepted the recommendations in-principle on the basis that the Government had introduced the <i>Disability Services (Restrictive Practice) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024</i> . We will continue to work with the Commonwealth and other jurisdictions to support a national approach to ensure consistency across states and territories.
74. Make a reference to the Queensland Law Reform Commission (QLRC) to determine the most appropriate and effective legal (including legislative) response (criminal, civil or equitable, including restitution) to incidents of elder abuse including effective strategies for public education about elder abuse and ensuring avenues of response are accessible.	See 75.
75. Commit to a whole of government strategy to respond to elder abuse focussing on prevention, education, training, collaborative frameworks, elder abuse interventions, responses and redress across a range of stakeholders including financial institutions.	Elder abuse is an issue that is being addressed through interjurisdictional forums and requires multifaceted consideration across different departmental responsibilities. A re-elected Miles Labor Government would support the development of a whole of government strategy to address elder abuse.
76. Collaboration with National Cabinet on a strategy to address ageism, discrimination and agency of older people to achieve national consistency on these issues.	A re-elected Miles Labor Government will collaborate with the Commonwealth Government to deliver a strategy to address ageism, discrimination and agency of older people.
77. Continued pursuit of harmonisation of financial enduring power of attorney laws.	The Miles Labor Government will continue engaging in discussions with other jurisdictions regarding financial enduring power of attorney laws.

QLS Request	Miles Labor Government response
78. Modernise the Retirement Villages Act 1999 and develop an overarching strategy to regulate retirement villages and manufactured homes, including addressing the disconnect between state and Commonwealth legislation with respect to retirement villages, aged care and the frameworks for ageing in place.	The Miles Labor Government has been delivering significant legislative reform for retirement villages to ensure a fair and sustainable sector and a regulatory framework that delivers the best possible outcomes for residents. Similarly, we have passed significant reform to improve fairness, transparency and accountability of the manufactured homes sector and protect the rights of vulnerable manufactured homeowners.
79. Refer the issue of litigation guardians to the QLRC to undertake an updated consultation and review to determine the most appropriate options for law reform in this area.	Noting that the liability for costs associated with the appointment of the Public Trustee or Public Guardian remains a key issue in progressing reform in this space, a re-elected Miles Labor Government would commit to further consultation and review on this issue with relevant stakeholders, including consideration of the alternative options suggested by the QLS.
80. Review the <i>Guardianship and Administration Act 2000</i> to ensure it aligns and is applied with supported decision-making and reflects human rights principles.	While there is no statutory requirement for the <i>Guardianship and Administration Act 2000</i> to be reviewed at certain intervals, recognising significant changes to guardianship and further impending changes through the Queensland Disability Reform Framework, including in response to the Disability Royal Commission, a re-elected Miles Labor Government would review the <i>Guardianship and Administration Act 2000</i> .
81. Review the <i>Surrogacy Act 2010</i> to consider whether it meets the current needs of Queenslanders.	A re-elected Miles Labor Government will review the <i>Surrogacy Act 2010</i> .
<u>Reforming Queensland's anti-discrimination laws</u>	

QLS Request	Miles Labor Government response
82. Release an updated consultation draft of the <i>Anti-Discrimination Act Bill 2024</i> for consultation with stakeholders with a view to passing a modernised anti-discrimination act within the next term of government.	The Miles Labor Government remains committed to implementing recommendations made in the Building Belonging Report, with a second stage of reforms to occur following further consultation.
<u>Sustainability and climate response</u>	
83. Additional funding to the legal assistance sector in recognition of the ongoing increased legal need of climate impacted vulnerable and disadvantaged communities.	See 19.
84. A consultation framework requiring meaningful consultation with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People about the impacts of climate change on land that they, as original custodians, have cared for and managed for over 60,000 years; and b. communities and stakeholders affected by proposals to mitigate and adapt to climate change. 	<p>In April 2024, the Miles Labor Government passed the <i>Clean Economy Jobs Act 2024</i>, enshrining Queensland's emissions reduction targets into law. The Explanatory Notes clearly articulates that the Act is intended to 'provide a critical foundation for the government to protect Queensland communities and mitigate the impacts of climate change, including for Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.'</p> <p>Queensland will achieve its targets through the development and implementation of six sector plans, which will be developed through consultation and collaboration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait People, along with affected communities, workers, stakeholders, and industry.</p>
85. Ongoing effective and evidence-based action on climate change delivered under a legislative framework that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. mandates regular independent review to assess performance and allows for current targets to be increased or accelerated as evidence and technology changes; 	A primary purpose of legislating our State's emissions reduction and renewable energy targets in the <i>Energy (Renewable Jobs and Transformation) Act 2024</i> was to provide policy certainty to affected workers, businesses, communities, industry, and investors. This was balanced with a need to retain the flexibility required to respond to technological, social, and/or scientific developments. The <i>Clean Economy Jobs Act 2024</i> contains a mechanism to review the 2030 target, along with the requirement to set 2040 and 2045 targets ten years in advance.

