

**2 June 2024**

## Media Release – Prevention focus welcome through early years plan

Q Shelter welcomes the release of the Queensland Government [Putting Queensland Kids First](#) plan, with a clear focus on prevention and early intervention. The plan reflects interconnected initiatives highlighting the importance of universal services while investing in specialised support. It will help to reduce and prevent poverty which drives so many entrenched social challenges.

Q Shelter Executive Director Fiona Caniglia highlights ‘we have advocated for these types of measures for a long time because we know that when children and young people are exposed to adverse childhood experiences, they are more likely to experience complex homelessness later in life.

‘The initiative includes measures that have been proven through evaluation. Aspects of the Plan that invest in First Nations’ led organisations, and that drive solutions through place-based approaches will make a significant difference.

‘These measures are welcome by housing and homelessness services in Queensland because we are struggling with the consequences of crisis-driven approaches to surging homelessness and unmet housing needs.

‘Homelessness will reduce if people have opportunities because they are supported. Fundamental needs such as food security, having a home, being at school, and participating in community life must be met through an integrated set of programs that put the futures of children first.

‘Our focus now as a system of universal and specialist services must be to achieve implementation success. The integration of key services at the community level is vital to achieving an optimal impact.

‘We can expect through quality implementation to see a reduction in children’s exposure to adverse experiences, a reduction in child protection interventions and a reduction in behavioural issues that result in crime.

‘Specialised measures such as visiting nurse programs are proven to significantly increase positive outcomes for families and infants. Family support practitioners and health services in vulnerable schools reflect the critical connection between health, poverty, and inclusion.

‘We commend this suite of initiatives as a game changer with far-reaching consequences for a fairer Queensland. We congratulate the many organisations and leaders that have advocated for these changes for a long time.’

## **ENDS**

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

### **Media comment**

Executive Director, Q Shelter, Fiona Caniglia: 0400 196 492

Q Shelter Communications Team: 07 3831 5900 [comms@qshelter.asn.au](mailto:comms@qshelter.asn.au)

### Attachments:

[Q Shelter Better Together Submission](#)

[Violence prevention submission](#)