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Housing and homelessness experts meet to develop legacy plan

State-wide housing and homelessness peak body Q Shelter is gathering a forum of experts on Wednesday to develop a detailed legacy plan for Brisbane 2032.

'Brisbane 2032 is our opportunity to make history by redefining how mega-events can ensure that the benefits are fairly distributed to people who are most often excluded,' says Executive Director, Fiona Caniglia.

'Without significant planning and investment now, housing markets are likely to become even less affordable and many people currently living near transport and employment will be displaced.'

'Queensland could achieve a housing legacy with innovative employment strategies built in. Integrating these is critical to wellbeing and could genuinely offer vulnerable Queenslanders a sustainable housing outcome that also creates life-changing economic opportunities.'

One of the ideas that will be considered at the Forum is ensuring that there are supported housing developments in all major population centres in the State.

'This type of housing solution integrates support so that vulnerable people can exit from homelessness and sustain their housing. The expansion of supportive housing throughout the State contrasts with crisis-driven approaches at the time of mega-events that see people moved to temporary accommodation. We must do everything to prevent a temporary response in favour of housing solutions now that will achieve long-term, sustained results for people who are facing homelessness.'

Q Shelter is also proposing the establishment of a housing trust to capture contributions through social procurement and corporate social responsibility. A trust is also an opportunity to involve the whole community in supporting investment in social and affordable housing.

'Overall, we must ensure that targets for housing are based on the needs of the entire population, and that includes targets for social and affordable housing. Basing growth targets on a clear understanding of all needs means that we can plan to meet those needs and prevent a future surge in homelessness,' says Ms Caniglia. 'Given the inward migration to Queensland, this requires investment from all levels of Government and a clear role for community housing providers in the delivery of social and affordable housing.'

The Forum will also consider how social enterprise employers can become stronger as a result of the Games. 'This is a real opportunity to strengthen social enterprise employers who are at the forefront of building businesses that are innovative and inclusive, creating jobs that change people's lives.'

The Forum is being held in Brisbane's CBD ahead of a gathering of CEOs and Leaders from across the housing and homelessness system. The whole day is focussed on amplifying real



solutions with an emphasis on early planning and implementation rather than crisis-driven responses.

ENDS

Media opportunities for comment by Q Shelter Executive Director, Fiona Caniglia, and Q Shelter Manager of Policy and Strategic Engagement, Jackson Hills.

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