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February Home Matters

From our Leadership Team

A housing plan for Queensland

Q Shelter is eagerly anticipating the announcement of the Queensland Housing Plan called 'Homes for Queenslanders'. Just this morning we joined the team at 3rd Space in Brisbane as the Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning [announced that every Specialist Homelessness Service in the state would receive a 20 per cent increase in funding under the new plan.](#)

The other positive announcement today was extra funding to support a two-worker model for six SHS after-hours services. This will mean faster help for people experiencing homelessness, and a safer and more sustainable environment provided for frontline staff.

In addition to today's announcement of a boost to social housing funding, the Premier has highlighted that the wider scope of the plan includes building more homes faster and working to end homelessness.

[Q Shelter is hoping the Plan moves us from crisis management to prevention.](#) While we need measures for the current situation, we also need action now to ensure we are designing and delivering a system that achieves prevention of homelessness and unmet housing need. We will be carefully assessing whether the comprehensive solutions outlined in our pre-budget submission 'Better Together' have been adopted.

Busy start to the year as the sector prepares for housing growth

Everyone I speak to has had a busy start to the year. As always, our members and stakeholders are addressing presenting needs and in the case of community housing providers, preparing submissions to various funding opportunities including QuickStarts and the Housing Australia Future Fund. It is great to see funding opportunities yet there is still so much work to do to ensure Queensland has a fair share of the available funding.

That is why we are working hard with [CHIA Queensland](#) and [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland](#) to deliver the [Community Housing Futures Program](#). While the program is delivering capacity building activities, the Peaks remain consistent in our advocacy for improved policy settings supporting Community Housing Providers to grow. We can't overlook structural barriers that prevent success.

Learning Exchange focus on poverty reduction

Australia has a growing problem with poverty as [a recent report from ACOSS](#) highlights. Poverty is a significant factor in homelessness and housing stress, so [our first Learning Exchange session for the year will explore how poverty is being addressed through a national plan in Canada](#). Governed by legislation, a progressive definition of poverty and robust monitoring and reporting, we have a lot to learn from early signs of success.

[Join me as I moderate a session with Scott MacAfee](#), who will help us understand the initiative in Canada, with opportunities for questions and discussion.

Warm regards,



Fiona Cariglia

Executive Director



Queensland Local Government Elections

In the lead-up to the local government elections in mid-March, Q Shelter has been inviting candidates from across the political spectrum to consider our policy framework for housing need and homelessness.

Early in January, we sent a summary of our policy positions relevant to local governments to all registered candidates in the 77 electorates. You can [read the letter and the policy summary on our website](#).

As the peak body representing the housing and homelessness sector in Queensland, we recognise the important separation of responsibilities between the three tiers of federal, state and local government, while also emphasising the three critical areas of focus for local governments, including responding to homelessness, planning levers, and innovation and partnership.

We've appreciated the conversations we've already had with several candidates from different electorates, and the time they've taken to check in on how they could shape their positions to best provide potential solutions.

Everyone is invited to [join our online Candidates' Forums for Southeast Queensland councils on 12 February, and for Regional Queensland on 19 February](#). It's your opportunity to engage with as many candidates as possible on the issues and possible responses to housing security and homelessness.



Community Housing Futures

Business Advisory Grants close 23 February 2024

[Access the online grants portal](#)

If you are a Community Housing Provider in Queensland there is still time to apply for a grant of up to \$50,000 (ex GST) to cover the cost of tailored assistance from the [Approved Professional Advisory Panel](#). This assistance covering finance, business

planning, property development and risk management. Applications close at 11:59pm Queensland time on 23 February 2024.

[Subscribe to get program updates.](#)

Launching Queensland's CHP opportunities platform

[This new platform](#) serves as a centralised hub for accessing a diverse range of opportunities, specifically for Community Housing Providers in Queensland. With the primary goal of enhancing accessibility and collaboration, this page provides an overview of available opportunities, including expressions of interest, long-term lease opportunities, sale listings, and collaborative ventures.

