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March Home Matters

Strategic engagement in North Queensland

Our team stopped in at [Douglas Shire Council](#) last week and met with Mayor [Michael Kerr](#).

The shire is struggling with housing due to the current construction environment and cost of development, especially in the regions. We had productive conversations with the mayor and council officers about how conditions could work for Community Housing Providers in the future, given the funding streams now online.

The team also visited Jo at Douglas Shire Aged Persons Home Inc who is delivering on the needs of a growing cohort of mature aged women in housing stress and homelessness in the region.

Our Manager of Policy and Strategic Engagement, Jackson Hills, also had the opportunity to speak with [Christopher Testa](#) from [Australian Broadcasting Corporation \(ABC\)](#) Far North about the federal government's new housing package and the role of local governments in planning. The conversation also included supportive policy development that stimulates social and affordable housing development, including the example of [Cairns Regional Council](#) who have recently adopted their new [Housing & Homelessness action plan](#).

[You can listen to a recording of the interview here, from 1.19.00.](#)

There's lots more to do, but we are thankful for the many individuals and organisations who are doing incredible work to collaboratively support their communities.

>> Our Executive Director, Fiona Caniglia, also facilitated a strategic planning workshop for the Cairns Housing and Homelessness Network. Scroll down to our Service Integration section for

more details!



Jackson Hills (Q Shelter Manager, Policy and Strategic Engagement) with Douglas Shire Council Mayor Michael Kerr and Floyd Stephens (Q Shelter Manager, Capacity and Integration).

Webinar for Community Housing Providers on the new round of the Housing Investment Fund

Thursday 9 March 2023 from 1.30pm - 2.00pm AEST. Online.

The State will outline how Community Housing Providers can get involved in social and affordable housing projects, explain the focus of the new Private Site Invitation, outline some ways the HIF model can work and summarise the process, timing and evaluation criteria that apply to this round of the Housing Investment Fund.

REGISTER NOW



\$2B Housing Investment Fund

Housing Older Women in Queensland: Latest trends & responses

Last week, [Housing for the Aged Action Group](#), the [Housing Older Women Movement](#) (HOW M) and Q Shelter hosted an event discussing the latest trends and responses to the crisis in older women's housing in Queensland.

120 participants attended the session, which covered:

- a nuanced discussion of the issue of older women's homelessness, the lived experience of older women facing homelessness and the latest housing tenure trends in Queensland
- the need for specialised responses
- the Queensland Government's responses
- how to make [referrals to the new Housing Older Women Support Service \(HOWSS\)](#)

Thank you to everyone who attended, and to Tracy from the HOW M who generously shared her story of lived experience with us. [Learn about HOW M's work, their upcoming events, and advocacy in their latest newsletter.](#)

"The weaving of an individual story of housing precarity with very current and well presented data and reference to systems and structural analysis (which we all need to consider as we respond from our different roles and perspectives) was an excellent format. Thank you." Online participant

Planning reforms to benefit community housing

In December 2022, the Queensland Government held a workshop detailing planning reforms relevant to community housing providers. These reforms contribute to addressing the current housing affordability and supply challenges that communities are facing across Queensland.

[Learn more about changes to regulation of rooming accommodation, infrastructure designation pathways for social and affordable housing, and changes to secondary dwellings here.](#)



Training & Events



March Learning Exchange - Gender Pay Equity and Financial Wellbeing

Tuesday 7 March 2023, 4:00pm - 5:00pm. Free and online.

A large portion of the social services workforce, including the housing and homelessness sector, are women. **On the eve of International Women's Day**, our March Learning Exchange guests Beth Dwine (Women's Health and Equality Queensland) and Kathryn Rendell (Basic Rights Queensland/Working Women's Queensland) will discuss gender pay equity and financial wellbeing.

REGISTER NOW



Feeling the Pulse on Housing Investment and Growth

Wednesday 15 March 2023, 2:00pm-2:45pm. Free and online.

This is a regular monthly session for community housing providers who are working on growth projects. It is an opportunity to exchange learning, identify challenges and barriers, and to work on

finding solutions together.

