

Queensland Centre for Olympic & Paralympic Studies (QCOPS) 2025

The University of Queensland

Acknowledgement of Country

The University of Queensland (UQ) acknowledges the Traditional Owners and their custodianship of the lands on which we meet.

We pay our respects to their Ancestors and their descendants, who continue cultural and spiritual connections to Country.

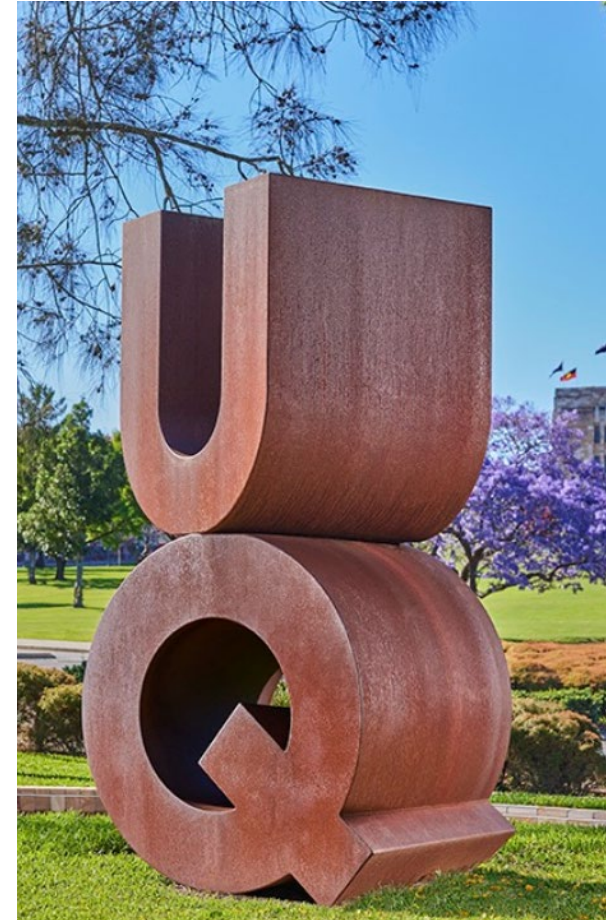
We recognise their valuable contributions to Australian and global society.

*The Brisbane River pattern from A Guidance Through Time
by Casey Coolwell and Kyra Mancktelow.*



Centre Overview

Prof John Cairney



Thank you from QCOPS team!

To our valued industry and government partners, University affiliates and QCOPS members

Our Partners



Affiliate University Members



Welcome new QCOPS Members in 2025/26

- **Professor Tom Baldock** (UQ, School of Civil Engineering)
- **Professor Tim Carroll** (UQ, School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences)
- **Dr Jessica Hill** (UQ, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences)
- **Dr Dillon Landi** (UQ, School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences)
- **Dr Jessica Lee** (UQ, School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences)
- **Dr Kiah Smith** (UQ, School of Social Science)
- **Dr George Thomas** (UQ, School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences)
- **Associate Professor Carl Woods** (UQ, School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences and Queensland Academy of Sport)
- **Professor David Martin** (UQ, School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences and Queensland Academy of Sport)
- **Dr James Woodforde** (UQ, School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences)
- **Dr Paul Smith** (UQ, School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science)
- **Professor Tracy Kolbe-Alexander** (University of Southern Queensland, School of Health and Medical Sciences)
- **Dr Andy Spalding** (University of Richmond USA, School of Law)

Restructured QCOPS Themes



Health Legacy
[Associate Professor Sjaan Gomersall](#)



Inclusion and Disability
[Associate Professor Emma Beckman](#)



Indigenous Sport
[Dr Kai Wheeler](#)



Tourism and Mega Events
[Dr Monica Chien](#)

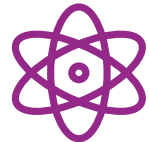


Strategy and Engagement
[Dr Sharon Hinton](#)



Athlete Health
[Associate Professor Michelle Smith](#)

