

ICE
REGIONAL
COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT

Logan Ice Roundtable

Outcomes Report

Queensland Government



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Government

Introduction

On 6 October 2017, the Honourable Shannon Fentiman MP, Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence hosted the Logan Ice Roundtable.

The roundtable brought together key stakeholders to discuss the impact and issues caused by Ice and strategies to treat and reduce substance misuse for the Logan region.

The Logan Ice Roundtable was part of a series of regional consultations across the State to facilitate feedback on [Action on ice](#) – the Government's draft plan to tackle Ice use in Queensland.

The Logan Ice Roundtable followed the Ice Regional Community Engagement Summit, hosted by the Premier in Rockhampton on 27 April 2017 which brought together more than 150 delegates from across regional Queensland to seek their views on the impacts of Ice in regional, rural and remote areas of Queensland.

Other regional roundtables have also been hosted in Townsville and Moreton Bay focusing on the specific regional issues surrounding Ice.

As a result of these community consultations, the Government announced an immediate response to address the urgent needs of families and communities across the State. As part of the 2017–18 Queensland Budget, an additional \$18 million has been allocated for measures to increase awareness, support families and better equip our frontline service providers to respond to Ice use and harms in Queensland.

This is in addition to the Government's investment of \$43 million over five years under *Connecting Care to Recovery 2016-2021* to increase specialist alcohol and other drug services and \$6 million to establish new and enhance existing Drug and Alcohol Brief Intervention Teams and additional specialist alcohol and other drug treatment clinicians and prevention officers across six Hospital and Health Services.

The *Action on Ice* draft plan informs Queenslanders about Ice and its impacts on the individual, families, frontline service providers and the community. It places Ice within the broader context of responding to alcohol and other drugs (AOD) and focuses on:

- reducing supply, primarily through law enforcement activity
- reducing demand, through prevention, early intervention and treatment, and
- minimising harm, specialised programs, services and initiatives.

The Logan Ice Roundtable, along with other community consultations are part of a broad community engagement process to understand specific community needs in Queensland, before finalising the draft plan.



Roundtable overview

The Honourable Shannon Fentiman MP, Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, welcomed participants to the Logan Ice Roundtable. The Minister explained that the Roundtable was an opportunity for government and community stakeholders to work together to develop local solutions to reduce the impacts of Ice use in the region. Minister Fentiman reiterated that the Government and community need to collaborate and work together in order to make a real difference in preventing and minimising the impact Ice has on families and communities.

Following the opening address, the Honourable Cameron Dick MP, Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services outlined the significant investment made across the health portfolio to address the use and harms of Ice on communities in Queensland. Minister Dick also acknowledged that responses to Ice need to be across all systems – including health, criminal justice, child protection and within and through community-led action.

At the roundtable, Minister Fentiman and Minister Dick announced a new service to support high risk young people in care living with a mental illness and also struggling with substance misuse, including Ice. The investment of \$6.3 million over three years will accommodate six young people at a time, providing intensive support for their mental health and drug withdrawal and rehabilitation needs. The service will help the most vulnerable young people in out-of-home care to have the same opportunities and health outcomes as every other young person. The residential service will be operational by early 2018.

There were approximately 60 people from the Logan community who attended the Roundtable. Delegates included health representatives, community organisations, policy officers, government and frontline emergency service workers who interact with people who experience harms associated with Ice and other substance misuse. Stakeholders worked together to identify potential solutions to respond to issues associated with Ice in the Logan region.

Guest speakers

Mr Cameron Francis, Principal Consultant at Dovetail, Queensland Health provided information about Ice and its impacts including:

- as the level of purity in methamphetamine increases (such as in ice) the adverse impact on people who use can be exacerbated, including the risk of experiencing psychosis
- because Ice is often smoked, it can be easier to initiate use, and Ice use is also highly reinforcing
- the impact of stigma and discrimination on individuals and families can create a barrier for seeking help and assistance



- traditional treatment approaches are effective; however, treatment service models need to be flexible to meet the specific needs of people who use Ice, such as longer periods of withdrawal and recovery
- there are currently no pharmacotherapies that are widely available for methamphetamine use.

