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Welcome to a new year in the affordable housing and homelessness sector.

With the Omicron outbreak, we acknowledge this has been an especially difficult start to the year for many of us, particularly our service providers. We are committed to continue being your representative voice to government, so please reach out to us as we share difficulties and build solutions together.

We are opening this month's Housing Matters with a media statement responding to the [Lord Mayor's call for more affordable housing within the cross-river rail major development area](#).

We are encouraged by the sentiment behind his statement, and hope this encourages other Local Government Areas to explore their capacity to also become champions of affordable and social housing.

Yours sincerely,



*Fiona Cariglieri*

**Executive Director**

**Queensland housing peak welcomes Lord Mayor's call for  
affordable housing**

Queensland Shelter, a state-wide peak body for the affordable housing and homelessness sector, welcomes Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner’s call for the Woolloongabba Cross River Rail (CRR) Priority Development Area (PDA) to deliver 30% of dwellings as affordable housing.

Manager of Strategic Projects, Emma Greenhalgh, said that while 30% affordable housing is a much higher proportion than the current minimum commitment in the Interim Land Use Plan, it is critical that the publicly owned site maximises social benefits and that these remain in perpetuity for the community of Brisbane and Queensland.

“We know the housing crisis is already impacting those on average incomes, including our health and front-line workers. For those on low or very low household incomes however, the situation is dire.

“We would like to see targets that prioritise lower income households, as well as targets for moderate income households. We would also like to see a clear implementation plan on how the social and affordable housing outcomes will be delivered on this site,” Ms Greenhalgh said.

Queensland Shelter, who has recently facilitated a series of workshops between Community Housing Providers and government representatives to unpack opportunities within the [Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2021 -2025](#), recognises the capability and expertise of Queensland’s Community Housing Providers.

[Continue reading the full media statement.](#)

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## Welcome to the team

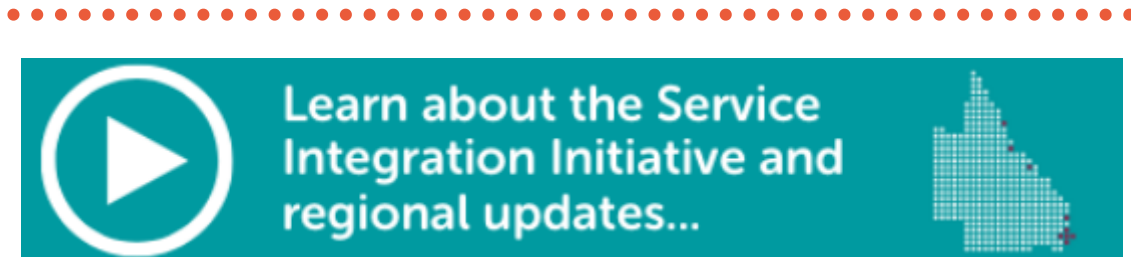
We are thrilled to be welcoming several new staff members to our team. Some have just started, others have been around a little longer (but we haven't officially introduced them to you yet!) Each individual not only brings great expertise, but deeply shares our vision of seeing every Queenslanders with a home. Welcome!



(L-R). Andrea Thomson, Office Administrator, is passionate about inclusion, social justice, and helping other people's voices be heard. She is also a gifted singer-songwriter.

Sarah Callaghan, Project Officer, has over 15 years' experience designing, implementing, and monitoring public policy, organisational change, and capacity-building programmes across East and West Africa and South Asia. Sarah is excited about contributing to a high-quality, effective, sustainable, and inclusive housing and homelessness sector.

Pssst...we are looking forward to also introducing Floyd Stephens, Team Leader - Sector Capacity - in a special events bulletin next week.



Click the banner above to watch a short video highlighting the state-wide work of the initiative.

## Backbone Support

Happy New Year to all!!

