Introduction

On 14 July 2017, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General in partnership with Queensland Health and the Queensland Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies Ltd (QNADA) hosted the Moreton Bay Ice Summit (the summit).

The summit was co-hosted by the Honourable Yvette D’Ath MP, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills and the Honourable Mark Ryan MP, Minister for Police. The summit brought together key stakeholders to discuss the impact and issues caused by Ice and strategies to treat and reduce substance misuse for young people in the Moreton Bay region.

The Moreton Bay Ice Summit 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 Moreton Bay forum 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.

Similar to the Moreton Bay Ice Summit, the Premier also hosted a Townsville Ice Roundtable which looked at the issues surrounding Ice in the region.

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 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 across six Hospital and Health Services.

The results of the community consultation, including the written submissions, will be used to inform the finalisation of the Action on Ice plan. The plan informs Queenslanders about Ice and its impacts on the individual, families, frontline service providers and the community. The plan places Ice within the broader context of responding to alcohol and other drugs and has a focus on:

- reducing supply, primarily through law enforcement activity
- reducing demand, through prevention, early intervention and treatment
- minimising harm, specialised programs, services and initiatives.
Summit overview
The Honourable Yvette D’Ath MP, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills, welcomed participants to the Moreton Bay Ice Summit, identifying Ice as an issue of major concern in the Moreton Bay community. The Attorney-General explained that the summit was an opportunity for government and community stakeholders to work together to develop a local plan to reduce the impacts of Ice use, particularly on young people and their families.

Following the opening address, the Honourable Mark Ryan MP, Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services outlined the impact of Ice from a supply perspective and reiterated the Government’s commitment to tackling the harmful effects of Ice use on communities in Queensland.

Approximately 130 people from the local Moreton Bay community attended the Summit. Delegates included representatives from the criminal justice sector, including the legal profession and the Magistracy, health professionals, policy officers, government and community organisations and frontline emergency service workers who interact with young people and families 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 Moreton Bay 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 but 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 Ike Fisher, Research Officer at the Institute of Urban Indigenous Health presented outcomes of research undertaken in the Moreton Bay region as part of the Novel Interventions to Address Methamphetamines in Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Communities research occurring across ten study sites in Australia. The outcomes of this research included:
acknowledgement of limited research in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities relating to Ice use

identification of demographic patterns of methamphetamine use, physical, psychological and social health outcomes, associated behaviours and health service utilisation by current methamphetamine users

community concerns and the social and environmental context of methamphetamine use in Aboriginal communities

implementation of a randomised trial to provide evidence on the feasibility and acceptability of a web-based therapeutic program for treating methamphetamine dependence in Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services.

Themed discussions
Following the context setting provided by Cameron Francis and Ike Fisher, delegates were then broken into one of the following five groups:

- Prevention and early intervention
- Young people who use methamphetamine
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people
- Supporting families and communities
- Criminal justice responses

From these discussions, the key themes identified included:

- Harms associated with drug and alcohol use
- Family and domestic violence, conflict, relationship breakdown
- Parental supervision
- Impacts of trauma and inter-generational trauma
- Disengagement from education, community and culture
- Difficulty engaging young people and families
- Homelessness
- Crime and legal issues
- Unemployment
- Mental health
- Service fatigue
- Peer culture
- Stigma associated with Ice use
- Limited rehabilitation facilities.
Identified solutions

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

The top solutions from the **Prevention and early intervention** discussion were:

- Development of community family fun days that:
  - provide a safe environment for families that are alcohol and drug free, with free entry
  - celebrate community
  - deliver events/activities for all ages
  - community-led in planning and delivery
  - involve a number of community organisations
  - funded through possible sponsorship sources.

- Explore evidenced-based substance use, mental health and life/social skills programs for schools that:
  - are collaborative across the whole of school community
  - look at suspension programs and school holiday programs that are a positive, learning experience

- Centrally based drop in facility/community hub that offers:
  - broad range of activities for all ages including sports, mentoring, social skills and healthy lifestyles
  - staff skilled in mental health, drug and alcohol, trauma awareness and can provide referral pathways to appropriate services
  - family support
  - activities/events hosted by community organisations.

