



the  
**pti-MINDS**  
*creative sustainability* challenge

State Final Handbook

2025



# You're invited to the... 2025 State Final!

## CONGRATULATIONS!

As a result of your exceptional achievements in the Regional Challenge, you are invited to attend the Opti-MINDS State Final as a representative of your region. The invitation extends to each of the team members who participated in the Regional Challenge, as well as a maximum of two adult facilitators.

### IMPORTANT NOTE FOR FACILITATORS:

When not engaged in official activities, supervision of team members is the responsibility of their facilitator/s and accompanying adults at all times. **One adult per team MUST be available on Saturday to act as a Team Supervisor during State Final Challenge preparations (three hours) and over lunch.** This supervision will not be with your own team.

Please consult with participants' parents/guardians, and your school principal (if applicable) immediately. RSVP by Thursday 11 September 2025 (5.00pm) via this link: [State Final Response Form](#). Parents/guardians are also required to complete a [Medical Indemnity Form](#) for their child/children. Please collect these and bring them to the State Final with you. Opti-Officials will ask for Medical Indemnity Forms at the point of team registration.

## EVENT OVERVIEW

Teams will travel to the University of Queensland on Saturday 18 October and make their way to the UQ Centre upon arrival. A detailed itinerary will be provided closer to the event.

<p><b>Saturday</b> 18 October 2025</p>	<p>8.00am: Arrival at University of Queensland (UQ Centre); teams register attendance. 9.00am: Official welcome (UQ Centre Lecture Theatre). 9.40am: Teams move to preparation rooms. 9.45am: Teams begin State Final Challenge (three-hour preparation period commences). 1.00pm: Conclusion of three-hour preparation period; lunch. 1.40pm: Teams, facilitators, and audience members move to presentation rooms. 1.45pm: Team presentations begin. 4.45pm: Team presentations conclude. 5.00pm: BBQ and Opti-Disco 6.00pm: Teams depart.</p>
<p><b>Sunday</b> 19 October 2025</p>	<p>8.30am: Arrival at University of Queensland. 9.00am: Welcome and overview of day's events; You're the Voice. 9.30am: Teams move to presentation rooms. 9.45am: Teams set up 20/20 Opti-VISION Youth Forum displays. 10.00am: Ideas Market (Each team presents an idea as part of an 'ideas market'). 11.00am: Morning tea. 11.30am: Regional discussion; teams vote to 'endorse' an idea. 12.30pm: Display pack down; teams return to lunch area. 1.00pm: Lunch. 1.45pm: Closing ceremony and awards presentations. 3.00pm: Event closed; teams depart.</p>

## Event Information

# What's it all about?

The Opti-MINDS State Final event is a 2-day celebration of the creativity, ideas and achievements of participants. On Saturday, participants work together to prepare a ten-minute play in three hours! This rigorous challenge provides an opportunity rarely presented to students - and results in enormous personal and academic growth. On Sunday, students present an ideas market; a forum for participants to give voice to their visions for a bright future.

## SATURDAY 18 OCTOBER: CHALLENGE DAY

Teams prepare a solution (**ten-minute play**) to a Challenge Scenario as per the category and division they were selected to represent. They are given three hours in which to do this - and all materials will be provided. A facilitator from another team will supervise your team in this period. The team will complete a Spontaneous Challenge within the three-hour preparation period as well.

Judges, Team Members and Room Supervisors are the only attendees permitted to enter Preparation Rooms during the three-hour period.

Friends and family members are invited to attend the presentation of team solutions (ten-minute plays) from 1.45pm. Information regarding the location of presentation rooms will be shared closer to the event. Following presentations, teams, facilitators, and supporters are invited to celebrate with a meal and outdoor disco from 5.00pm.

The highest scoring teams in each category and division will be named the State Final Champions! Winners will be announced at Sunday's Closing Ceremony and presented with certificates, medallions, and a perpetual trophy to display at school.

## SUNDAY 19 OCTOBER: 20/20 YOUTH FORUM

The 20/20 Opti-VISION YOUTH FORUM invites teams to generate an idea for the future with the intention of making a positive difference. They are to pitch the idea, ensuring that they explain how they intend to ACT in order to bring the idea to life!