Following on from 2021, and with the initiative funded as part of the Queensland Governments ['Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2021 – 2025'](#): this year already see's preparations and engagements underway focused on:

- Strengthening regional processes and structures in ***Townsville, Mackay, Sunshine Coast, Ipswich, Brisbane, Redland and Logan***
- Supporting workforce capability-building opportunities in ***Cairns, Townsville and Mackay***
- Supporting focus groups:
  - Informed consenting & privacy processes when coordinating multi-disciplinary responses. ***Representatives from Cairns, Townsville, Mackay and Brisbane***
  - Regional Housing & Homelessness Network framework in ***Redland***
- Re-commencement of the twice monthly 'Community of Practice' (CoP) in early February with guest speakers from the [Office of the Information Commissioner](#) (OIC). The CoP is attended by ***Care Coordination Facilitators from all initiative regions.***

Continuing to enhance the structure and reporting capabilities of the Service Integration Initiative, work has resumed in the following areas:

- Client Management System (CMS): increased functionality and reporting, enabling collection and access to meaningful, contemporary regional and initiative-level data
- Revision to Action Research Study Framework to test outcomes and impact of the initiative
- Review and refinement of the previously published Service Delivery Framework, acknowledging the learnings gained from the implementation

phase

Further work is planned to commence later in the year, focusing on '***Sustainability through Succession***'. This work is vital to ensure that regional processes, structures and relationships are constantly reviewed and strengthened whilst also ensuring there is sufficient intellectual capital regionally to maintain the gains and momentum of the initiative to date.

I very much look forward to working with you all during 2022.

Stephen Hawkins, Service Integration Facilitator

## Cairns

Cairns Housing & Homelessness Integration Initiative (CHHI) panel meetings have recommenced for the year with two meetings occurring in January 2022. The meetings have been well attended despite the difficulties COVID has presented for the community services sector. CHHI panel meetings are fortnightly with the next meeting scheduled for 9 February via Teams. For more information about CHHI or to discuss a referral, please contact Regional Care Coordinator Fiona Oates at [Fiona.Oates@gshelter.asn.au](mailto:Fiona.Oates@gshelter.asn.au)

Cairns Housing & Homelessness Network (CHHN) meetings have also recommenced for 2022. The January meeting was attended by 19 people representing 15 organisations. The meeting facilitated a good opportunity for organisations to express how the Omicron outbreak has impacted staffing levels and service delivery. Frustrations and solutions were shared as part of this fruitful discussion. CHHN meetings occur monthly with the next meeting scheduled for 16 February. For more information about CHHN please contact chair Sally Watson [sally@shac.org.au](mailto:sally@shac.org.au) or Regional Care Coordinator Fiona Oates [Fiona.Oates@gshelter.asn.au](mailto:Fiona.Oates@gshelter.asn.au)

## Mackay

Mackay Care Coordination meetings will run every second Tuesday 11am to 12.00pm from 8 February 2022 - meetings are via TEAMS at the moment.

Whitsunday, Isaac, and Mackay Housing and Homelessness Action Network (WIMHHAN) bi-monthly meetings also resume online from 10 February.

Please contact Yvonne Harris at [Yvonne.Harris@gshelter.asn.au](mailto:Yvonne.Harris@gshelter.asn.au) or phone (07) 3831 5900 Ext. 121 for further details about both groups.

## Sunshine Coast

Please join us for the first strategic planning session for the Sunshine Coast Housing and Homelessness Network on Tuesday 8 March, 9.30-11.30am (online).

This meeting will be a facilitated workshop to assist us to plan for 2022 and decide the ongoing focus of the network's activities.

Representatives from the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy will also be presenting on the progress and implementation of the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan, and place based initiatives. [Register your interest here.](#)

## Brisbane

[Tenants Qld](#) will do an online training session of their DFV Tenancy Toolkit on Wednesday 9 February for participants in the Brisbane region care coordination network. We've already had 75 people register for the session!

Under 1 Roof met for the first time in 2022 on 18 January.

