



Queensland

## **New Settlement Services Youth Act 2008**

**Act No. 2 of 2008**





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# New Settlement Services Youth Act 2008

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## **New Settlement Services Youth Act 2008**

### **Act No. 2 of 2008**

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**A Youth Act to provide a State-wide framework and shared space to existing support services for newly settled immigrants and refugees**

**[Assented to 4 July 2008]**

**The Parliament of Queensland enacts—**

**Part 1 Preliminary**

**1 Short title**

This Youth Act may be cited as the *New Settlement Services Youth Act 2008*.

**2 Commencement**

This Youth Act commences on a day to be fixed by proclamation.

**3 Definitions**

In this Youth Act—

*board* see section 4(1).

*fixed centre* means a centre located in a permanent structure and not capable of being moved.

*incentives* means benefits provided to induce productivity and motivation.

*Local Government Area* means a region as defined by the Local Government Authority.

*Minister* means the Minister for Communities, Disability Services, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Multicultural Affairs, Seniors and Youth.

*mobile centre* means a centre, such as a vehicle, capable of being moved and relocated.

*NGO* means non-government organisations which provide support services.

*SRA*, see section 9(1).

*support services* means services which provide support and assistance, particularly for refugees, immigrants and disadvantaged persons.

*syllabus* means the outline of a course of study set by the board which an immigrant can access to assist integration, and which includes Australian rights and law, education, communications, multicultural affairs, counselling and administration.

#### **4 The board**

- (1) The Minister together with relevant stakeholders will establish the State Board (the *board*).
- (2) The board will consist of 5 persons selected by the Minister.
- (3) The board will appoint a State Coordinator as its head.

#### **5 Responsibilities of the board**

The board will be responsible for—

- (a) fulfilling the obligations of this Youth Act; and
- (b) developing a State-wide program to help the integration of refugees and immigrants; and
- (c) establishing fixed centres in each of the local government areas; and
- (d) forming an appropriate syllabus to be implemented in each centre; and
- (e) establishing an incentives and reward scheme.

## **Part 2                      Centres**

### **6            Fixed centres**

- (1) The board will establish a fixed centre throughout Queensland on a needs assessment basis.
- (2) Factors to be considered by the board in the needs assessment include—
  - (a) distribution and density of population; and
  - (b) representation of refugees and immigrants throughout Queensland.
- (3) Each fixed centre will have—
  - (a) office space for NGOs; and
  - (b) classroom space and facilities for teaching classes; and
  - (c) trained staff members.
- (4) Each fixed centre will be responsible for—
  - (a) implementing the syllabus; and
  - (b) forming and implementing additional syllabus items responsive to specific needs of the local area; and
  - (c) providing a registry of local support services and relevant NGOs; and
  - (d) providing a help-desk.

### **7            Mobile centres**

- (1) Each fixed centre, with the approval of the board, may also have a mobile centre.
- (2) Mobile centres will have the same responsibilities as fixed centres.

### **8            Area board**

- (1) Area boards will be established to manage fixed centres.

- (2) There must be allocated 1 area board to 3 fixed centres in South-East Queensland and 1 area board to each fixed centre in areas outside South-East Queensland.
- (3) An area board will consist of 7 representatives, 4 to be members of the community assessing the service, and 3 to include social workers, community leaders, members of NGOs and other support services.
- (4) Area boards will meet monthly to discuss the progress of fixed centres and report any issues or local strategies to the State board.
- (5) Area boards will meet regularly with the State board.

## **Part 3                      Establishment of regional                                          framework**

### **9            Implementation of shared responsibility agreements**

- (1) Shared Responsibility Agreements (*SRAs*) are to be entered into between the Commonwealth and the State and the community to provide funding in return for community obligations.
- (2) Area boards will encourage NGOs to enter into SRAs.
- (3) SRAs do not affect communities' access to other benefits or services provided by the board.

### **10        Monitoring of fixed centres**

- (1) Area boards will be responsible for monitoring the standards of fixed centres.
- (2) Fixed centres will enter into standards agreements that will be reviewed by area boards.

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### **11 Area board**

- (1) Each local government area will have an area board to be headed by an area director.
- (2) The area board will consist of members of support services and NGOs in each local government area.
- (3) With the collaboration of the NGOs local strategies will be developed and implemented with all progress overseen by the area director.
- (4) The area board will meet with the regional officer on a 3 monthly basis and meet as an area board on a monthly basis.

## **Part 4 Incentive and award schemes**

### **12 Establishment**

- (1) The board will establish an incentive and award scheme to encourage NGOs and support services to register with each fixed centre.
- (2) Incentives can include increased access to resources, grants, extra training and staff.
- (3) The board will provide appropriate assistance where support services and NGOs choose to relocate to fixed centres.
- (4) Staff of support services and NGOs will be offered training in areas including Australian rights and law, education, communications, multicultural affairs, counselling and administration.

### **13 Award scheme**

- (1) The board will accredit each fixed and mobile centre with bronze, silver or gold status and determine appropriate awards for each level.

- (2) The criteria for these levels will be based on, but not limited to, community involvement.