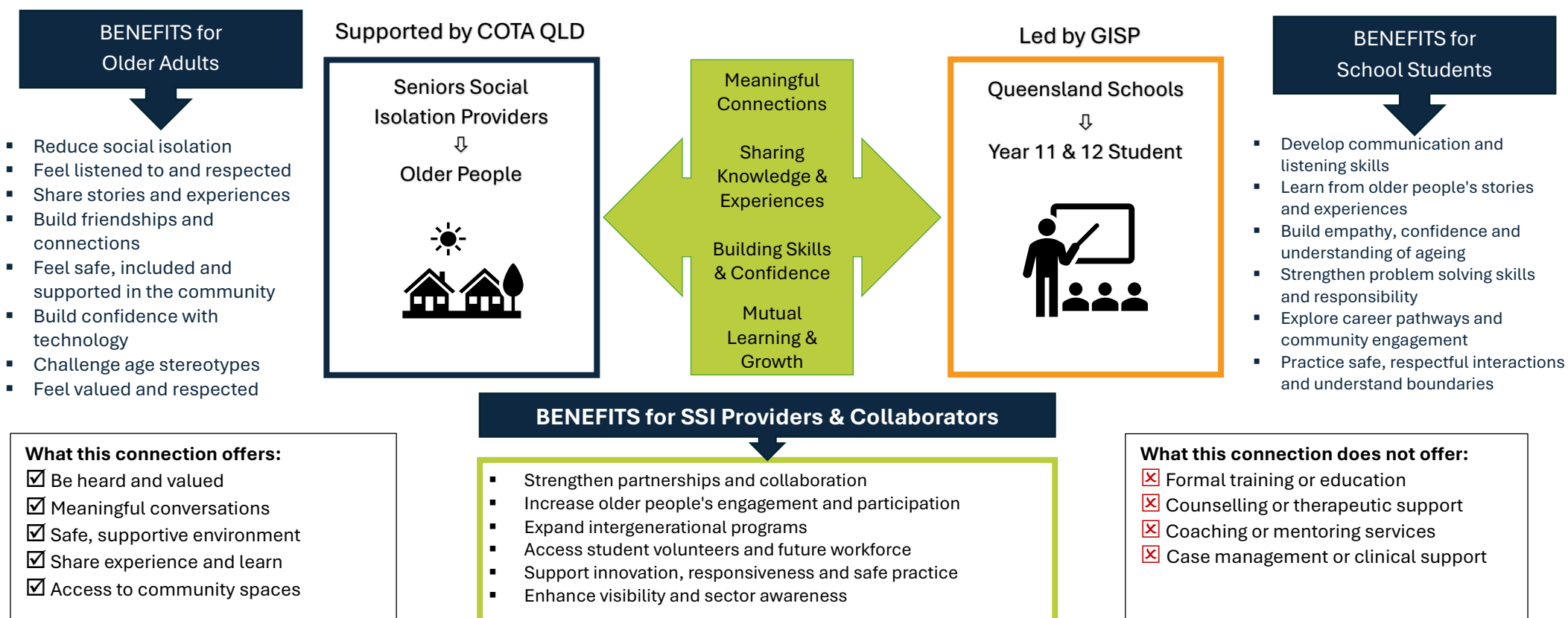




SENIORS SOCIAL ISOLATION PEAK SERVICES PROGRAM

Emerging Opportunity: Reducing Social Isolation through Intergenerational Connections in Queensland

Aims: To improve wellbeing and reduce social isolation for older people through intergenerational connection in community-based settings, while supporting students to build skills and explore career pathways, and increasing provider capacity through student involvement and digital support within existing services.



Impact: This initiative strengthens intergenerational connections, reduces social isolation for older adults, builds skills and confidence for school students, and supports sustainable, innovative community activities that activate local spaces as hubs for learning, engagement, and social inclusion.

An initiative of COTA Queensland through the [Seniors Social Isolation Prevention Peak](#) and [Community Services Gateway to Industry Schools Program \(GISP\)](#)

OUTCOMES

Older Adults	Students	SSI Providers and Collaborators
• Feel listened to, respected and valued in interactions • Share life stories, career or carer experiences, and personal insights • Build friendships, emotional connections, and personal insights • Feel safe, included and supported in local community spaces (community centres, libraries) • Gain awareness of and access to other community programs and opportunities • Improve confidence in using technology and participating in activities • Experience cognitive stimulation, new perspectives, and learning through intergenerational exchange • Challenge age stereotypes and feel respected by younger generations • Reduce feelings of loneliness and social isolation	• Develop communication, listening and interpersonal skills • Learn from older people's stories, experiences and perspectives • Build empathy, confidence, and emotional intelligence • Enhance problem-solving, teamwork, and practical skills through shared activities • Experience following through on commitments and responsibilities • Explore career pathways and community • Engagement opportunities in real-world contexts • Learn to engage safely and respectfully in community spaces with diverse populations and understand boundaries	• Strengthen partnerships and collaborations with schools, students and community hubs • Expand intergenerational service offerings and program reach • Increase engagement and participation of older adults in their programs • Access student volunteers and future workforce for projects and support • Support innovation, responsiveness and adaptation in service delivery • Enhance visibility, profile, and awareness of SSI programs and their community impact

IMPACT

Older Adults	Students	SSI Providers and Collaborators
• Reduced social isolation and loneliness across participating communities • Increased sense of purpose, identity, and belonging • Sustained engagement in local community activities and lifelong learning opportunities •	• Enhanced empathy, intergenerational understanding, and social awareness • Increased confidence, communication, and employability skills • Lifelong engagement in community participation and civic responsibility •	• Sustainable intergenerational programs integrated into service delivery • Stronger community partnerships and improved sector innovation • Increased visibility, credibility, and impact in local communities • Local spaces (libraries, neighbourhood centres) activated as hubs for engagement, learning, and social connection