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Modular home industry can help address immediate housing need

The modular home industry can play an important part in addressing housing needs now and into the future according to a state peak body ahead of this week's Queensland Housing Summit.

Q Shelter's Executive Director, Fiona Caniglia, said with high quality housing options available in the sector there is a surge of interest in how modular homes can help.

"The cost of construction and the time that construction takes for new homes is a significant barrier to addressing the needs of people right now who are homeless or who are living in poverty due to the cost of their housing," Ms Caniglia said.

"Various construction industry stakeholders have contacted Q Shelter since the Queensland Housing Summit was announced saying that have capacity to deliver homes quickly through various modular home options.

"We need to be partnering with this part of the construction industry to identify land that could be used now to assist as well as consider how high-quality modular homes can be part of Queensland's housing future.

"There will be concerns about quality and we need to maintain housing standards so that people are safe, and communities are confident about quality and amenity.

"It is vital that scaling up modular home options either in villages or as gentle in-fill development occurs within a regulatory framework that achieves high quality outcomes."

Q Shelter has called for immediate engagement with modular home builders to find out what they can offer and at what scale. This is already occurring in South Australia and Tasmania, with formal procurement panels and programs adopted by those state governments.

"It is one example of why partnerships across State and Local Government, private industry and the not-for-profit sector are vital," Ms Caniglia said.

"There are philanthropists proposing modular home solutions as well, and Q Shelter is encouraging dialogue to identify how a pipeline of this housing can play a part in solving Queensland's housing crisis."

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

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