QLS Request	Miles Labor Government response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. requires specific sectors to be covered by appropriate sector-based emission reduction plans; c. provides a certain, timely and equitable pathway for the transition of those relying on carbon intensive industries to more sustainable alternatives; and d. appropriately addresses the legal and policy settings necessary to physically, socially, and economically adapt to the challenges of a changing climate. 	<p>Queensland will develop sector plans for energy, transport, land and agriculture, industry, built environment, and resources, along with an overarching plan to address linkages between sectors and cross-cutting themes. These Sector Plans will be finalised taking into account advice from the Clean Economy Expert Panel. The Act requires annual reporting on the plans and progress towards the targets.</p>
<p><u>Supporting the Queensland economy, businesses, consumers and not for profit organisations</u></p>	
<p>86. Allocation of funding to support the community and the property industry with the implementation of the seller disclosure framework in the <i>Property Law Act 2023</i>, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. develop a single state government database and portal which collates all information prescribed in the seller disclosure framework as a reliable and cost-effective way of delivering search results to sellers and their advisors – such a database could ultimately form the basis of a standardised local government report in Queensland, to provide consistent information from local governments across Queensland including flooding data; and b. DJAG to deliver a public education program about the seller disclosure framework including the documentation 	<p>a) Single State Database</p> <p>A re-elected Miles Labor Government will work with stakeholders to investigate the viability of such a database.</p> <p>b) Education Sessions – Seller Disclosure Scheme</p> <p>A re-elected Miles Labor Government will commit to delivering education sessions through DJAG for stakeholder before the commencement of the Seller Disclosure Scheme.</p>

QLS Request	Miles Labor Government response
<p>and details a buyer should expect to receive from a seller when purchasing property.</p>	
<p>87. Prohibit the payment of referral fees or financial consideration between real estate agents and legal practices to remove any perception of conflicts of interest, protect consumers and improve transparency in the conveyancing industry.</p>	<p>A re-elected Miles Labor Government commits to reviewing this issue, in consultation with relevant stakeholders.</p>
<p>88. In light of the eConveyancing mandate for settling the majority of property transactions, allocate funding to Titles Queensland and Queensland Revenue Office (QRO) to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. revisit the current exemptions from the mandate in light of the proposed phasing out of the Australian cheque system by 2030, with a view to reducing the out-of-scope transactions and ensuring any disruption to the property settlements process is limited, for example, enabling the processing of transactions involving exemptions for transfer duty for charitable institutions and b. progress improvements to all government systems to enable the payment of transfer duty directly through an Electronic Network Lodgement Operator to QRO. 	<p>A re-elected Miles Labor Government commits to revisiting exemptions from the eConveyancing mandate through Titles Queensland to reduce out of scope transactions while limiting disruption to property settlements.</p> <p>We will also consider options to implement an Electronic Network Lodgement Operator through QRO.</p>

QLS Request	Miles Labor Government response
<p>89. Clarify the status of Queensland's Digital Driver Licence as a form of identification which can be relied on by legal practitioners and members of the community to verify an individual's identity for all circumstances and transactions.</p>	<p>To support Queensland's new Digital Drivers Licence, a Queensland Digital Identity (QDI) was constructed to enable citizens to securely access their Digital Drivers Licence wherever they are. This means that in the future, the QDI could be recognised and used to access government and non-government services across Australian and international borders.</p> <p>To build on this initiative, the Miles Labor Government is working with the Commonwealth, and other states and territories to establish a nationally consistent, interoperable digital identity system.</p> <p>A Miles Labor Government will continue to invest in this space and ensure Queensland is well placed to take advantage of this rapidly evolving technology.</p>
<p>90. Review the validity of the state's taxes in light of the High Court's decision in <i>Vanderstock v Victoria [2023] HCA 30</i> and liaise with federal and state and territory counterparts to clarify its implications on state duties, taxes levies and surcharges.</p>	<p>A Miles Labor Government will continue to engage through the Board of Treasurers and Council on Federal Financial Relations to ensure states can maintain stable revenue bases.</p>
<p>91. Reform the duty position in Queensland to reflect the position in most other Australian states, so that duty is not payable on non-land business and asset transfers.</p>	<p>There are no plans to make this change</p>
<p>92. Allocate funding to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the Queensland Government's Dispute Resolution Centres to ensure qualified mediators with not-for-profit sector experience are available to respond to the referral of grievances from incorporated associations; and 	<p>The Miles Labor Government supports this in-principle, subject to further feasibility investigations and budgetary consideration.</p>

