



Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games

The Gold Coast took centre stage in April 2018 during the Commonwealth Games (GC2018), with the department playing a key role in the Queensland Government's coordination of the event. Housing, building, sport and recreation, and cyber security teams delivered a range of services both in the lead up to, and during the Games.

Our Sport and Recreation team, through the Queensland Academy of Sport, supported Queensland's contingent of 128 athletes which collectively won 90 medals – almost half of Australia's tally. Supporting young Queenslanders at a grassroots level to become elite athletes is a key area of focus for the department.

Underpinning this commitment is the development of a comprehensive sport and active recreation strategy aimed at articulating how we can better support Queenslanders to be more physically active, healthier and better connected while also supporting elite success, economic growth and jobs.

Major events can cause disruptions for communities and impact on people experiencing homelessness as well as tenants in the local rental market. In response to these challenges, the department developed the *GC2018 Homelessness Action Plan* which included the provision of an additional 489 beds for temporary emergency accommodation, and support for existing services to provide people with meals, showers, a place to relax and a centralised place to continue to use support services. The department also supplied *gocards* to help people access support services and crisis accommodation.

The local Housing Service Centre worked closely with the Gold Coast Homelessness Network, a group comprised of 50 services including homelessness, housing, drug and alcohol, and mental health services.

A number of initiatives were also developed specifically for the Games, including the establishment of a Homeless Protocol for People in Public Places to help ensure respectful interactions, and that people in need were referred to relevant services, and the Advance to Zero panel which works to link people in need with appropriate housing.

“The Advance to Zero panel is a totally different approach for the housing and homelessness sector, and includes representative agencies and NGOs as well as the department. It has been very successful and will be part of the valuable ongoing legacy left by GC2018.”

Emma Greenhalgh, Project Manager

The department's Building and Asset Services team worked to deliver maintenance to key service facilities like police and ambulance stations during the Games. They were also responsible for the Rugby Sevens venue, Cbus Super Stadium and the base for security personnel at the Tallebudgera Recreation Centre.

Our department's whole-of-government Cyber Security Unit, within the Queensland Government Chief Information Office played a pivotal role in ensuring the security of information. During the Games, the unit worked with agencies to prevent potential cyber threats and was responsible for coordinating incident response and information sharing across the Government and its partner organisations.