HWCRI Snapshot to May 2026



Key Collaborative Projects

- Health Legacy for Brisbane2032
- Physical Activity Agenda
- Logan Healthy Living
- Wellness my Way
- Move and Measure it!
- Performing Arts for Wellbeing
- Podsquad

Logan
HealthyLiving+



>340
Lead or
co-authored
publications



60

Students
(Undergraduate to
PhD candidates)

>20

Industry and Government
partners

>30

National and International
University Collaborations

>30

Research Projects
underway

QCOPS Snapshot to 2025 - 2026

>30

QCOPS Members globally:
↑ by 43% in 2025

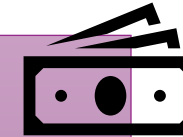
>20

Partnering Organisations

>10

QCOPS Hosted Public & Industry Events

>\$680,000
Secured to support
Consultancy and Research
Projects



Brisbane 2032
Olympic and Paralympic
Games Host
Queensland



Health Legacy



Inclusion & Disability



Indigenous Sport



Tourism & Mega-events



Strategy & Engagement



Athlete Health

>30
Research
Publications



Our Partners



Affiliate University Members



Queensland Centre for Olympic and Paralympic Studies

- The only IOC sanctioned Olympic Studies and Research Centre in Queensland and one of three Australia-wide.
- ***Aims to increase academic and public knowledge of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.***
- ***Connects*** scholars from UQ and affiliate university members with influential thinkers in industry, government, and community bodies.
- ***Promotes*** community knowledge about the Olympic and Paralympic Games, through hosting public lectures, community events, and educational programs.
- Committed to work with our partners to ensure the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic games leave a ***positive legacy for our region, and beyond.***

QCOPS KEY PARTNER

Health and Wellbeing Queensland is committed to ***delivering a transformative health legacy***, harnessing the momentum and opportunities of the Brisbane 2032 to create lasting, transformative health outcomes for communities across the state.

QCOPS Hosted Events in 2025

Youth Game Changers

- The third year of UQ Youth Game Changers (YGC) was hosted at UQ between 26 - 28 November 2025.
- 96 participants from 18 schools across Queensland
- Queensland urban and regional, Yeppoon, Gladstone, and Tara Shire + Australian Islamic Colleges + Meikei Gajkuan High School in Japan



QCOPS Breakfast Series

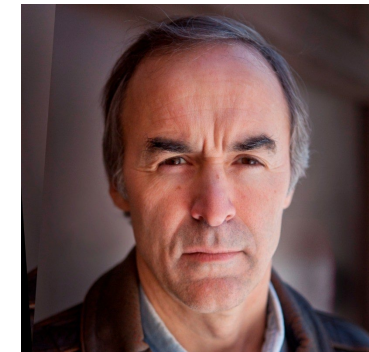
“Towards 2032: Creating Healthy Places and Sustainable Futures through Culture, Community and Environment” with **EarthCheck** – 14 November 2025



“Advancing Sports and Human Performance through Data and Design ” with **Peko Hosoi** – 25 July 2025



“Where the Sports World is Going: Leveraging Innovation for Brisbane 2032 and Beyond” with **Rick Burton** – 12 February 2025



GSUN Summit 2025

- Hosted by UQ, the 2025 GSUN Summit was held in Brisbane in October.
- “Harnessing the Power of Sport for Innovation”
- The event attracted presentations and panel discussions from a wide range of academics, policy makers, and industry leaders – including a large contingent of QCOPS members



QCOPS-led Project Highlights

Safe Sport Regional Hub Feasibility Study – Pacific Region	 International Olympic Committee
Culture of Community Sport in Australia	 Australian Government Australian Sports Commission
Support Needs Assessment Tool (Olympism365)	
Quality Sport Experiences	
UQ Olympic and Paralympic Digital Hall of Fame	 THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA
New Era Women in Sport Leadership Evaluation	

The Social Environment and Youth Athlete Mental Health: Profiling Sport Experiences and Wellbeing in Australian Volleyball Player



