



**Part 05**  
Human rights

# Human rights

*The Human Rights Act 2019* (the Act) commenced on 1 January 2020 to:

- protect and promote human rights
- help build a culture in the Queensland public sector that respects and promotes human rights
- help promote a dialogue about the nature, meaning and scope of human rights.

Our actions to further the objects of the Act include:

- providing training to staff in key roles in the lead up to the commencement of the legislation on 1 January 2020
- providing staff with a dedicated intranet page on human rights
- updating the department's Strategic Plan 2020–24 to include a statement on human rights
- updating employee position description and performance development agreement templates to include a statement on human rights
- reviewing the legislation we administer to ensure compatibility with the Act.

During 2019–20, the department worked to ensure that our policies, legislation, practices and services were compatible with the spirit and purpose of the Act.

Legislative amendments to the Local Government Electoral (2020 Quadrennial Election) Regulation promoted protected human rights by:

- enabling the March 2020 local government elections to proceed with COVID-19 public health directives followed and social distancing observed
- promoting the right to life for councillors, committee members and the public and minimising the risk of spreading COVID-19 by allowing teleconferencing and live-broadcast meetings or closing meetings to the public which minimised the risk of spreading COVID-19.

Other initiatives undertaken to promote protect and respect human rights included:

- developing a COVID Safe Industry Plan for Places of Worship to enable Queenslanders to worship safely
- translating information about health and support services into a variety of languages
- providing a \$420,000 funding boost to the Asylum Seeker and Refugee Assistance Program for physical and mental health support services for people on temporary visas.

The department will continue to respect, protect and promote the human rights in our actions and decision-making.