

MCKELL RESEARCH & REPORTS

The Mckell Institute is a progressive research institute dedicated to providing practical and innovative solutions to contemporary policy challenges.

WE ENGAGE ACROSS A WIDE RANGE OF POLICY ISSUES, INCLUDING:

- Education;
- Infrastructure funding and financing;
- Superannuation;
- Health and hospitals;
- Industrial relations and workers' entitlements;
- Economic analysis and modelling;
- Productivity and innovation policy;
- Housing affordability; and
- Social service delivery.



RESEARCH IN 2023

Communities in Crisis: Lifeline QLD Supporting Those in Need.

Australians have had an exceptionally challenging past few years, facing numerous waves of the COVID-19 pandemic and increasingly frequent extreme weather patterns and intense natural disasters. These difficulties have had serious direct and indirect consequences for the mental health of the nation.

Lifeline has seen an increase of 31.6 per cent in usage for their services, with the busiest 62 days recorded occurring in the last 18 months. This report calls for the funding model for community response services, like Lifeline, to move from a 'crisis response' model to one that is proactive and regularised.



Authors Meg Tully & Marni Lefebvre & Sarah Mawhinney

Tough Gig: Worker Perspectives on the Gig Economy

This research project involved one of the largest ever surveys of transport workers in the gig economy in Australia. The 1,036 respondents came from the food delivery, parcel delivery and rideshare sectors of the transport industry, where workers are engaged via apps and algorithms to perform transport work for which they are also required to cover their operating costs and equipment, such as vehicles, safety equipment like helmets, fuel, phones and phone bills, and other expenses. The survey examines pay, conditions, safety and flexibility associated with this work.



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2023 REVIEW

MCKELL INSTITUTE QUEENSLAND

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

SARAH MAWHINNEY



With October marking a year to go until the next state election the next 12 months will provide an opportunity to debate the policy challenges and opportunities that will shape the next decade.

Already we know the next decade is set to be shaped by the infrastructure pipeline underpinning the Energy and Jobs plan, the Housing Investment Fund, the historic spend in Health and the lead in to the 2032 Brisbane Olympics.

It will be crucial to the success of these projects and the continued prosperity of the state of Queensland that we get the delivery right.

We need to understand what just transition looks like practically for rural and regional Queensland communities and seek to identify the opportunities to make transition work.

We need to make sure that we have the right pathway of training needed for these new State defining projects as well as the new industries' that will emerge and ensure skilling for Queenslanders transitioning from existing employment to these new opportunities.

These projects and others are set to shape the state but it is important that we get the delivery right.

While these projects are a priority to respond to and drive the growth of the state, Queensland is not immune to the challenges of the ongoing cost of living crisis with geography of the state a unique added challenge.

The rising cost of living pressure resulting in growing inflation, increased housing cost in rent and property prices, and the rising costs of goods, energy, education and healthcare are an ongoing concern for many Queenslanders.

This poses a challenge for policymakers, to identify and implement measures to mitigate these pressures and ensure that all Queenslanders are afforded a fair go.

At Mckell our focus is on producing progressive research looking at practical and innovative solutions to policy challenges - both existing and emerging.

And in addition to our research, through our events we seek to bring together Ministers of Government, senior policy makers, businesspeople and community leaders to engage with audiences on important contemporary issues.

These conversations provide invaluable insights to drive our research agenda.

With a full schedule of events and research in 2024 we are looking forward to continuing to lead in this space in the coming year.

Sarah Mawhinney, Executive Director, Mckell Institute Queensland

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

RACHEL NOLAN



The McKell Institute exists to develop thoughtful, evidence based, progressive policy that will make a positive difference in Australians' lives.

We do that by bringing together leaders from business, unions, government and civil society for lively and open discussions and by producing leading research, particularly in economic policy.

In Australia, trust in government is in long term decline as people join social movements less and feel more alienated from decision making processes.

We aim to stem that tide – by welcoming debate and contributing practical ideas on the big policy issues of our time.

We have done that this year on issues including wage theft, funding for mental health services and the place of microbusiness in a competitive economy.

