The Human Rights Act 2019 protects the freedom, equality and dignity of every person in Queensland. A modern, fair and responsive Queensland respects, protects and promotes human rights.

**Our focus**
- Everybody has human rights – staff, children, students and members of the community.
- Human rights are protected. Rights can be limited if there is a good reason.
- Everybody has a role in respecting, protecting and promoting human rights.
- Thinking about human rights helps us to make better decisions and improve our services.

**Our objectives**
- Promote access to education and the needs of every student.
- Enhance a culture of respect that promotes inclusive, diverse, healthy and productive education and work environments.
- Support culturally safe environments for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Improve outcomes by putting people first in decision making and working with our staff, students and community.

**Our approach**
- **Define** how existing systems and culture respects, protects and promotes human rights.
- **Strengthen** the approach to human rights by lifting capability, awareness and accountability.
- **Embed** systems, structures and education that supports everybody to act and make decisions that are compatible with human rights.
- **Sustain** a culture that respects, protects, promotes human rights through review and continuous improvement.
Queensland’s Human Rights

The Queensland *Human Rights Act 2019* protects everyone’s rights.

**Recognition and equality before the law (section 15)**
Everyone has rights. Everyone has the same rights as everyone else. If a person is not treated fairly it could be discrimination. Discrimination is against the law.

**Right to life (section 16)**
Everyone has a right to feel safe. Everyone’s life should be protected.

**Protection from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment (section 17)**
No one can be tortured or treated in a way that badly hurts their body or mind. No one can have experiments or medical treatment done to them unless they understand and agree. There may be laws which allow a person to be treated without their consent, for example, where it is necessary to save a life or protect them from harm.

**Freedom from forced work (section 18)**
No one can be treated as a slave or be owned by someone else. No one can be forced to work.

**Freedom of movement (section 19)**
Everyone can enter or leave Queensland freely, move around freely within Queensland and choose where they live. Unless the law says otherwise.

**Freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief (section 20)**
Everyone can think and believe what they choose. They can also demonstrate their religion or beliefs in public or private and as part of a group or alone.

**Cultural rights – generally (section 27)**
Everyone can enjoy their culture, follow their religion and use their language. They can also share their culture with other people.

**Cultural rights – Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples (section 28)**
Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people can enjoy their culture, including their traditional knowledge, spiritual practices, beliefs and teachings, language, kinship ties and connection to the environment.

**Right to liberty and security of person (section 29)**
Everyone has the right to be free and safe from physical and mental harm. There has to be a good reason to take away a person’s freedom.

**Humane treatment when deprived of liberty (section 30)**
Everyone has the right to be treated with respect and feel safe if their freedom is taken away.

**Fair hearing (section 31)**
Anyone charged with a criminal offence or who is a party to a civil proceeding can go to a court or tribunal for a fair hearing. Decisions made by courts and tribunals must be publicly available.

**Rights in criminal proceedings (section 32)**
Anyone charged with a criminal offence is presumed innocent until proven guilty and has a number of entitlements. Children must be treated according to their age and to support their rehabilitation. Everyone can have a conviction reviewed by a higher court.

**Children in the criminal process (section 33)**
Children have special protections in the criminal process.

**Right not to be tried or punished more than once (section 34)**
Once a final decision is made about a crime, no one can be tried or punished for the same offence again.

**Retrospective criminal laws (section 35)**
No one can be guilty of a crime if their actions were not unlawful at the time they were carried out.

**Right to education (section 36)**
Children can access a primary and secondary education appropriate to their needs. Everyone can access education and training that helps them get work.

**Right to health services (section 37)**
Everyone can access health services including emergency medical care.

The *Human Rights Act 2019* allows a human right to be limited when it is reasonable and justifiable. An example of this may be, when the limitation is necessary to protect a person’s safety or to promote the human rights of another person or group.

Refer to the *Human Rights Act 2019* for the complete wording of the rights, or read more about the rights on the Queensland Human Rights Commission website.