Brisbane North Care Coordination will meet for the first time this year on 3 February.

South West Care Coordination Group met for the first time in 2022 on 12 January.

South West Networking met on 27 January. Please contact Danny at [Daniel.Taber-Kennedy@qshelter.asn.au](mailto:Daniel.Taber-Kennedy@qshelter.asn.au) for more details.

## Redlands

Congratulations to [Footprints](#) for successfully gaining funding to deliver the Homeless Response Service across Redlands, Wynnum, Southern Moreton Bay Islands and North Stradbroke Island.

Access to [the program](#) is now available through this [referral form](#).

Our first Care Coordination meeting for 2022 on 19 January saw a great turn out of service providers, and a client successfully housed with full wrap-around, ongoing supports.

The Redlands Care Coordination meetings will run every second Tuesday 11am-12.30pm from 1 February. Meetings are online via TEAMS at the moment. Please contact Bree Tukavkin on (07) 3831 5900 Ext. 119 or [Bree.tukavkin@qshelter.asn.au](mailto:Bree.tukavkin@qshelter.asn.au) for further details.

We are also in the process of rejuvenating the Bayside Housing & Homelessness Network. If you are interested in being involved, please contact Bree (details above)

or Stephen Hawkins- [sii@qshelter.asn.au](mailto:sii@qshelter.asn.au) for more details.

## Logan

Logan Care Coordination meetings recommenced on 11 January and will continue running every second Tuesday from 11am-1pm. They will be happening via TEAMS until Public Health Advice recommends it is safe to cease working from home, and meetings can resume in-person.

Please contact Logan's Regional Care Coordination Facilitator, Bec Hinton, on (07) 3832 5900 Ext. 120 or email [rebecca.hinton@qshelter.asn.au](mailto:rebecca.hinton@qshelter.asn.au) for more details.

## Gold Coast

A wonderful local GP, Dr Dona Hooshmand, will continue COVID-19 clinics to allow people to access boosters along with first or second doses. These pop-up clinics were a great success last year and were run in collaboration with Griffith University who is completing research into this work.

Our Rough Sleepers Working Group has had fantastic outcomes with eight long-term rough sleepers housed in the five weeks leading to Christmas. All are settled into their homes and well supported--either through transitioning to NDIS or maintaining mobile support.

The [Gold Coast Homelessness Network](#) (GCHN) is also busy planning for the annual Gold Coast Homelessness Symposium on Wednesday 9 March. With COVID concerns, we are building several contingency plans including moving completely online.

Contact Ryan O'Leary at [ryano@qcross.org.au](mailto:ryano@qcross.org.au) for more details.



Are you keen to help your team upskill? Want to know more about learning opportunities in 2022? Keep an eye on your inbox for next week's special events bulletin and be the first to learn what we have in store to help our sector thrive in the new year.

In the meantime, here's a snippet of some of our upcoming events.



Learn about the housing and homelessness sector

Thu, 17 Feb 2022 1:00 PM AEST



Asset Managers' Network meeting February 2022

Thu, 24 Feb 2022 10:30 AM AEST

Free



Basic Governance Training

Thu, 24 Feb 2022 3:00 PM AEST



Q Shelter Learning Exchange March 2022

Tue, 1 Mar 2022 4:00 PM AEST

Free



## Sector updates

### Job opportunities

[Project Officer](#) (Brisbane). Q Shelter. Come work with us!

[Housing Officer](#) (Bribie Island) and [Administration Business Support](#) (Brisbane)  
Churches of Christ Housing Services

[Case Worker](#) (Nambour) and [Case Worker](#) (Brisbane). Kyabra Community Association.

[Family Support and Advocacy Worker - KFT](#) (Brisbane) Micah Projects

[Case Manager](#) (Bundaberg). Regional Housing Ltd.

[Relief Worker](#) (Brisbane). Women's House Shelta.