[View the current opportunities on the platform.](#)

Housing Australia Future Fund Facility and National Housing Accord Facility

Applications for Funding Round One under the Housing Australia Future Fund Facility (HAFFF) and National Housing Accord Facility (NHAFF) are now open. Housing Australia are hosting information sessions and technical briefings from 5 February 2024.

A [list of the information session dates and links to register are now available.](#)



Social media strategy opportunity



Griffith University has shared a unique opportunity for Q Shelter to pass on to members and sector organisations to benefit their social media presence.

As part of their assessment, third-year Communication students are seeking real-world

challenges to apply their fresh, innovative ideas. They will develop comprehensive social media strategies tailored to meet the specific needs of various organisations. This project is an excellent chance for organisations to gain insightful, creative strategies designed by enthusiastic, up-and-coming professionals.

The students will create one of these two strategies, beginning in late March with delivery in late May/early June.

- An Organisational Social Media Strategy for organisations looking to enhance overall social media footprint through a bespoke strategy.
- A Targeted Campaign Strategy for organisations aiming to boost awareness or engagement on a particular issue or event.

If you are interested in this collaborative opportunity, please [email Dr Susan Grantham](#) from the School of Humanities, Languages and Social Science.



Training & Events

Q Shelter has a host of training, engagement and sector events happening throughout February and well into the year. You can [see our full list of training and events planned for the year so far on Eventbrite](#).



Learning Exchange: Global Approaches to Poverty Reduction



As part of our Learning Exchange Series, we'll be presenting several sessions on responses to poverty reduction from different global perspectives.

[The first session on 7 February will feature Canada's National Advisory Council on Poverty](#), who developed Canada's first poverty reduction strategy. Then the March event will feature **Actuaries of Australia** to talk to the 'Not a level playing field' green paper and other research regarding pathways into homelessness.

We will have more topics as part of this series throughout the year and you can [secure a place for any of these free online sessions through our website or our Eventbrite page](#).

REGISTER NOW

Introduction to Queensland Planning

Over two days: Wednesday 7 & 14 February 2024, 10:00am - 12:00pm. Online.

Members: \$110; Non-members: \$132; Students and concessions: \$55

[This training is designed to provide Community Housing Providers](#) with an overview of the Queensland planning and development assessment system. Jennifer Roughan will draw on her 35+ years in development and planning to cover key concepts, language and components underpinning the Queensland system, and how to navigate it.

REGISTER NOW

Local Councils Candidates' Forums



2024 QLD Local Council Candidates' Forums

Join the discussion on housing and homelessness ahead of this year's Local Government elections

Q SHELTER
Because home matters

Southeast Queensland: Monday 12 February, 1:00pm - 2:30pm. Free and online.

Regional Queensland: Monday 19 February, 1:00pm - 2:30pm. Free and online.

Q Shelter are [inviting candidates for the up-coming Queensland local government elections to a discussion on our local government election platform](#), and the key housing and homelessness issues and responses.

We know that there are different key issues for SEQ and regional Queensland. SEQ will need to accommodate 2.2 million more residents and 900,000 new dwellings by 2046. Regional and remote parts of Queensland face a wide range of challenges when it comes to housing supply and affordability.

We encourage community housing providers, sector workers, residents and other interested parties to join the online forum.

REGISTER NOW

Boosting Workplace Resilience

Tuesday 20 February 2024, 9:00am - 12:00pm. Online.

Members: \$55; Non-members: \$77; Students and concessions: \$44;

People with lived experience of housing need or homelessness: Free

[Explore strategies for enhancing wellbeing and boosting workplace resilience](#) with motivational interview and positive psychology principles.

We will explore tools, strategies, and the latest research around some of the most popular Positive Psychology areas, including: stress management and recognising your personal stress responses; emotional management check-in; resilience building; emotional and social connection; emotional awareness; work-life balance; self-care; mindset; and meditation.

