

**21 April 2024**

## Media Release – Implementation barriers challenge housing and homelessness outcomes

Housing supply challenges are persistent because the current market is undersupplied and because delivering new homes takes time, particularly under current market conditions.

*Homes for Queenslanders* includes a suite of reforms that will make a significant difference, but these reforms require time to impact supply.

Q Shelter's Executive Director, Fiona Caniglia, said: 'It is positive to see expressions of interest open for projects to go through new streamlined approvals supported by a specialist team in the Department of Housing, Local Government, Public Works, and Planning. Q Shelter also welcomes progress towards five inclusionary planning pilot projects.

'The real challenge is right now as more people face homelessness and families are living in confined conditions in motel rooms.

'We are encouraged by proposals from community housing providers to build thousands of homes through State and Federal funding streams. These homes will make a significant difference, but we also need to revisit what can be done immediately to add to housing supply.

'This is particularly in the context that the construction industry is facing huge constraints with rising costs and workforce challenges.'

As a member of the Homes for Queenslanders Implementation Taskforce convened by the Queensland State Government, Q Shelter will propose a clear focus on actions that respond to the current housing shortage while medium to longer-term housing projects are delivered.

Ms Caniglia added, 'We know that latent supply has already been adapted to social housing, which is incredibly positive. We just need an even greater focus on finding more latent supply and to facilitate optimal utilisation of existing homes and buildings.

'We have strongly advocated for greater deployment of modular home builders to achieve more supply as quickly as possible. And we need to put things in place to achieve the infrastructure needed to industrialise construction in the future which has the potential to increase the workforce, decrease cost and speed up delivery.

'We all need to be at the table considering anything additional that can help address construction industry constraints.'

As families struggle to compete in the private rental market, Q Shelter supports a clear prioritisation of their needs.

‘Where children are involved, we must find priority solutions,’ Ms Caniglia said. ‘Every day being homeless impacts their health and education. Being homeless is an adverse experience in childhood, which takes a terrible toll.’

## **ENDS**

### **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.