

## **UPDATED AND FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Housing trust solution to help end homelessness**

Ahead of the Queensland Housing Summit, peak body Q Shelter is proposing the formation of Queensland Housing Trust that would help capture philanthropy aimed at building homes and ending homelessness.

Proposed in a recent report by Q Shelter and Urbis, the trust would allow investment from the private sector, philanthropists, government and concerned individuals with a focus on housing supply.

Q Shelter's Executive Director, Fiona Caniglia, said the model already exists in the UK, with organisations such as Peabody having achieved over 104,000 homes housing 220,000 people in London and surrounding areas.

"More people than ever are seeking a home and there is no doubt we need to see an increase in investment in social and affordable housing," Ms Caniglia said.

"As a new source of capital funding, a Trust would further leverage government funding and achieve a net increase in supply.

"Peabody Trust started from philanthropy and has grown to invest in over 100,000 homes.

"Established now, a Queensland Housing Trust that exists in perpetuity would be an ongoing vehicle to invest in longer-term social and affordable housing delivered by the community housing sector."

Ms Caniglia said there is already a body of work occurring in the industry on how a housing trust might work as a vehicle for greater investment into social and affordable housing.

"A trust could capture philanthropy and corporate social responsibility contributions. In the lead up to the Olympics a Trust might also be a vehicle for capturing contributions through social procurement involving key providers of infrastructure and services to the Games," she said.

Kate Merrick, Director of Future State at Urbis, said the English models are easily transferrable to the Australian context.

"A housing trust could well be the centre piece of this policy to ensure the benefits from the investment provide a social return and help to end the current housing crisis.

"Housing is essential infrastructure for thriving people and it's certainly something that would create an enduring legacy from the Games while providing a powerful and transformative outcome for communities."

**ENDS**



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

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