



Queensland

# Free Health Scheme Youth Bill 2009





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**2009**

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**A Bill**

for

**A Youth Act creating a Youth Health Services Committee to  
design and implement a Free Youth Health Scheme in  
Queensland**

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[s 1]

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**The Youth Parliament of Queensland enacts—** 1

**Part 1 Preliminary** 2

**1 Short title** 3

This Youth Act may be cited as the *Free Health Scheme Youth Act 2009*. 4  
5

**2 Commencement** 6

This Youth Act commences on a day to be fixed by proclamation. 7  
8

**3 Definitions** 9

In this Youth Act— 10

*committee* refers to the Youth Health Services Committee. 11

*councillor* is a member of the Youth Health Services Committee. 12  
13

*dentist* is a person qualified to practice dentistry. 14

*doctor* is a licensed medical practitioner who has graduated from an Australian university. 15  
16

*head councillor* is the president of the committee elected by the committee. 17  
18

*priority areas* are areas that are considered to contain a significant demographic of disadvantaged youth. 19  
20

*registered nurse* is a licensed professional with a nursing degree able to provide all levels of nursing care including the administration of medication. 21  
22  
23

*rural, remote and metropolitan Areas* are the areas classified by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, developed in 1994. 24  
25  
26



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- (c) two representatives from Volunteering Queensland; 1
    - (d) three appropriate members of the public of which two 2  
must be from outside of south east Queensland. 3
  - (2) A minimum of three councillors must be 25 years of age or 4  
under. 5
  - (3) All councillors will serve two year fixed terms on the 6  
committee. 7
  - (4) All councillors must be Queensland residents. 8
  - (5) A head councillor is to be elected from amongst the 9  
councillors on the committee and the election of a head 10  
councillor is to occur at the first meeting of the committee 11  
each year. 12
  - (6) The head councillor may at any point, in consultation with the 13  
Queensland Health Minister, appoint additional councillors to 14  
the Youth Health Services Committee. 15
- 6 Powers and responsibilities 16**
- (1) The committee is to assist Queensland Health design and 17  
implement the Free Youth Health Scheme which provides all 18  
youth deemed eligible under section 8 of this Youth Act with 19  
free health care. 20
  - (2) In forming the design of the Free Youth Health Scheme, the 21  
committee must— 22
    - (a) identify the priority locations for the provision of free 23  
youth health centres; and 24
    - (b) determine what health services are to be provided at 25  
each individual centre. 26
  - (3) In directing the implementation of the Free Youth Health 27  
Scheme, the committee must— 28
    - (a) develop strategies to encourage health care 29  
professionals, retired or practicing, to donate time in a 30  
free youth health centre; and 31
    - (b) adjudicate disputes arising on issues surrounding— 32

- 
- (i) eligibility to be provided free health services; or 1
  - (ii) volunteering at a free youth health centre; and 2
  - (c) regularly review priority locations for the provision of 3  
free youth health centres; and 4
  - (d) regularly review the health services provided at each 5  
individual centre. 6
- (4) The committee may also recommend locations for free youth 7  
health centres in areas that do not meet the criteria of a 8  
priority location under section 7(2). 9

## **Part 3 Free Youth Health Scheme 10**

### **7 Centres 11**

- (1) In accordance with the committee's responsibilities under 12  
section 6(2), priority areas are to be identified for the location 13  
of free youth health centres. 14
- (2) Priority areas are one or more of the following— 15
- (a) rural, remote and metropolitan areas with a higher than 16  
average ratio of people between the ages of 0 and 25 in 17  
the local population; 18
  - (b) rural, remote and metropolitan areas with a higher than 19  
average ratio of tertiary students in the local population; 20
  - (c) rural, remote and metropolitan areas with a higher than 21  
average ratio of people within the low income bracket. 22
- (3) Centres are to be located within a major education or training 23  
facility such as— 24
- (a) a state primary or high school; 25
  - (b) a TAFE; 26
  - (c) a university; or 27
  - (d) a community centre. 28

[s 8]

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- (4) The free health services provided at each individual centre may vary and are to be determined by the committee based on the specific health needs of the community being serviced by an individual centre. 1  
2  
3  
4
- 8 Eligibility** 5
- (1) In order to receive free health care at a free youth health centre, an individual must— 6  
7
- (a) be a permanent resident of Australia; or 8
- (b) be an Australian or New Zealand citizen. 9
- (2) To be eligible, persons must also be 25 years or under. 10
- (3) Once a person outgrows this age group, thus being over the age of 25, they will no longer be eligible for the Free Youth Health Scheme. 11  
12  
13
- (4) Additional criteria for eligibility will be decided by the committee. 14  
15
- (5) Persons will be required to re-submit their proof of residence or citizenship every 12 months to re-confirm eligibility. 16  
17
- (6) The committee reserves the right to grant or refuse eligibility to any person 25 years or under. 18  
19
- 9 Staffing** 20
- (1) Volunteers over the age of 25 are eligible to receive free health consultations at any free youth health centre provided— 21  
22
- (a) they complete a minimum of 15 hours of volunteer service at any of the free youth health centres outside their community within a period of 2 months; or 23  
24  
25
- (b) they complete a minimum of 30 hours per week at the free youth health centre within the individual's community within a period of 2 months. 26  
27  
28
- (2) All volunteers must have a Queensland Government issued blue card at all times. 29  
30

- (3) Volunteers must have a relevant qualification for the tasks and procedures that they are undertaking. 1  
2
- (4) If the conduct of a volunteer has been deemed unsatisfactory or subject to complaint, the Youth Health Services Committee will investigate and take disciplinary measures. 3  
4  
5
- (5) At its discretion the Youth Health Services Committee will— 6
  - (a) suspend or remove a volunteer permanently from duties; 7  
or 8
  - (b) suspend or remove permanently any accrued free health care benefits of a volunteer. 9  
10