QLS Request	Miles Labor Government response
<p>b. the Office of Fair Trading to design and implement a digital register to enable charities and incorporated associations electronically file compliance documents required under the <i>Associations Incorporations Act 1981</i> and the <i>Collections Act 1966</i>.</p>	
<p>93. The Office of the Attorney-General being active in the exercise of the role and function of the Attorney-General to protect charitable assets when material misapplication of charitable assets is in question. A commitment is also sought that in the next term of government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the Office of the Attorney-General will work actively and co-operatively with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission in the preservation of charitable assets; and b. the Office of the Attorney-General include the title 'Minister for Charities', to reflect the essential role of charities in the Queensland community and demonstrate that the protection and preservation of charitable assets is an inherent role of the Attorney. 	<p>The Attorney-General holds many responsibilities which are not explicitly recognised in the Minister's title. The Miles Labor Government appreciates the importance of charities in Queensland and will continue to provide support to the sector.</p>

QLS Request	Miles Labor Government response
<u>Food security, planning and land use</u>	
<p>94. Establishing a food security strategy to ensure significant legal and policy decisions take into account their impact on Queensland's good quality agricultural land and food security. The strategy must address the consequences of new planning and development decisions (including housing, energy and other projects) for agribusiness and regional industries involved in producing food and fibre.</p>	<p>The Miles Labor Government supports communities through the <i>Gather and Grow 2023 – 2032 Strategy</i>, a whole of system approach to improve food security across the Cape, optimising supply chain performance, resilience and logistics to ensure healthy food is available year-round.</p> <p>To continue to advance the Strategy, a re-elected Miles Labor Government will continue to engage with stakeholders through the Agricultural Ministerial Advisory Council.</p>
<p>95. Developing a coordinated legislative framework for promoting and building renewable energy projects, together with finalising the announced code of conduct for renewable energy developers. The legislative framework must balance the needs of regional communities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and industry, and prescribe consultation not only with affected landholders but with peak bodies supporting agribusinesses, farmers and graziers.</p>	<p>The Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan (QEJP) Community Partnerships and Enabling Frameworks update was released in May 2024 which provides an overview of the initiatives being delivered through the QEJP to engage communities, build local capacity, protect the environment and share lasting benefits from the transition.</p> <p>The Miles Labor Government has developed the REZ roadmap which identifies how much generation is anticipated across 12 potential Renewable Energy Zones and outlines the framework for how this will be delivered. Consultation has commenced across Central Queensland and Callide backed by \$6 million to undertake a strategic REZ assessment. Meanwhile, \$9.25 million has been set aside under Local Energy Partnerships to help local councils and community groups participate in consultations and REZ assessment processes.</p> <p>The Miles Labor Government has also developed a draft Renewables Regulatory Framework for consultation. The framework proposes to explore initiatives that improve outcomes through responsible development of renewable energy.</p> <p>The Draft Renewables Regulatory Framework builds on existing initiatives underway to support strong and sustainable energy communities across Queensland including expanding the remit of the Gasfields Commission Queensland to establish Coexistence Queensland.</p>

QLS Request	Miles Labor Government response
	The Miles Labor Government has also been working with regional communities to co-design a Code of Conduct which will ensure developers engage with communities, including First Nations groups and landholders, when developing, building and operating new generation and storage projects.
<u>Housing affordability and availability</u>	
96. Establish a legal stakeholder reference group of practitioners with expertise in tax law, property law, planning and environment law, elder law (including retirement villages and aged care), Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders and experts from the legal assistance sector. Seeking input from a wide range of perspectives will identify the legal consequences of housing reform initiatives and deliver the greatest possible benefit of new proposals.	<p>The Miles Labor Government established a Housing Supply Expert Panel to provide independent, expert advice to the Queensland Government on all the interconnected issues that drive housing diversity, affordability and supply.</p> <p>The Panel, which has been providing advice to government for over five years, consists of 12 experts specialising in planning, property, economics, development, social housing and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing from across Australia.</p> <p>The Miles Labor Government will continue to seek legal advice as needed on specific areas of legislative reform.</p>
<u>Supporting legal practices as essential community infrastructure</u>	
97. Fund scholarships for regional law students and provide benefits to solicitors working in regional, rural and remote communities to support retention of local legal talent.	If re-elected, the Miles Labor Government will investigate the creation of a scholarship and business incentive program for regional law firms, law students, law graduates, and early career lawyers, to be administered through Business Queensland.
98. The creation of a graduate solicitor program providing financial support for legal practices to recruit and retain early career lawyers (up to five years post admission experience) to practice in rural, regional and remote areas.	See 97.