We run these sessions on the third Wednesday of the month, excluding school holidays.

REGISTER NOW

Asset Managers' Network Meetings 2023

Thursday 16 March 2023, 10:30am-12:00pm. Free and online.

The dates are booked in for this year's Asset Managers' Network Meetings, with the first scheduled for 16 March.

The Network provides a forum for Community Housing Providers to share issues and best practice, and to hear from experts in the field.

REGISTER NOW

Peer Leadership training - expressions of interest

Q Shelter is committed to ensuring that the voices of people with lived experience are active and influential in shaping policy, investment, and program design in Queensland.

We are interested in hearing from people with lived experience of homelessness, social housing tenants, or people whose housing needs are not being met who would be interested in training to learn new, or, enhance existing skills in peer leadership.

People who complete the training will have the opportunity to become Peer Leaders and help shape housing and homelessness policy and service delivery and support the voices of lived experience.

Peer Leaders help to:

- educate others about a cause within the community,
- encourage others to make a positive impact,
- empower others to educate or make a positive impact.

[Please complete an Expression of Interest if you would like to be involved.](#)





Workforce Wellbeing

To coincide with International Day of Happiness on 20 March, this month's wellbeing topic is ... happiness! If you are stuck for something to do that would bring happiness to your workplace, [check out our wellbeing page this month.](#)

We have resources that will make you laugh until you cry and ones which will help you think about what happiness is, and what happiness looks like to you.

We hope you enjoy exploring the world of happiness, and we hope you find you Ikigai.

The training and events below are part of our Workforce Wellbeing offering. Look for the leaf icon to find more Workforce Wellbeing events.

Fortnightly Chair Yoga Express

Tuesday 7 March 2023, 12:00pm-12:15pm. Free and online.

Reclink Australia and Q Shelter have partnered to bring the housing and homelessness sector **Chair Yoga** to target better health and wellbeing. Each session is free and uses the same Zoom link, so register now and put it in your calendar as a recurring event.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Responding to vicarious trauma at work

Friday 31 March 2023, 9am-12pm or 1pm-4pm. Pacific Pines, Gold Coast.

Thursday 20 April 2023, 9am-12pm or 1pm-4pm. Spring Hill, Brisbane.

Thursday 11 May 2023, 9am-12pm or 1pm-4pm. Rydges Esplanade, Cairns

Friday 12 May 2023, 9am-12pm, Brothers League Club, Innisfail

This training is an introduction to vicarious trauma, helping participants recognise the signs and protect our workforce from its serious impacts. We are offering morning and afternoon options for these first training dates on the Gold Coast and Brisbane.

We are planning to deliver this series for five regions across Queensland, with more dates being added later in the year.

Note: Some sessions have already booked out. Please register ASAP to avoid disappointment!

REGISTER NOW



What is Vicarious Trauma?

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Safe Places Emergency Accommodation Inclusion Round

[A discussion paper for the Safe Places Emergency Accommodation Program \(Inclusion Round\) is now open for comment.](#) The Department of Social Services is seeking input to inform the design of the Inclusion Round. Your feedback will inform the building, purchase or renovation of new emergency accommodation for women and children leaving family and domestic violence.

Read the discussion paper at: www.engage.dss.gov.au Submissions close 10 March 2023. For more information, visit: www.dss.gov.au/ending-violence

Community Housing Industry Australia (CHIA) will hold a member consultation on the Department of Social Service's Safe Places Emergency Accommodation Inclusion Round on Friday 3 March, at 12pm-1pm AEST. If you would like to attend please [register here](#).

Research

- [Census analysis reveals an enormous increase in the number of older Queenslanders living in private rentals](#), according to new analysis commission by Housing for the Aged Action Group (HAAG).

In 2021 there was 172,000 people over 55 living in private rentals in Queensland, an increase from 101,000 in 2011. HAAG Executive Officer Fiona York says it speaks to the size of the challenge facing Queensland as its population continues to age and the housing crisis shows no signs of abating.