REGISTER NOW

Feeling The Pulse – Community Housing Futures

Tuesday 20 February 2024, 2:00pm - 2:45pm. Free and online.

On February 20, the [Community Housing Futures](#) team will be hosting the first Feeling the Pulse session for 2024. Community Housing Providers play a crucial role in supporting placemaking initiatives within communities. Placemaking involves creating vibrant, inclusive, and engaging spaces that foster a sense of belonging and identity among residents.

At this session we will welcome our [guest presenter Village Well](#) – Australia's first placemaking consultancy, with 30 years of proven success in connecting people to place for balanced commercial and social outcomes. [We invite you all to register for this free](#)

[event.](#)

REGISTER NOW

Asset Managers' Network Meeting

Thursday 29 February 2024, 10:30am - 12:00pm. Free and online.

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

Asset managers play a vital role in the sustainability of social housing and in the quality of housing assistance experienced by tenants. Their role is challenging and essential to the success and viability of housing provision. [This meeting includes discussion, speakers, and an exchange of ideas and resources among asset managers](#) to ensure they have access to collegial support, training, information, and tools to help their work.

REGISTER NOW

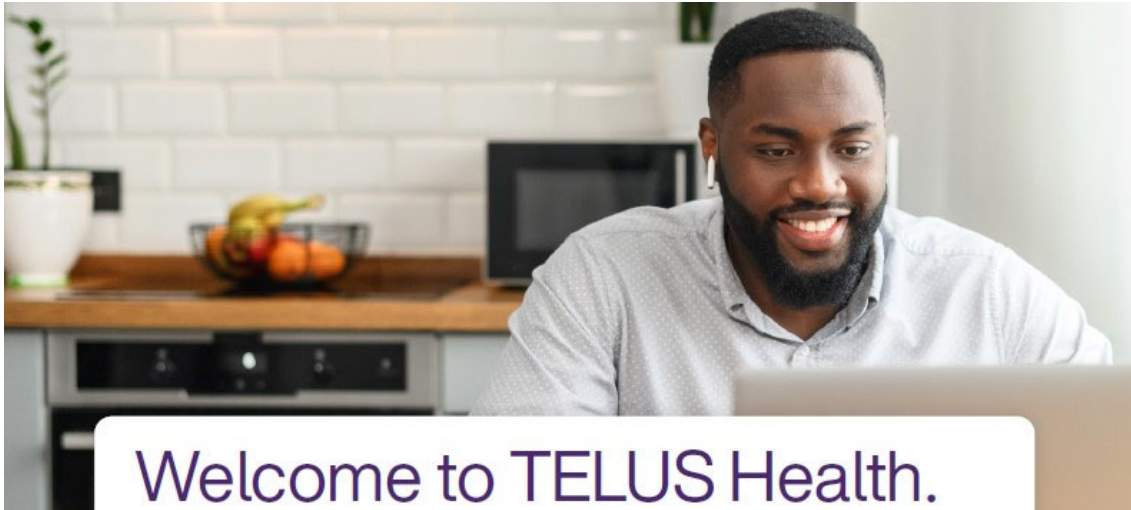
Tenancy skills training

The Tenancy Skills Institute delivers **Skillsets for Successful for Tenancies - Dollars and Sense**, a free community open course in Mackay, Ipswich, Logan, Toowoomba, and online. This training is designed to help people secure and keep a rental property by developing key knowledge and critical skills needed to rent successfully.

The training is available free in Queensland through funding from the Queensland Government. There are course dates coming up in February through to April for all these regions, or [register to join the online course via Zoom starting 7 February](#).

MORE DETAIL

EAP Partner TELUS Health orientation webinars



Q Shelter Member organisations have access to a discounted rate to join our Employee Assistance Program, operated by [TELUS Health](#). While some organisations have their own program for employees, this is a very cost-effective way for small non-profit organisations to provide support for their staff.