QLS Request	Miles Labor Government response
<p>99. Adopt a broader definition of ‘pro bono work’ for firms involved in the tendering process for government contracts to include volunteer work of a legal nature undertaken for the public good, including holding positions on the boards of charities and not-for-profit associations and work carried out to promote good law in law reform.</p>	<p>If re-elected, the Miles Labor Government will review whether a broader definition of ‘pro bono work’ should apply at the conclusion of Whole of Government Legal Services Panel Arrangement in 2026.</p>
<p>100. Reduce the regulatory burden for law practices and promote access to justice, particularly for low bono and smaller matters by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. implementing a \$5,000 upper threshold for the use of abbreviated cost disclosure; and b. regularly reviewing prescribed cost disclosure amounts in the legislation to account for inflation and to ensure they remain consistent with their intended purpose. 	<p>A re-elected Miles Labor Government will consult with legal stakeholders on a review of the <i>Legal Profession Act 2007</i> and will consider the relevant thresholds for cost disclosure, particularly for low bono and smaller scale matters, to ensure that those regulatory frameworks are reflective and responsive to modern trends in legal practice.</p>

QLS Request	Miles Labor Government response
<p>101. Consult on legislative amendments to the <i>Legal Profession Act 2007</i> and subordinate legislation to reflect modern legal practice and technological developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. enabling the use of modern payment processes and technologies in relation to trust accounts and legal practice more generally; and b. to address regulatory and procedural issues and provide for the timely outcome of conduct matters. 	<p>A re-elected Miles Labor Government will consult with legal stakeholders on a review of the <i>Legal Profession Act 2007</i> to ensure that the legislation is reflective of modern practice and best protects the consumers of legal services in Queensland.</p>
<p><u>Privacy, data and technology</u></p>	
<p>102. Reduce inconsistency with a view to harmonising state and federal privacy laws including participation in a Commonwealth, state and territory working group, as proposed by the <i>Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)</i> review (Privacy Act review), to consider harmonisation of key issues in privacy law frameworks.</p>	<p>A re-elected Miles Labor Government will continue to ensure that Queensland's information privacy regime (including in relation to civil and workplace surveillance) is as consistent as possible with the Commonwealth scheme.</p>

QLS Request	Miles Labor Government response
103. Consider privacy impacts when implementing new policy and legislative initiatives, particularly surveillance and data sharing initiatives, and to provide sufficient safeguards with respect to all dealings with personal information, including its use and retention.	The Miles Labor Government will continue to assess whether new legislation unduly burdens the right to privacy and reputation as defined in the <i>Human Rights Act 2019</i> .
104. Measures which promote protection of children's online data and personal information including funding education and accessible resource initiatives.	The Miles Labor Government will, where possible, promote protection of children's online data and personal information including funding education and accessible resource initiatives, noting that this is primarily a Commonwealth responsibility.
105. Transparency around the commercialisation of government datasets including public facing guidelines and oversight mechanisms.	The Miles Labor Government will always ensure complete transparency regarding the commercialisation of government datasets.
106. Enhanced and harmonised legal and regulatory responses to ensure AI is developed and used safely in the public and private sectors.	The Miles Labor Government acknowledges that the development of AI/machine learning technology offers significant benefits but has many potential risks. A re-elected Miles Labor Government will continue to work with the Commonwealth to ensure appropriate regulation of AI.
107. Transparency in the use of automated decision making and AI in the exercise of statutory power and government policy including independent scrutiny and review mechanisms.	The Miles Labor Government opposes the making of administrative decisions by non-human decisionmakers. A re-elected Miles Labor Government will ensure that the use of AI or other automated systems for decision-making are appropriately reflected in the reasons for those decisions.

