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Specialist Homelessness Services Bulletin

National Housing and Homelessness Agreement (NHHA) – ERO Supplementation Payment discontinued

Dear colleagues,

Last week, Homelessness Australia and the Australian Services Union met with Minister for Housing and Homelessness, Julie Collins MP, to discuss proposed cuts to homelessness services because of the Federal Government discontinuing funding for Equal Remuneration Order (ERO) wage rises.

The Minister has confirmed that the Government plan to discontinue this funding from 1 July 2023.

Background

- The ERO supplementation was designed to help the industry meet costs associated with the Equal Remuneration Order decision by the Fair Work Commission in 2011.
- The current National Housing and Homelessness Agreement (NHHA) will be rolled over for 12 months from 1 July 2023, while the government produces a new National Housing and Homelessness Plan.
- The rolled over NHHA agreement will not include the ERO supplementation, which will cut \$65 million from the sector putting up to 650 positions at risk, nationally. From a Queensland perspective, this could mean a funding shortfall of \$68 million over five years, equivalent to the loss of more than 80 frontline service workers.
- Homelessness Australia, National Shelter, the Community Housing Industry Association and ACOSS are launching a joint letter to the Treasurer and Housing

and Homelessness Minister calling for the funding to be reinstated.

- Q Shelter has also written to the Federal Housing Minister and State Minister for Communities & Housing, Leeanne Enoch, and will continue to highlight the issues with the media and the community, as we have already begun to do
- You can read Homelessness Australia's [full briefing about the ERO cuts here](#).
- You can access Q Shelter's media release by [clicking here](#).

Key Messages

- The demand for homelessness services is far greater than it has ever been. This is not the time to reduce the number of people at the front line.
- The targeted COVID measures to house people have now ceased, rental costs have surged, and net migration to Queensland is higher than in any other state.
- This funding cut could set the industry back decades and significantly erode the gains made by the sector, industry partners, and the state government over the last 12 months, particularly the progress emerging from the Queensland Housing Summit last October.
- The housing and homelessness agreement must cover the higher wages mandated by the Fair Work Commission to sustain current levels of staffing. We cannot allow critical services to be cut at a time of surge demand on homelessness assistance amid a housing crisis in Queensland.

Suggested local approach.

1. We strongly suggest specialist homelessness services (SHSs) contact their Federal and State/Territory representatives about this matter. This could include:
Writing to / or emailing your local MP expressing your concerns.
 1. Seeking a meeting with your local MP to discuss the funding implications.
 2. Inviting your local MP to visit your SHS service so they can see firsthand the importance of the sector's vital work.
 3. Informing and engaging a broader base of local community leaders so they understand the issues and can work to help explain and promote the importance of sustained funding beside our sector.
2. Contact your local media outlets and express your concern over the cuts to funding and the impact you think they might have on service delivery in your local community. This might include your local newspapers, TV and/or radio.
3. Post stories on your social media about the importance of your work in the industry, and how greater certainty for funding that supports staff on the frontline is critical.
4. Feel free to share Q Shelter's posts on social media on this issue to further explain the impact across the whole sector.
5. Collaborate with other services and providers in your region to amplify your efforts and overall message.

6. Keep Q Shelter informed of your progress and of the issues you identify so we can help.

We need to work together to make the strongest case possible and demonstrate the broad support to maintain homelessness funding in a housing crisis.

You can stay in touch with Q Shelter's advocacy for expanded funding for Specialist Homelessness Services, a recurrent tenancy sustainment program and a renewed focus on early childhood prevention to reduce the number of people on a trajectory towards homelessness in later life. [Click here to subscribe to our newsletters.](#)

For advice, support, and further advocacy discussions, please contact:

Jackson Hills
Manager, Policy & Strategic Engagement
Q Shelter
(07) 3831 5900 EXT +109
Jackson.Hills@qshelter.asn.au

Yours sincerely,



Executive Director

Interested in helping craft our policy and influencing solutions to housing need and homelessness? [Consider becoming a Q Shelter Member.](#)