TELUS Health host monthly orientation webinars for those who would like to find out more about the confidential support offered through the EAP, which includes mental health, financial, physical and emotional wellbeing. [The next webinar is on Thursday 15 February at 2pm Queensland time.](#)

If you'd like to know more about [Q Shelter's member benefits](#) or accessing our EAP, [contact the Membership Team.](#)

MORE DETAIL



Job Opportunities



[Tenancy Manager - Coast2Bay Housing Group - Sunshine Coast / Moreton Bay](#)

[Housing & Community Officer - Bric Housing - Brisbane](#)

[Customer Service Officer - Bric Housing - Brisbane](#)

[Housing Connectors x3 - Domestic Violence Action Centre - Dalby / Toowoomba / Warwick](#)

[Service Manager, Homelessness Services Women and Families - Anglicare -](#)

[Brisbane](#)

[Community Housing Officer - Jacaranda Housing - Brisbane](#)

[Housing Services Senior Manager - Brisbane Youth Service - Brisbane](#)

Service Integration

Brisbane

Brisbane South

The South West Care Coordination Group (SWCCG) held their first meeting for the new year on 10 January, and our next meeting due on **Wednesday 7 February, at 1:30pm**.

The Group meetings continue to see positive housing and support outcomes for some of the most vulnerable people in the community. 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](#).

Brisbane North

Brisbane North Community Connections (BNCC) meets fortnightly Thursdays on Microsoft Teams with our first meeting of the new year held on Thursday 11 January. The next meeting will be **Thursday 8 February at 1:30pm via Teams**.

Under 1 Roof meets fortnightly on Tuesdays, and our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 13 February at 1:30pm via Teams**.

For more information please [contact Philip Smith](#).

Ipswich

With the appointment of Lauren McNamara as Regional Care Coordinator, we're excited to say that Care Coordination has been active in the Ipswich region since mid-December.

The Ipswich Housing and Homelessness Network met this week, and will meet next on 14 March. The Ipswich Care Coordination Group will next meet on **Thursday 22 February at 2:30pm**.

Lauren has been busy establishing productive partnerships across the sector in area, including at all government levels and building a collective of multi-disciplinary services. Employed by Q Shelter, Lauren joins a broader group of state-wide, Place-Based Care Coordinator facilitators.



If you are interest in learning more about Ipswich Care Coordination Group, [contact Lauren on lauren.mcnamara@gshelter.asn.au](mailto:lauren.mcnamara@gshelter.asn.au) or call 07 3831 5900, extension 124.

Logan

Logan Care Coordination group (LCCG) meetings recommenced on 23 January 2024. The meeting participants continue to be expanded as required, adding additional services when an area of need has been identified. This has resulted in effective outcomes for clients referred to LCCG and outstanding service collaboration.

Current service participation includes representatives from both government and non-government housing and homelessness as well as mental health services, health services, youth services, CALD services, aged care services, family services, DV services and employment services.

Meetings are run fortnightly on a **Tuesday from 10.00am – 12.00pm** and are held in person at SSI Logan. Please note that the next meeting originally scheduled for 6 February 2024 has been moved to **Monday 5 February 2024**. Meetings will resume on Tuesdays from 20 February.

For more information about Logan region activities, please contact Regional Care Coordinator [Rebecca Hinton](mailto:Rebecca.Hinton@gshelter.asn.au). Referrals can be sent to logancc@gshelter.asn.au.

Mackay



Chances House has found a new home in Mackay! 'Chances House' offers all of the same homelessness services (meals, case management, healthcare, essential items) and now has much more space for people experiencing homelessness, where they can feel safe, dignified and supported, while having access to the resources and amenities on offer.



Are you experiencing **Homelessness?**

DROP INTO CHANCES HOUSE

DAYTIME DROP IN HUB

Lounge, wifi, books, resources, toilets, tea/coffee, rest area, support staff, telephone, computer access. Showers coming soon.

A safe and inclusive place to 'be'

MEALS

Breakfast and Lunch (Mon to Fri)

Cooked breakfast, fresh coffee/tea, light lunch, drinks

ESSENTIAL ITEMS

Sleeping bags, clothing, shoes, toiletries, insect repellent, tents, tarps & more subject to availability.