QLS Request	Miles Labor Government response
<p>108. Ensure government digital identity systems prioritise reliability, information security, privacy and consumer safeguards. Systems should minimise burdens on business where verification of identity is required including the development of appropriate safe harbour processes and standards.</p>	<p>A re-elected Miles Labor Government will continue to ensure government digital systems are appropriate and minimise unnecessary burdens on business.</p>
<p>109. Increase funding for the Office of the Information Commissioner (OIC) to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. support agencies in appropriately responding to data breaches including sufficient additional resources to provide guidance to clearly outline the functions and responsibilities of each regulator in the event of a data breach to ensure clarity and avoid regulatory overlap; and b. respond to any increased scope and workload as a result of the ongoing Commonwealth Privacy Act review. 	<p>A re-elected Miles Labor Government will continue to monitor the need for additional funding to the OIC and will provide an uplift where necessary.</p>
<p>110. Fund a small business grants program to support law practices, particularly those located in regional, rural and remote areas in navigating technology adoption (including training and technology literacy) and increased regulatory privacy, cyber and technology requirements to enhance capability, compliance and awareness of AI and other digital technologies.</p>	<p>See 97.</p>

QLS Request	Miles Labor Government response
111. Refer the existing standing provisions in the <i>Judicial Review Act 1991</i> to the Queensland Law Reform Commission for review in light of various developments including in relation to public interest litigation, automated decision making and AI, with the review to include consideration of costs rules for public interest litigation.	A re-elected Miles Labor Government will consider a referral to QLRC or another appropriate entity, to ensure Queensland judicial review scheme remains fit-for-purpose.
112. Improve access to information including proactive open governance policies to reduce the need for right to information requests, clarifying exemptions and adequate funding of RTI units.	A re-elected Miles Labor Government will continue its commitment to transparency, and closely monitor the impacts of the reforms contained in the <i>Information Privacy and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023</i> and <i>Public Records Act 2023</i> .
<u>Maintaining the right to fair injury compensation for all Queenslanders</u>	
113. Preserve the integrity of Queensland's workers' compensation scheme, including continued access to common law damages without impairment thresholds.	<p>A re-elected Miles Labor Government commits to not implementing impairment thresholds for access to common law damages. On 14 October 2013, the former LNP Government stripped away the rights and entitlements of Queensland's injured workers by introducing an unfair common law threshold. This threshold prevented workers with a degree of permanent impairment of 5% or less seeking damages from a negligent employer.</p> <p>This Labor Government restored these common law rights in 2015. In addition, we established a statutory adjustment scheme to assist those workers who would otherwise have no access to common law rights due to the actions of the Newman Government.</p>
114. Preserve the integrity of Queensland's compulsory third party (CTP) motor accident insurance scheme, including	Queensland's CTP insurance scheme is one of the fairest and most affordable CTP insurance schemes in Australia and the Miles Labor Government remains committed to ensuring it continues to deliver for Queenslanders.

QLS Request	Miles Labor Government response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. continued access to common law damages without impairment thresholds; b. that lump sum payments for minor injuries will not be replaced with “guaranteed defined benefits”; and c. that premium ranges will be set at an appropriate level to ensure sustainability of the scheme. 	<p>The Miles Labor Government remains committed to no common law changes to the scheme that would disadvantage Queensland motorists and/or those who suffer road industry. A re-elected Miles Labor Government will continue to uphold this commitment.</p> <p>Queensland’s CTP insurance premiums also remain the most affordable in mainland Australia for Class 1 cars and station wagons. The Miles Labor Government is proud of the fact that CTP insurance premiums remain stable, have not increased since 1 July 2023 and remain well below the affordability index. Ensuring CTP insurance premiums remain affordable for motorists while preserving compensation entitlements for injured people is a key priority of the Miles Labor Government and this will continue if elected.</p> <p>A re-elected Miles Labor Government will continue to support the Motor Accident Insurance Commission’s (MAIC) drive for scheme confidence and stability as well as ongoing efforts to ensure continued improvement in the claims process. An outcome of collaboration between MAIC and stakeholders was the development of the best practice claims management guiding principles co-designed with CTP insurers, claimant lawyers, the Australian Lawyers Alliance and the QLS.</p>
<p>115. Improve access to treatment and rehabilitation for injured people in rural, regional and remote settings throughout Queensland.</p>	<p>Only the Miles Labor Government has a comprehensive plan to attract, retain and support a home-grown health workforce that will deliver world-class healthcare across Queensland.</p> <p>As part of our \$1.7 billion Health Workforce Strategy, we are investing a further \$40 million in the scheme to increase our workforce across Queensland. Health workers from interstate or overseas who move to Queensland may be eligible for payments under this scheme.</p> <p>This also includes \$5.2 million to create additional GP training positions to support rural generalist and GP trainees to undertake advanced diploma training in anaesthetics. Training positions will commence January 2025.</p>