Mr David Mooney, Clinical Director, Lives Lived Well provided an overview of the establishment of a Family Recovery Program in the Logan-Beenleigh area, expected to be running in November 2017. This will serve as a temporary alternative for parents/carers with an AOD problem, prior to construction of permanent residential units at Lives Lived Well's existing Logan House rehabilitation site. Mr Mooney explained:

- there is a community need to provide specialist intervention that overcomes parental responsibility barriers impacting treatment attendance
- the approach is a temporary community-based free treatment for families where parents/carers have identified alcohol and drug concerns, including ice
- the model includes a continuous program repeated every six weeks which includes intensive day treatment at the Recovery Units and support in the home environment by staff specialised in AOD counselling and child care
- the program provides immediate AOD intervention for parents/carers who don't match existing community and residential AOD treatment models.

Pre-roundtable engagement

Prior to the Roundtable, participants were asked a series of questions to help guide the conversation on the day. In particular, participants were asked to identify what they perceived were the issues related to service delivery for children, young people and families within the Logan region. Participants identified the following issues:

- drug and alcohol use
- family – violence, conflict and relationship breakdown, supervision, capacity for support, intergenerational trauma
- disengagement from education, community, culture
- homelessness
- housing instability
- crime
- unemployment
- mental health
- service fatigue.

Further, participants also recognised a number of strengths, resources and assets of the Logan community including:

- strong provider networks, fostered through initiatives i.e Logan Together
- strong linkages between government agencies and non-government providers
- well established AOD sector
- dedicated, committed and passionate number of agencies across the sector to support young people and families.



The identification of perceived issues and the strengths, resources and assets were outlined to participants on the day and helped to inform the development of solutions across the themed discussions.

Themed discussions

Participants were separated into five themed discussion areas as outlined below –

- **Health system responses** facilitated by Queensland Health
- **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities** facilitated by the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
- **Supporting families and communities** facilitated by the Queensland Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies
- **Criminal justice system responses** facilitated by the Queensland Police Service
- **Child protection** facilitated by the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services.

From these discussions, the key issues that were identified across each of the groups included:

- limited knowledge of where to seek help and access to appropriate services
- appropriateness of services e.g cultural appropriateness
- disengagement of young people from education, community and culture
- impact of stigma associated with Ice use.

Identified solutions

A number of solutions were identified by each of the themed groups to address the issues raised at the Roundtable. Of the solutions identified, groups prioritised their solutions into the top three as outlined below.

The top solutions from the **Health system responses** discussion were:

- increased investment in alcohol and drug treatment across the spectrum – pre-treatment through to post-treatment
- coordination and integration of care that addresses the needs of individuals and families in a holistic way with all stakeholders
- evidence-based early intervention/prevention programs in the community, including schools.

The **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities** session combined solutions to form an overarching priority:

- the creation of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community connection hub to
 - gain access to government services and referral pathways
 - facilitate family activities
 - act as a safe space for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
 - empower and connect young people to their culture and family to create belonging
 - build cultural capability.



A graphic representation of the solution developed by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities session can be viewed at **Appendix 1**.

The top solutions from the **Supporting families and communities** discussion were:

- build opportunities for families to be empowered to develop their own strategies for self-protection and support e.g family-led focussed support groups.
- mobilise existing interagency networks to provide education to services to know what specialist help is available and what their workforce can do.

The top solutions from **Criminal Justice** responses were:

- expand cautioning, diversion and referral options for users
- ensure our diversion programs are holistic and user focused – acknowledge the impact on families and provide support options.
- redirect street-level police resources to detecting suppliers of Ice.

The top solutions from **Child protection** responses were:

- co-locating families based on leveraging strengths and connections in order:
 - to reduce isolation, increase protective factors, move from negative environments (eg drugs), increase resources within the community, leverage success, identify leadership, provide adequate supports and create safety networks.
- increase in-home support to families, including practical support when neglect is identified
- clear emotional regulation programs, critical thinking – change the education of teachers at the tertiary level.

Report back

Following the report back to the plenary on the solutions identified, participants were able to vote on the top priorities identified by all groups. The solutions that received the most support across all of the groups were:

- expansion of cautioning, diversion and referral options for Ice users
- creation of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community connection hub
- build opportunities for families to be empowered to develop their own strategies for self-protection and support e.g family-led focussed support groups.