At the end of 2023, I thank Executive Director Sarah Mawhinney, our dedicated board and our many speakers, members and supporters for the contribution they have made.

Hon Rachel Nolan, Chair, McKell Institute Queensland

MCKELL EVENTS IN 2023



the transformative QLD Energy and Jobs plan released by the Palaszczuk Government in 2022 Bills and Metcalfe were able to speak to the detail of the plan. *HOSTED BY ALLENS*

In **JANUARY** we were excited to start the year hosting **Director General of the Department of Seniors, Disability Services, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Chris Sarra**. With an extensive and celebrated career as a leader in Indigenous Education Dr Sarra spoke to the progress and opportunities coming from the Pathway to Treaty process and reflected on his own experiences as a leader in Indigenous Education. *HOSTED BY DELOITTE*



FEBRUARY we were fortunate to host two eminently qualified speakers in **CS Energy CEO Andrew Bills and CleanCo CEO Tom Metcalfe**. On the back of



In **MARCH** we hosted a panel discussion with featuring **Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure Steven Miles, Steve Johnston the Suncorp Group CEO, Councilor Peter Flannery, Mayor of Moreton Bay Regional Council and Professor Cheryl Desha, specializing in Resilient Communities and Resilient Infrastructure, Griffith University**. The panel discussed the extent to which natural disasters are changing in Queensland the efforts of all to build resilience and respond in support of Queenslanders affected by these events. *HOSTED BY SUNCORP*



In **APRIL** we had the honor of hosting the youngest Queensland Female Federal Minister when we were joined by the **Hon. Anika Wells, Minister for Sport and Minister for Aged Care**. **Minister Wells** provided real insight into the priorities and workings of a new government and spoke passionately in detail across the breadth of her portfolio. *HOSTED BY MAURICE BLACKBURN*



MAY saw the annual McKell pre-budget address from the **Hon. Cameron Dick MP, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment**. This annual event hosted in the

Queensland Parliament's Speakers' Dining Room has become an annual centerpiece in the McKell Executive Boardroom series with invitations much sought after. The Treasurer was as always incredibly generous with his time and provided some great insights in to the state of the Queensland economy and spoke to some of the international trade opportunities that were emerging following his recent trip to India. *HOSTED BY ORIGIN*



In **JUNE** we were delighted to host former **Griffith University Chancellor and former Queensland Treasurer, the Hon. Andrew Fraser**, *HOSTED BY STAR*



In **AUGUST** we were fortunate to be joined by newly appointed **Queensland Investment Corporation CEO Kylie Rampa**. Kylie provided fascinating insights in to the significant QIC portfolio and the role QIC in supporting the Queensland Government and economy.

OCTOBER

With a year until the next State Election, in October we were joined by the **Shadow Treasurer and Shadow Minister for Trade and Investment David Janetzki**. Held a year out from the next election this Boardroom Lunch provided a unique opportunity for members to hear about the priorities, challenges and opportunities of the alternative Treasurer and Government. *HOSTED BY DELOITTE*



SEPTEMBER saw the inaugural Brisbane Olympics 2032 update where we were joined by the **Chief Executive Officer, Brisbane 2032 Coordination Office, Department of the Premier and Cabinet Graham Fraine**. Graham spoke to the challenges of running a multi-agency event of the scale of the Olympics. *HOSTED BY ALLENS*



MCKELL POLICY DELIVERING OUTCOMES

In **MARCH** this year the The McKell Institute Queensland Branch released a report commissioned by Lifeline Queensland titled **Communities in Crisis: Lifeline QLD Supporting those in need**.

A key recommendation from this report was "There should be a more regularised funding program for nongovernmental mental health service organisations, such as Lifeline. This would help move from a reactive crisis funding model and infrastructure, to a proactive one."

Following significant lobbying by Lifeline, the Queensland Health Minister, Hon. Shannon Fentiman announced significant funding on behalf of the Annastacia Palaszczuk Government for Lifeline, committing to \$12million over 4 years with a further \$12million committed to the Kid's Helpline service.

This funding will, for the first time, see recurrent funding for the vital services Lifeline provides, in the QLD Budget.

A fantastic example of progressive policy research resulting in tangible outcomes for the broader community.

