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Cost-of-living needs systemic approach

Q Shelter, Queensland's peak body for solutions to housing needs and homelessness is calling for a systemic approach to poverty reduction in addition to cost-of-living relief measures ahead of the Queensland leaders' debate.

As reports into cost-of-living pressures proliferate, single measures don't go far enough to change the circumstances of a growing number of people.

'Measures to address housing affordability and homelessness would go much further if they were synergised within a broader plan to address the systemic causes of poverty with a real change agenda,' says Executive Director, Fiona Caniglia.

'In Canada and Ireland, for example, nationally coordinated approaches to poverty reduction are making a real difference.'

'In those two countries, agreed definitions of poverty are the basis for defining critical policies, actions, and investment. Integrated measures are delivered across different levels of government. Most importantly, progress is monitored and measured to prove impact.'

'We are calling on both leaders to commit to negotiating a national approach to poverty reduction, in which the states play an optimal role.'

'A plan like this needs to be bold. It will consider the many different responses that already exist. We have a very strong foundation in Australia through various income support measures, social inclusion activities, and ways in which universal services are delivered such as health, housing, and education.'

'An integrated approach across levels of government, and involving the private sector, community services sector and broader community at large, will ensure significant impact for people who struggle across more than one area of disadvantage.'

Q Shelter's policy statement '[Better Together](#)' highlights the successes in Ireland and Canada, and urges decision makers in Australia to take a similar approach.

This type of approach would strive for generational change that identifies extreme vulnerability from the earliest age. It would provide intensive support to prevent exposure to adverse events and guarantee a safe childhood in which children have secure attachments and participation in education. Secure housing is critical to supportive and secure childhoods. At the same time, structural elements would ensure enough housing supply as well as high-quality, universal access to critical services such as health and education.

'We live in an amazing nation; however the fault lines are growing between people who thrive and people who are struggling to participate in all the opportunities that living in Australia brings.'

'Every delay in taking this approach allows structural poverty to become even more entrenched. We have the opportunity now to change our trajectory and we call on the next Premier of Queensland to provide both immediate relief to rising costs, and a longer-term approach to systemic change.'

ENDS

All quotes are attributable to Q Shelter Executive Director, Fiona Caniglia.

Media comment

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About Q Shelter

For over 35 years, Q Shelter has worked as a peak body to improve housing outcomes for Queenslanders. Over this time, we have remained an unwavering voice for solutions through advocacy, strategic engagement and capacity building.

Besides influencing solutions and policy, Q Shelter provides professional development and shares resources to assist other organisations to be effective, so that our combined capacity to respond to housing need is strengthened.