

# Free Health Scheme Youth Bill 2009

## Explanatory Notes

### Objective of the Youth Bill

The primary objective of the Youth Bill is to provide greater access to free youth health services, particularly to youth in regions of Queensland where such services have not been readily available before.

This Youth Bill will play an integral role in reforming the Queensland public health system, and will see health services for Queensland's youth dramatically improve. A key component of the reform process is the establishment of the Youth Health Services Committee.

This Youth Bill is designed to strengthen and reinforce the effectiveness of these health delivery services by establishing free youth health centres. These centres will provide free health services—a key component in obtaining valuable health, community and social outcomes and improving the lives of young people.

This Youth Bill will give youth in demographically disadvantaged regions of Queensland opportunity to access services that they have not had access to before. Each community health centre will be staffed by specialised health professionals who will cater to the needs of young people in each region. Regional youth will have unlimited access to health professionals as the free youth regional community health centres will be built close to educational facilities, making it convenient for training purposes. This scheme allows youth with Australian and New Zealand citizenship or Australian residency access to free health care.