

Queensland Election Platform



2024

Stroke Foundation is an evidence-based, non-partisan national charity that partners with the community to prevent stroke, save lives and enhance recovery. We do this through raising awareness, facilitating research, and supporting survivors of stroke.

The Queensland Government has committed to ensuring that Queenslanders are among the healthiest people in the world. However, unless further action is taken, it is estimated that by 2050, Queenslanders will experience an additional 5,000 new strokes annually, and there will be an additional 83,000 survivors of stroke living in the community.¹

Stroke Foundation is calling on the next Queensland Government to continue to invest in its proven,

highly effective and evidence-based programs, to ensure Queensland residents know how to reduce their risk of preventable stroke; recognise the F.A.S.T. (Face, Arms, Speech and Time) signs of stroke to reach hospital in time to receive world-class stroke treatment; and are able to successfully transition from hospital to home to continue their recovery journey to live their best possible life after stroke.

Current work in Queensland

We are proud to be partnering with the Queensland Government in taking action to address the impact of stroke in the state. A strong foundation has been established with the delivery of the successful *My health for life* and *StrokeLink* programs.

The *My health for life* behaviour modification program (which Stroke Foundation is delivering as part of the Healthier Queensland Alliance) is helping the Queensland Government to deliver on its commitment to improve the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders through concerted action to promote healthy behaviours. This program is empowering Queenslanders to stay well, and enabling chronic conditions to be detected early, helping participants to reduce their risk of developing stroke, heart disease and type 2 diabetes, and avoid unnecessary hospital admissions, delivering savings to our health system. Participants in the program have demonstrated improvements in healthy behaviours, such as increased consumption of vegetables, and meeting alcohol consumption and physical activity guidelines. Continued funding of the program for another four years will enable it to be strengthened, allowing for further inroads to be made in the prevention of chronic conditions in regional, Indigenous and culturally and linguistically diverse communities across the state.

Improving the quality of stroke treatment and care provided in Queensland hospitals is critical to reducing the impact of stroke on survivors, their families and carers, and our community and health system. The successful *StrokeLink* quality improvement program, that Stroke Foundation has been delivering in Queensland hospitals since 2007, is focused on closing the gap between guidelines and practice. Queensland Government investment in this program (including the collection of data as part of the Australian Stroke Clinical Registry), has contributed to substantial improvements in the delivery of best-practice stroke treatment and care in *StrokeLink* hospitals, including increases in the proportion of patients receiving stroke unit care and a swallow screen or assessment, and being discharged on antihypertensive and lipid-lowering medications.

Prevent stroke. Save lives. Enhance recovery

¹ Deloitte Access Economics. 2020. No postcode untouched, Stroke in Australia 2020.

Key proposals for Queensland	Investment
Prevention: Fewer preventable strokes in Queensland	
<p>F.A.S.T. (Face, Arms, Speech, Time) Multimedia Campaign and Community Education Program.</p> <p>F.A.S.T. education campaigns are proven to increase awareness of the signs of stroke in the community, and calls to emergency services, nationally and internationally. A F.A.S.T. Multimedia Campaign will be rolled out across the state, including an integrated multi-channel advertising campaign, and F.A.S.T. stories delivered via a mainstream media campaign. Through the F.A.S.T. Community Education Program, local volunteers will raise awareness in the community about what stroke is, how to reduce stroke risk, and how to recognise the F.A.S.T. signs of stroke. This will strengthen and maximise existing Queensland Government investments, including the Queensland Telestroke Service, targeting those regional communities covered by the Service, and ensuring residents know the signs of stroke, and the importance of calling triple zero (000) immediately.</p>	<p>\$250,000 per year (over four years)</p>
<p>Continue the My health for life Program.</p> <p>This program is helping stem the rising tide of chronic conditions such as stroke, and its impact on our state's health system. It is critical the Queensland Government continue to fund My health for life beyond 2025, in order to secure the enormous gains that have been made so far in establishing and rolling out this program state-wide.</p>	<p>To be discussed with government for a four-year period.</p>
Treatment: Ensure all Queensland residents have access to evidence-based stroke treatment	
<p>Continue the StrokeLink Program.</p> <p>This quality improvement program, which uses national, state-wide and local data, and expertise and training, to empower Queensland health professionals to deliver best-practice stroke care, will also support Queensland hospitals as they work towards achieving Australian Stroke Coalition Stroke Unit Certification and the new 30/60/90 National Stroke Targets. The program is currently funded until 2026, with the possibility of a two-year extension.</p>	<p>\$600,000 per year* (over three years)</p> <p>*Plus indexation</p>
Recovery: Enhance recovery to help Queenslanders achieve better outcomes after stroke	
<p>MindStrong Program – Enhancing mental health outcomes for the Queensland stroke community.</p> <p>Currently, around 1 in 6 calls to StrokeLine, Stroke Foundation's dedicated helpline, relate to concerns regarding suicide, depression, anxiety or symptoms of psychosocial distress. The volume of calls has increased three-fold since 2021, and calls from Queensland represent the second largest group of users of the service. In addition, more than 50 percent of Queenslanders live in regional, rural and remote areas outside of Greater Brisbane, where access to mental health services is far more limited. Stroke Foundation's MindStrong Program will build greater peer supports for Queensland survivors of stroke and strengthen mental health referral pathways and community supports. The Program will also increase awareness of StrokeLine and Stroke Foundation's Living Well After Stroke (recovery and wellbeing) Program, and enhance the mental health triage and assist capacity of StrokeLine.</p> <p>This Program will improve mental health outcomes for Queensland survivors of stroke, their families and carers, and focus on reducing hospitalisations related to mental health distress in Queensland.</p>	<p>\$2.75 million (over five years)</p>

Stroke Foundation strongly supports the Queensland Government's commitment to ensuring that Queenslanders are among the healthiest people in the world by 2026. As the voice of stroke in Australia, we look forward to continuing to work with the Queensland Government to achieve the key objectives of the *My health, Queensland's future: Advancing health 2026* strategy, strengthening stroke prevention, treatment and recovery, and ensuring more Queenslanders are able to avoid, survive and recover from stroke.

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