My vision for the health system is a system that is adaptive and responsive to local community needs. That the system is respectful of all cultures, values diversity and strives for equality. For this to happen, I believe that there’s a need to build on the relationships we have with each other, with consumers and particularly with our most vulnerable groups (such as Indigenous people with disabilities), and build partnerships with primary healthcare providers, Aboriginal health service providers as well as community, social and education service providers. That Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are encouraged to influence decision making and be a part of governance across all levels of the health service.

Stephanie King – health consumer, Mt Isa

What do I hope for in the next 10 years? I hope to see an open, transparent process for moving easily between primary care and specialist care, between public hospitals and private hospitals, between health and other government departments as well as non-government organisations. Where the focus is on what’s best for the consumer, rather than whose cost centre is this coming from.

Helen Mees – health consumer, Ipswich

For more information visit: www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/strategic-direction/plans/vision-strategy/
Context
Queensland’s economic and social prosperity is reliant upon the health of each and every Queenslander. Queensland’s health care system ranks amongst the best in the world. In a recent comparison of Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries, Australia was one of the best performing countries, with longer than average life expectancy achieved at a lower than average level of health expenditure.

Our health system however faces significant challenges including a growing and ageing population, high rates of obesity and increasing rates of chronic conditions such as cancer, mental illnesses and diabetes. The status of health and wellbeing varies for individuals and population groups throughout Queensland. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have poorer health outcomes than the rest of the population and people who live in rural communities and those are socio-economically disadvantaged also have a lower health status.

Our investment in health continues to grow. In 2003–2004 in Queensland, total recurrent health expenditure by all sources, State, Commonwealth, private health insurance and individuals (through out-of-pocket payments) was $12.5 billion. This expenditure grew to $29.6 billion in 2013–2014, an annual increase of 6.1%. It is important that our investment in health is financially sustainable and makes best use of the available resources for the benefit of all Queenslanders.

If Queensland’s health system is to continue to rank amongst the best in the world it has to rise to these challenges and embrace new opportunities. These new opportunities are being driven by greater access to information, new innovations and technological advances. The health system will need to adopt new approaches to promoting wellbeing, delivering healthcare, connecting healthcare and pursuing innovation if it is to effectively respond to the needs of all Queenslanders.

My health, Queensland’s future: Advancing health 2026
Advancing health 2026 was developed to respond to the challenges and opportunities we face in Queensland.

Advancing health 2026 establishes a common purpose and a framework for the health system in Queensland. It seeks to bring together government agencies, service providers and the community to work collaboratively to make Queenslanders among the healthiest people in the world.

Health in Queensland: A snapshot

- Population
  - Projected 6 million by 2026

- Disease
  - Chronic diseases include heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes, mental illness
  - Third of people with chronic disease are under 65 years

- Life expectancy
  - In 2010–12: 80.0 years
  - In 2020–21: 80.8 years

- Workforce
  - Budget:
    - $13.1 billion in 2015–16
    - Queensland Health has the largest budget of any Queensland government department

- Vision >> By 2026 Queenslanders will be among the healthiest people in the world

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