- [A new report by PRD also highlights how lower affordability and low supply means home ownership is impossible for a growing number of Australians. The report offers five potential housing supply solutions.](#)



2023 Gold Coast Homelessness Symposium

Yesterday, the Gold Coast Homelessness Symposium was held at Robina Community Centre

The theme for 2023 was “Connecting Communities Together”. Congratulations to the Gold Coast Homelessness Network for putting together another incredible agenda this year, with a focus on collaboration.

Our networks are so critical in bringing together the combined housing and homelessness efforts from across the regions, sharing best practice and solutions for people experiencing housing stress and homelessness.



Q Shelter colleagues at the Gold Coast Homelessness Symposium supporting The Services Union and Homelessness Australia's [campaign calling on the Albanese Government to properly fund homelessness services](#) so people in urgent need can get help, and workers can be paid properly to provide a critical service.



Last chance to have your say on Brisbane 2032 legacy outcomes



What do you want to see achieved from Brisbane 2032 as we host the Olympic & Paralympic Games?

[Take a minute to share your hopes and dreams for affordable housing for all with the 2032 Legacy Committee.](#)

That's how we can make sure a home for all Queenslanders is on the agenda as one of the lasting benefits before, during and after the Games.

Their survey closes TOMORROW, 3 March 2023.



Job opportunities

[Chief Operating Officer, Q Shelter, Brisbane.](#) Come work with us!

[Housing Specialists \(multiple positions\) YFS, Logan.](#)

[Intake and Assessment Worker - Community Finance, Kyabra, Brisbane](#)

[Housing Support Worker - HATS, Brisbane Youth Service](#)

[Footprints Community have a number of positions available working with the Housing Older Women Support Service.](#) Atherton, Brisbane, and in the community.



Service Integration

Cairns

The Cairns Housing & Homelessness Network were excited to have Q Shelter's Executive Director, Fiona Caniglia, facilitate our Strategic Planning Workshop on Tuesday 21 February.

As well as creating a two-year strategy (including an overall advocacy strategy to increase housing stock and service delivery to the region) the network also identified four immediate actions to support vulnerable members of their community.

Key focus areas included young people and their experience of homelessness, and women and children experiencing domestic and family violence. A huge thank you to the sixteen organisations who attended. Having support services, regional council, state government (and more) all working on solutions together was an incredible testimony to the region's commitment to collaboration.



Mackay

Mackay Housing Service Centre is celebrating its 30th birthday with an open morning on Thursday 2 March 2023. Local service providers will be able to learn more about the Centre and greet new staff in an informal walk through of the office.

The [Housing Older Women Support Service \(HOWSS\)](#) is setting up in Mackay, co-locating with Q Shelter member Greater Whitsunday Communities in a beautiful heritage-listed town hall building. Watch this space for an update when everything is set up!

The **Mackay Care Coordination Group** continues to meet fortnightly on every second Wednesday via Microsoft Teams. Next meeting will be 8 March 1.30PM to 3.00PM. Please contact Yvonne.Harris@qshelter.asn.au for more information.

Moreton Bay

The **Moreton Bay Housing & Homelessness Network** held its first meeting for 2023 on 21 February. The Network meets monthly. Members of the Network have formed the Reconnect 2023 Working Group.

Reconnect 2023. Save the Date: 1 June 2023. Reconnect brings together people experiencing homelessness in the Moreton Bay region to connect with services. It is also an opportunity for organisations to network with other services or programs in the Moreton Bay region.

Care Coordination. There are two care coordination groups meeting fortnightly in Moreton Bay. The Moreton Bay North Care Coordination Group meetings are facilitated fortnightly online via Teams. The Moreton Bay South Care Coordination Group meetings are hosted fortnightly in person at the Encircle Kallangur Neighbourhood Centre and online via Teams.

For more information about the Moreton Bay Housing and Homelessness Network, Reconnect 2023, or Moreton Bay Care Coordination Groups and possible referrals, please contact the **Moreton Bay Regional Care Coordinator, Shane Frost** at mbcarecoordination@encircle.org.au

Brisbane

The South West Care Coordination Group continues to meet fortnightly on every second Wednesday via Microsoft Teams. If you are working with an individual or household who is homeless or at risk of being homeless with complex needs, please consider a referral into the SWCCG.