The top solutions from the **Young people who use methamphetamine** discussion were:

- development of a detailed referral pathway for young people in the region to identify gaps, including an exit pathway to employment or other engagement activity

- involvement of young people in consultations to understand their needs and requirements through a youth summit or other creative means

- activity based programming (including diverse activities) that aims to:
  - engage young people and build capacity and resilience
  - be accessible for all eg. affordable, location, time, culture
  - leverage existing services/relationships.
The top solutions from the **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people** discussion were:

- creation of a safe place that is a “one stop shop” that offers 24/7 support to access information and intervention and offers:
  - pro-social and cultural activities as well as mentoring
  - bus for outreach services
  - provision of food to young people
  - program space to function like a “drop in centre”
  - safe space to ensure young people feel comfortable to attend and seek support without feeling labelled.

- needle exchange program that operates 24/7, is therapeutic focussed and mobile, providing outreach services

- change in policy to ensure paid recognised positions, payment for Elders and emerging leaders and jobs for people emerging from substance misuse.

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

- act to reduce community stigma around young people who use drugs and their families by:
  - sharing personalised stories of recovery
  - involvement of professional sporting teams
  - challenging terminology and labels
  - improving media coverage of alcohol and other drug issues

- increased awareness of existing support resources for families by:
  - ensuring links to sites from all treatment service websites
  - providing support to community agencies and businesses to develop formalised action plans to respond where substance issues are identified
  - sustained marketing campaign to raise awareness of resources
  - promoting family drug support days.

- priority access to treatment for parents involved with child safety:
  - assessed as child in need of protection
  - where a family is subject to investigation.

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

- establish a holistic, multi-disciplinary, youth and culturally appropriate service to provide a 24/7 therapeutic response to young substance users and their families that is:
available at any point in the criminal justice system
includes preventative and family self-referral options
suitable for diversion, remand and as a bail support option.

- review of the youth justice legislation regarding the appropriateness of bail and sentencing options for young people
- education campaign with targeted messages and modes of communication for young people.

**Moving forward**
Prior to the summit, participants were asked to identify what they perceived the community strengths, resources and assets were within the Moreton Bay region. These included:

- service collaboration
- dedication, commitment and passion of agencies across the sector to supporting young people and families
- wide range of agencies
- alternative education facilities
- young people
- community infrastructure and access.

Utilising community strengths, resources and assets, attendees then worked collectively to identify key stakeholders, resources available and what other additional elements are required in order to develop and support identified initiatives for the Moreton Bay region.

Delegates identified stakeholders who could be involved to support the development of initiatives:

- Elders, courts, police, health, youth justice, education, community organisations, mental health services, young people, those with lived experience, policy writers, family, local council, sporting groups, academics, mentors, state and federal governments, emergency services, legal practitioners, child safety and housing.

A brainstorm on what resources are available to support the initiatives revealed:

- Social media, focus groups and collaboration between government and community agencies.

Delegates then identified what else is required to develop and support initiatives in the Moreton Bay region:

- explore the possibility of funding opportunities, rehabilitation services and centres, transport, outreach services, positive media exposure promoting help and support, sporting mentors, youth summit, family support, corporate sponsorship, research and marketing strategies, additional training, project management and planning skills and involvement of lead agencies.
The social, legal and health impacts of Ice misuse were recognised as negatively impacting on young people and families within the Moreton Bay region. Services attending the summit indicated their commitment to a collaborative, holistic cross sector response.

**Conclusion**

The Moreton Bay Ice Summit 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 Moreton Bay 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 Moreton Bay community to respond to use and harms from Ice.

These included a commitment to additional training for service providers and the establishment of a working party including local representatives across a broad sector of both government and community agencies within Moreton Bay.

The Moreton Bay Ice Summit is part of a series of community consultations across Queensland. Before finalising Action on Ice, the Government will continue to seek 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 Summit, the community can stay up to date by following the Queensland Government on Facebook at [facebook.com/QueenslandGovernment](http://facebook.com/QueenslandGovernment) and for more information on what the Government is doing to address Ice, search ‘Action on ice’ on [medium.com](http://medium.com).
Appendix

Graphic facilitation design artwork

Most commonly used words during the summit:

- Food
- Plan
- Groups
- Development
- Young People
- Rewards for Participation
- Youth
- Heroes
- Social Media

- Community
- Communication
- Lead Agency
- Forums
- Funding
- Stakeholder Meetings

- Workers
- Drop
- Young People
- Centres
- Collaborative Approach
- Legislation
- Programs
- Bus
Engaged with the Group Youth Ambassadors Youth Justice
Mental Health Community Education Families Schools
Social

Social Workers KYC Drug Response Youth Justice
Youth Justice Magistrates Education

Skate Parks Headspace Young People Agencies Social Media
Role Models