HEALTHCARE

Assistance with first aid, GP access, script. collection

CASE MANAGEMENT

Assistance to tackle barriers in your life and address needs such as ID, Centrelink, housing applications, rehab, mental health care and more.

PETS WELCOME WHEN ON LEASH.

FIND US AT 2 ENDEAVOUR STREET, MACKAY.

(OPPOSITE ST VINNIE'S MEN'S HOSTEL, NEAR THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT)

OPEN MON TO FRI FROM 7AM TO 1PM

Chances
HOUSE

Mackay Care Coordination Group continues to meet every second Wednesday at Mackay Housing Service Centre, with an online Teams option. Please contact [Yvonne Harris](#) with any questions or for more information.

Moreton Bay

The **Moreton Bay Housing & Homelessness Network** meets on the **third Tuesday of every month**. Future meetings will continue to hold service information sessions to build sector capacity within the Moreton Bay region.

SAVE THE DATE!

Reconnect 2024 will be held on **Thursday 13 June**. Network members have started planning for the annual homelessness event. The event has broadened from homelessness to include those experiencing housing insecurity or distress with the impacts of cost of living. This year will also have a focus on providing health services for the event.

For information on the Moreton Bay Housing & Homelessness Network, or the Reconnect 2024 event, please contact the [Moreton Bay Regional Care Coordinator, Shane Frost](#).

Care Coordination Groups

In Moreton Bay, the two Care Coordination Groups are continuing to operate fortnightly as normal.

- The **Moreton Bay North Care Coordination Group** in partnership with Department of Housing, will now be hosting meetings at the Moreton Bay Housing Service Centre. Meetings are held fortnightly and will also be available 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 regarding the Moreton Bay Care Coordination Groups and possible referrals, please contact the [Moreton Bay Regional Care Coordinator, Shane Frost](#).

Redlands, Bayside & Southern Moreton Bay Islands

Redlands Community Hub

The Redlands Community Hub has a new venue this year, now located at the **CWA Hall, 3 Waterloo Street Cleveland**. The Hub is where the community services sector has come together to give you one spot where each month you can discuss housing concerns, finances, support with mental health, alcohol and other drugs, health, personal or family concerns.

We will have morning tea, emergency relief food and clothes, and much more. We look forward to seeing you at the **Capalaba Library, Noelene Street Capalaba, 9am to 12pm on Wednesday 7 February**.

Macleay and Russell islands Community Hub Events

Macleay Island - Wednesday 14 February, 9:30am - 12:30pm

Macleay Island Community Centre Hall, 32 High Central Road

Russell Island - Wednesday 20 March, 9:30am - 12:30pm

Russell Island Recreation Hall, 1 Alison Crescent

We will have a huge variety of services attending these hubs and hope it's a one-stop-shop to assist you with different aspects of your life. Check the flyers below for more details.



We are here for YOU!
Drop in support available
All services and supports in
one place!



REDLANDS
COMMUNITY HUB

CWA Hall-
3 Waterloo St,
Cleveland

9am
to
12pm

Wednesday 7th February
Wednesday 6th March
Wednesday 3rd April

**FREE BBQ, drinks and a
friendly Chat**

SERVICES

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Housing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Youth
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Homelessness	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Families
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NDIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Womens support
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mental Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mens Support
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Financial
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seniors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AoD



**RUSSELL ISLAND
HUB**



REDLANDS
COMMUNITY HUB

**FREE BBQ, drinks and a
friendly chat**

Wednesday 20th March

9.30am to 12.30pm

**Russell Island Recreation Hall
1 Alison Crescent**

SERVICES

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Housing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Youth
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Homelessness	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Families
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NDIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Womens support
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mental Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mens Support
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Financial
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seniors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AoD

For more information regarding Redlands, Bayside and Southern Moreton Islands activities, please [contact Bree Tukavkin](#).