Teams present their idea in market-style stalls. Each team is allocated space and the use of a small table for the display of 'media' (posters, models, brochures, inter-active elements etc.) they wish to feature in their stall. We ask that teams use Blu Tack on walls - strictly NO sticky tape. Note that we cannot guarantee access to power - avoid the use of laptops and other devices in your display. Team members take turns hosting the stall so that all participants can take the time to explore the ideas on display.

To further build student agency, teams will cast a vote to select one team to 'endorse'. The teams with the most votes will receive a \$500 Opti-VISION Donation to support their efforts to bring their idea to life! 20/20 Opti-VISION YOUTH FORUM donation recipients will be announced at the Closing Ceremony.

# The State Final Event

## How can I prepare?

The following information is essential reading for facilitators:

### For Immediate Consideration:

- ✓ While we would LOVE to see you at our State Final event, IT IS NOT COMPULSORY for your team to attend/participate. If you are unable to attend, please notify your Regional Director/s ASAP (so that we may offer the opportunity to the team with the second highest score).
- ✓ If you are eager to attend, consult your parents and your principal immediately. The completed response form must reach us NO LATER THAN Thursday 11 September 2025.
- ✓ All members as listed on your original Team Nomination Form are eligible to attend (there can be no substitutes) - even if for some reason they were not all able to attend the Regionals. If only three members can attend, that is acceptable without penalty.
- ✓ Each team must be accompanied by at least one adult - who will be asked to supervise a team during the three-hour preparation period on Saturday morning, and during lunch.
- ✓ All participants and facilitators MUST purchase the DAY PACK detailed in this Handbook. Supporters may purchase the pack if they wish to have a tee shirt and meals as per participants and facilitators.
- ✓ Media Communication teams are required to bring devices for use with their Challenge Solutions. They should bring devices capable of capturing and editing images/footage. UQ provides free Wi-Fi, and details for accessing this service will be provided along with Challenge documents and materials.
- ✓ If you are travelling to Brisbane and you require accommodation, it is critical that you book urgently. Options will quickly diminish as the event approaches! Teams travelling by air should contact travel agents immediately to ensure flight availability as well as to take advantage of cheaper fares.
- ✓ All costs must be met by the team/school.

### Preparing for the State Final Event:

- ✓ Re-read the Opti-MINDS Facilitator's Handbook to review Challenge rules/expectations.
- ✓ Practise Spontaneous Challenges.
- ✓ Develop some strategies for approaching the three-hour Challenge. Don't OVER practise. Opti-MINDS should always be FUN. Teamwork is the most ESSENTIAL ingredient.
- ✓ Generate an idea for the future (Opti-VISION 20/20 Youth Forum). Consider how the idea might be acted upon and create a display that promotes the idea. Your goal is to persuade fellow participants to support and endorse your idea.
- ✓ Consider how your team will dress for the Opti-VISION 20/20 Youth Forum (Sunday).

NOTE: You do NOT need to wear all black/white on Challenge Day (Saturday). Team members are to wear their official Opti-MINDS State Final Tee-Shirt for this element of the weekend. Tee-Shirts are collected upon arrival.

# Package Inclusions

# What will it cost?

## TWO-DAY PACKAGE: \$210 PER PERSON

### THE ABOVE COST PROVIDES:

- Saturday Meals - Morning Tea, Lunch and Dinner
- Sunday Meals - Morning Tea and Lunch
- Disco with DJ
- Opti-MINDS Commemorative State Final Tee-Shirt
- Participation Certificate
- Three-Hour Challenge - Scenarios, Materials, and Judges
- Three-Hour Challenge - Certificates, Medallions and Perpetual Trophies
- Opti-VISION 20/20 YOUTH FORUM - 4 x \$500 'Endorsement' Donations
- World-Class Venue - University of Queensland
- An unforgettable experience!

Please note that this package is compulsory for participating students and facilitators. It is optional for supporters accompanying teams.

Should you accept the invitation to attend the State Final event, a tax invoice will be emailed to your nominated accounts person for payment.

### Questions and Inquiries:

Phone Number: 0404 523 091

Email Address:

**Communications Director - [daniela@opti-minds.com](mailto:daniela@opti-minds.com) (General Information)**

**Challenge Director - [deborah@opti-minds.com](mailto:deborah@opti-minds.com) (Challenge Day and Youth Forum)**

**Marketing Director - [colleen@opti-minds.com](mailto:colleen@opti-minds.com) (Donations and Promotions)**

**Accounts - [admin@opti-minds.com](mailto:admin@opti-minds.com) (Orders and Payments)**