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More needed from Federal Government to solve housing crisis

“The Federal Budget stops short of a nationally coordinated approach to housing supply and affordability to the detriment of a growing number of Australians,” says Q Shelter Executive Director Fiona Caniglia.

‘We will be closely watching responses from other political leaders in the hope that alternatives are proposed that will ensure housing supply meets demand,’ she says. “We are hoping that there is a commitment to national leadership and a nationally coordinated housing strategy.”

Q Shelter, Queensland’s peak body for housing and homelessness, commends the Federal Government for increasing the availability of low-cost finance to community housing providers for the growth of social and affordable housing.

Commenting on this, Nicholas Proud from PowerHousing, a national network of community housing providers, says ‘the long-awaited increase in the National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation (NHFIC) Liability cap from the current \$3.5b to \$5.5b will help maximize the sustainability and longevity of the community housing sector moving forward.

“The increase to the liability cap of NHFIC’s Affordable Housing Bond Aggregator (AHBA) is expected to support 27,500 dwellings,’ he said.

Q Shelter commends this as important but stresses we need the national government to step up into an assertive leadership role in achieving a healthy housing system where supply meets demand.

According to Q Shelter, the problem is that the Federal Budget fails to recognise the needs of so many Australians for housing security and affordability more broadly however, at a time when escalating housing and rental prices combined with low availability is creating a perfect storm for Queenslanders.

The impacts of the recent floods and COVID-19 has made this housing crisis even worse. Q Shelter was looking to the Federal Government for a greater level of leadership to ensure a national approach that brings together the contributions of all levels of Government, the private sector and community sector.

Q Shelter’s Executive Director, Fiona Caniglia said in this current housing market, the role of the Federal Government had never been more important. “Housing need is expanding to encompass more and more households who never would have imagined themselves facing the risk of homelessness,” she said.

“We need a national government that is actively reaching out to the States, Local Government, the private sector, and the not-for-profit sector to deliver a suite of initiatives that will guarantee an enabling planning framework, strategic land banking, housing targets for all tenures, and capital funding for social and affordable housing.”





Ms Caniglia said we were at a juncture as a nation and if we continued to ignore structural solutions to our housing system failures, then we needed to accept homelessness as an embedded and intractable feature of our communities.

“When meeting with service and housing providers and other stakeholders across the sector, the level of concern around housing needs is unparalleled in my career. We need Governments to move and act with courage and conviction.”

Q Shelter has made a budget submission to the State Government, flagging a range of solutions which could be considered in the next State Budget, including a call for better planning, a strong community housing sector, rental reforms and supports for vulnerable groups. Read the submission [here](#)

“The face of homelessness is changing and broadening as we hear of more people and families having to live in cars or on couches or in temporary style accommodation,” Ms Caniglia said.

“We need to be doing more at every level of government and across the housing sector broadly to ensure people have access to appropriate, affordable and safe homes.”

ENDS

Media opportunities for comment by Q Shelter Executive Director, Fiona Caniglia.

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