

Patron: His Excellency
the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC
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Our Future

Dear Member,

The Management Committees of both Genealogical Society of Queensland Inc. and Queensland Family History Society Inc. are in early, but active, discussions regarding possible amalgamation of the Societies, as equal partners, into one organisation, with its resource centre within 8 km of the centre of Brisbane.

Cold hard reality is that Societies are facing challenges threatening their ongoing survival –

- Societies' memberships are impacted by easy online access to records, constantly supplemented by escalating digitisation and uploading to commercial sites
- The average age of members of both Societies is rising as fewer young people join
- Online resources, services and education via remote access are increasingly expected to be offered, to complement "in person" research and learning in Society resource centres
- New premises have to be sought by QFHS in the near future, and GSQ shortly afterwards, entailing relocation costs and rent increases
- We are experiencing an inability to achieve Government assistance with procuring security of tenure over lower-cost premises while operating as two separate Societies

Benefits

A single Queensland family history and genealogy organisation offers superior benefits to members and the community.

A single Queensland entity would have greater standing and enhanced ability to negotiate effectively with Government and other agencies.

Amalgamation of both Societies would ensure a more sustainable family history and genealogy organisation for Queensland.

Impediments

Management of change involving different cultures, routines, personalities and historical initiatives

Significant but one-off human and financial costs in physically merging two separate and long-established organisations would be incurred, including relocation, merging of collections and libraries, and rationalisation of resources and services.

Consultation

This first communique will be followed by others providing regular updates on amalgamation discussions and investigations. You will find more detailed information attached or online at <https://www.qfhs.org.au/ourfuture>.

Have your say

Your input is welcomed. Ensure your feedback is included in the process by sending it in the next week by post, or by emailing ourfuture@qfhs.org.au

Thank you for your interest.

Yours sincerely

Bev Young

President - QFHS