The ideas identified at the consultation recognised the need for collaborative approaches and solutions to address the use and harms of Ice.



Conclusion

The Logan Ice Roundtable enabled the engagement of representatives from the community and across service sectors to further consider and understand the impact that Ice is having on the region. Participants were able to provide their views on how to better implement current initiatives in the Logan region, as well as identifying additional initiatives to ensure effective local responses. Together, participants identified a range of potentially workable, effective, community-led solutions that could assist the Logan community to respond to use and harms from Ice.

The Logan Ice Roundtable was part of a series of community consultations across Queensland. Before finalising *Action on Ice*, the Government has sought feedback from other communities across Queensland.

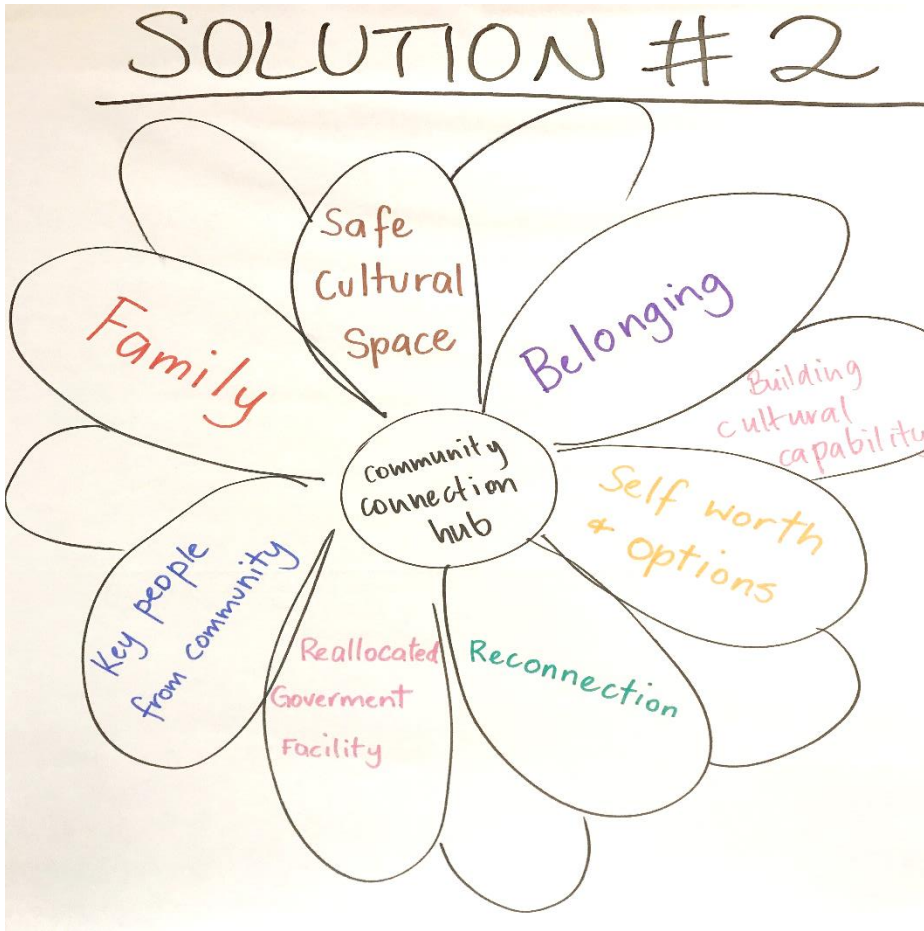
The feedback received has confirmed the view that there is no 'one size fits all' approach to addressing the impacts of Ice in Queensland. Stakeholders also confirmed that governments cannot address these issues on their own, and that responding effectively to Ice use and harms requires the integrated and combined efforts of many agencies across communities including service providers, community groups, workplaces, families and individuals.

Let's keep the conversation going

In addition to participation at the roundtable, the community can stay up to date by following the Queensland Government on Facebook at [facebook.com/QueenslandGovernment](https://www.facebook.com/QueenslandGovernment) and for more information on what the Government is doing to address Ice, search 'Action on ice' on [medium.com](https://www.medium.com).



Appendix 1. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities solution



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