For more information please [contact Daniel Taber-Kennedy](#).

Redlands, Bayside & Southern Moreton Bay Islands

There's [a new flyer available](#) for the **Southern Moreton Bay Islands (SMBI) Community Hub** events over the next six months. Look out for the flyer and keep it as a handy reference, and we look forward to seeing at our next event. You can also find [more information on the SMBI Hubs page](#).

The next **SMBI Community Hubs**:

Russell Island Hub at the Recreation Hall **Wednesday 8 March**, 9am-1pm.

Macleay Island Hub at Community Centre Hall **Wednesday 5 April**, 9am-1pm.

Bayside Housing & Homelessness Network meets monthly, on the first Thursday. Join us from 10am to 12pm at Bayside Housing Centre, Shop 3/8-12 Dollery Road, Capalaba. Our next meeting

will be on Thursday 2 March. For more information please contact the Network Facilitator, Breanne Tukavkin at bree.tukavkin@qshelter.asn.au or call 0411 738 159.

The **Redlands Care Coordination** meetings will run every second Tuesday 10am to 12pm. Meetings are held at the Bayside Housing Centre, Shop 3/8-12 Dollery Road, Capalaba. The next meeting is 14 February 2023. Please contact Bree Tukavkin on 0411 738 159 or Bree.tukavkin@qshelter.asn.au for further details.

Please use these links if you need to access the [Care Coordination Consent Form](#) or the [Care Coordination Groups Referral Form](#).

Logan

The Logan region continues to focus on identify the current services who are funded to deliver hoarding and squalor supports and to identify further areas of need. The first meeting for 2023 was held on 3 February and the next will be held 14 April 2023.

Logan's Care Coordination Group (CCG) meetings are continuing to flourish with the additional of new organisations. This has resulted in effective outcomes for clients referred to CCG and outstanding service collaboration. Current service participation includes representatives from both government and non-government housing and homelessness services as well as mental health services, health services, youth services, CALD services, aged care services, family services, DV services and employment services.

Meetings are held fortnightly in person at Access Community Services. The next meeting will be Tuesday 7 March 10am-12.00pm.

The **Logan Homeless Housing Network (LHHN)** will recommence on 30 March 2023. This is a space for housing and non-housing organisations to network, build relationships and provide current information about their services. It also provides opportunity for non-housing providers to learn more about the housing sector and services within Logan region. Venue to be confirmed.

For more information about LCCG, please contact Regional Care Coordinator [Rebecca Hinton](#).

Sector news

[Round 8 of the Stronger Communities Grant Programme is now open, providing funding to community organisations and local governments for small capital projects that deliver social benefits for local communities.](#)

[Housing crisis has become 'truly national', councils and housing groups say, as they call for \\$400m funding injection.](#)

[Push for national housing plan as increasing number of older Australians become homeless.](#)

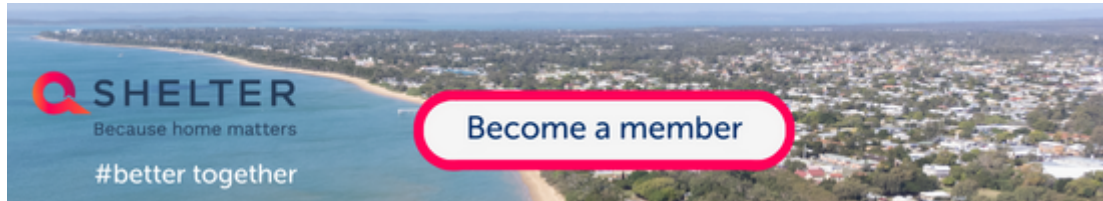
[Could prefab be a quick fix for the housing crisis? Queensland's government thinks so.](#)

[Homelessness services plead for more funding as costs and demand spiral.](#)

Testimonial

“Engaging training that made you think and brainstorm real-life situations”.

Workshop attendee, De-escalation training, Townsville, July 2022



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