[Intake Housing Support Worker](#) (Brisbane). Zig Zag Young Women's Resource Inc.

[Property Manager](#) (Townsville) and [Assistant Property Manager](#) (Logan) National Affordable Housing Consortium.

[Tenancy Officer](#) (Tweed Heads) and [Community Support Worker](#). Momentum Collective.

[Case Manager](#) (Brisbane). Open Doors Youth Service.

## Grants & Learning Opportunities

**Online launch of Report: Ending Homelessness in Australia.** 7 February 2021. [Register here.](#)

**Social & Affordable Housing Industry Induction (online) with Australian Housing Institute.** 8 February. [Register here.](#)

**EOIs open for Sunshine Coast Legacy Plan Community Reference Group.** A great opportunity for sector representatives to join an advisory committee to shape the Sunshine Coast's legacy plan for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. EOIs close 10 February 2022. [Learn more.](#)

**Directing Change Scholarship 2022.** Australian Network on Disability and Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) are offering 15 full-fee scholarships to undertake either the [Foundations of Directorship](#) program or the [Company Directors Course](#) at AICD. Plus, 8 months of mentoring with an Australian business leader to help winners maximise their board career opportunities. Applications close 13 February. [Learn more.](#)

**In-person registrations for the National Housing Conference close 13 February,** and virtual registrations 24 February. [Register here.](#)

**Queenslanders with Disability Network (QDN)** and their project partners at GIVIT and Volunteering Queensland (VQ) are excited to let you know of their new project: [Access Affordability Ability \(AAA\) Digital Inclusion](#). AAA Digital Inclusion is a project working to make sure that people with disability have user friendly devices that are fit for purpose, data, knowledge and skills to be able to connect to and be included in the digital world.

## News stories

[Street medic named 2022 Young Australian of the Year.](#) News.com.au

[Let's make housing a basic right in 2022.](#) Canberra Times.

[The Singapore-inspired idea for using super for housing that could cut](#)



[costs 50%](#). The Conversation.

[The new partnership examining an innovative women's housing solution](#). Pro Bono News.

[Almost half of people seeking help for homelessness in NSW in past year did not get it, report finds](#). The Guardian.

[The Everybody's Home campaign calls for federal housing assistance](#). The Examiner.

[New Zealand has adopted a radical rezoning plan to cut house prices – could it work in Australia?](#) The Guardian.

[New data reveals increasing income support payments reduces homelessness](#). SBS News.

[Australia's five biggest worries in 2021](#). The Sydney Morning Herald.

[Is it possible to be content renting long-term?](#) ABC News.

## Research & Policy

**Submissions for the Productivity Commission's Housing and Homelessness Agreement Review** are due Monday 21 February 2022. This study examines how well the Australian, State and Territory Governments have achieved the objectives, outcomes and outputs set out in the Agreement, and the suitability of the Agreement for the future.

The review also looks at the impact of social and economic factors, including the coronavirus pandemic, on housing and homelessness in Australia.

[Learn more and make a submission here](#).

**Specialist homelessness services annual report 2020–21**. Both people experiencing homelessness and those at risk of homelessness are supported by specialist homelessness services (SHS). In 2020–21, SHS agencies provided support to almost 278,300 clients who each had a variety of different needs and reasons for seeking support.

**Make Renting Fair in Queensland (MRFQ) - Rental Reform Survey**. The Queensland State Government legislated a number of changes to tenancy laws on 14 October 2021. Most of these are yet to commence, however, the government have committed to a second stage of the tenancy law review to be undertaken in 2022.

MKRQ need your help to improve tenancy laws! They want to know what you think

are the most important elements of the tenancy experience, to help them focus on their advocacy in the next stage of the review. [Complete a short survey here.](#)



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“I’ve felt very heard and supported over the past few days. Going back home, knowing we have you on our side, is such an encouragement”.

**Regional Representative, Regional Representatives Meeting June 2021**



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