Sunshine Coast

Sunshine Coast Care Coordination Group (SCCCG) will recommence for 2024 on **Tuesday 6 February at 11am**, online. Membership has grown for 2024 with YouTurn, WHOS, Community Action Inc, and OpenMinds joining SCCC as regular panel members.

The next **Sunshine Coast Housing and Homelessness Network (SCHHN)** will recommence for 2024 on **Wednesday 7 February at 10am**, online.

Contact Tracey McNee tmcnee@ifys.com.au or 0417 566 075 for more information.

Townsville

With the restructured Housing and Homelessness Network (HaHN) in Townsville, we have welcomed our new Chair Cherie McLaughlin, and Deputy Chair Natalie Musumeci, and formed new sub-committees to support our work.

In the photo below you can see Cherie (far left) meeting with some of the Q Shelter Team in Mackay, and below that a recent photo from a HaHN meeting.



Care Coordination Groups continue to operate to ensure that participants are getting the best support while seeking sustainable housing outcomes. Please contact Kym.Musumeci@gshelter.asn.au for more details.



Wide Bay

Wide Bay now has two panels operating – Fraser Coast covering Hervey Bay and Maryborough, and the second, launched in December 2023, covering Bundaberg and Childers.

Fraser Coast panel meets online through Microsoft Teams on the **third Thursday of each month** or as required, and Bundaberg panel meets on the **first Thursday of each month**, also online via Teams. Both meetings start at **10.30am** and referrals should be in at least 4 days prior to enable adequate time for panel members to review the information after they have received it.

In January 2024, I was invited to tour the newly opened Mental Health facility at Hervey Bay Hospital. It is a state-of-the-art facility for 22 people, with separate facilities for those with severe mental health issues and those with improving mental health capacity. This is an increase in support for people with mental health problems although that will not be fully experienced for the next 10 months (approximately).

Maryborough Mental Health facilities will now be shut down and re-furbished during which time they will be re-locating people to Hervey Bay. Following that, the facility in Maryborough will re-open for people who need support with their mental health difficulties and Hervey Bay will be functioning only from its catchment area.

If you are interest in learning more about Wide Bay Care Coordination Group, [contact me \(Carole\) on cmecalf@ifys.com.au](mailto:Carole@cmecalf@ifys.com.au) or 0473 472 357.



Sector News & Articles

[Qld govt buys hotel for social housing - Australian Property Journal](#)

[Queensland Govt buys former retirement home for Seniors housing - Australian Seniors News](#)

[Goondiwindi Regional Council endorses Local Housing Action Plan to help ease housing shortage | The Courier Mail](#)

[New Neighbourhood Centre building one step closer, work underway in Manunda - Ministerial Media Statements](#)

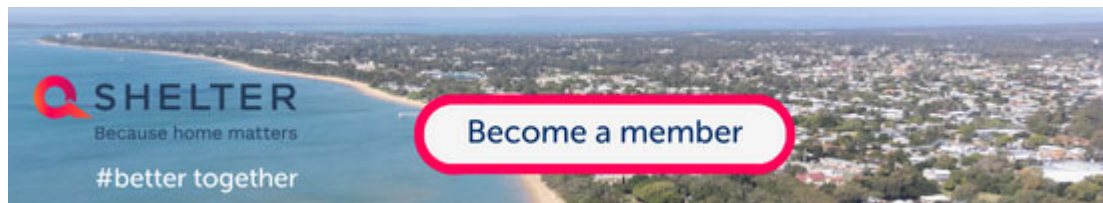
[Brisbane leads nation in cost-of-living crisis with highest rent, health and energy hikes - ABC News](#)

[Australia inflation: RBA eyes interest rate cuts as figures ease - Sydney Morning Herald](#)

Quotes

“This funding will go directly to the organisations and the tireless workers at the coalface, who already know the sector and have developed programs and services to target needs.”

Premier Steven Miles, 1 February 2024



Q Shelter acknowledges Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional owners and custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work. We pay our respects to their Elders, both past and present.



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