Table 3. Description of sport experiences between latent profiles

Variable	Profile 1 (<i>n</i> = 110)	Profile 2 (<i>n</i> = 75)	Profile 3 (<i>n</i> = 113)	Profile 4 (<i>n</i> = 77)
Coaches	−0.79 (−0.97, −0.60)	−0.59 (−0.83, −0.35)	0.49 (0.29, 0.68)	0.99 (0.93, 1.05)
Parents	−0.65 (−0.83, −0.47)	−0.26 (−0.46, −0.05)	0.13 (−0.06, 0.32)	1.04 (0.88, 1.20)
Teammates	−1.10 (−1.26, −0.94)	−0.10 (−0.47, 0.27)	0.45 (0.30, 0.59)	1.04 (0.99, 1.09)
Generalised perception of sport experiences	−1.16 (−1.32, −1.01)	−0.09 (−0.33, 0.14)	0.58 (0.50, 0.66)	0.91 (0.86, 0.96)

Table 4. Difference in mental health outcomes between the latent profiles

Variable	Profile 1 (<i>n</i> = 110)	Profile 2 (<i>n</i> = 75)	Profile 3 (<i>n</i> = 113)	Profile 4 (<i>n</i> = 77)	Omnibus test
Psychological Distress	14.13 (13.16, 14.94) ^{a,b}	13.67 (12.30, 15.04) ^c	12.67 (11.96, 13.38) ^{a,d}	10.97 (10.20, 11.75) ^{b,c,d}	$\chi^2(3)=28.22$, $p<.001$
Happiness	8.60 (8.21, 8.99) ^{a,b}	8.56 (7.98, 9.13) ^{c,d}	9.21 (8.99, 9.44) ^{a,c,e}	9.86 (9.58, 10.13) ^{b,d,e}	$\chi^2(3)=35.23$, $p<.001$
Wellbeing	77.38 (74.75, 80.01) ^{a,b}	76.08 (71.74, 80.43) ^{c,d}	84.15 (82.24, 86.06) ^{a,c,e}	89.32 (87.30, 91.33) ^{b,d,e}	$\chi^2(3)=63.52$, $p<.001$

Note. ^{abc} values in the same row that share a common superscripted letter are significantly different from each other $p<.05$. Mean differences between profiles were estimated controlling for participant age, gender, country of birth, and time spent playing volleyball each week.

What next for QCOPS in 2026?





Thank you

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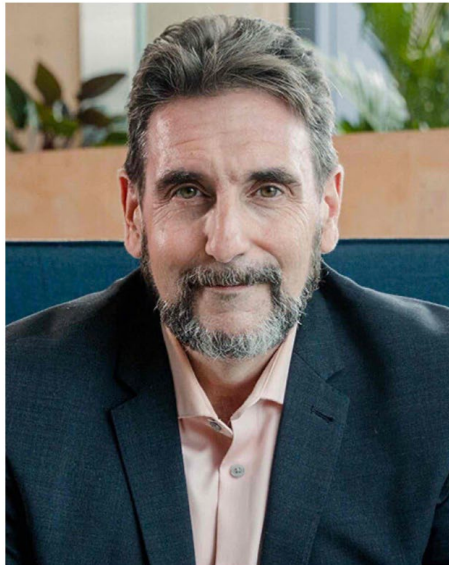


School of Kinesiology, University of Michigan

has guided the school
enhancing academic
access, operational
infrastructure
s, will remain in the
/s appointment

most and executive
democratic affairs,
recommendation

a powerful
early depth and
o the role of dean,”
work has reshaped
child development,
mental health, and
as a researcher and



John Cairney

June 27, 2026

February 9, 2026
Share on:

John Cairney recommended as next School of Kinesiology dean

By Jeff Bleiler
The University Record

Topics: [Academics](#), [Campus News](#)

TODAY'S HEADLINES

- [U-M's FY '27 budget invests in student support services](#)
- [Henry Russel lecturer, awarded for 2027](#)
- [Granger family continues support donation for new behavioral health](#)
- [Behm named regents chair for Meyers to be vice chair](#)
- [VP Arthur Lupia to leave U-M](#)