

Media Release

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OLYMPIC GAMES HOUSING IMPACT REPORT

In an historical first, a study into the effect of the Olympic Games on homelessness, and the local housing market, will be launched in the lead up to Brisbane 2032.

Leading housing and homelessness advocate Q Shelter with research partner AHURI is monitoring displacement rates for homeless people and the impact on renters and homeowners with the first of its annual reports released on Tuesday 15 October 2024.

The report is also supported by The Salvation Army, Brisbane Youth Service, YFS, inCommunity, Communify, Micah Projects, and the Committee for Brisbane.

The report is the first in a series that will be published annually, monitoring housing market conditions and homeless responses in Brisbane leading up to and immediately following the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The report establishes a baseline which can be used to help calibrate policy responses to ensure Brisbane 2032 delivers its intended legacy of social inclusion.

In its current state, displacement is difficult to measure because available datasets rarely differentiate between voluntary and involuntary mobility. Additionally, due to COVID-19's impact, the 2021 Censuses provided a distorted picture of migration and displacement. This report will provide an annual baseline.

Since the 2000s, the IOC and host countries focus increasingly on legacy planning to deliver affordable fit-for-purpose infrastructure, facilities and programs.

Without proper planning Queensland runs the risk of escalation in housing costs and rents risking pushing more households towards housing insecurity and homelessness. As the Games approach, an influx of tourism will fuel demand for short-term accommodation, causing long-term rentals to be listed for short-term stays.

It is critical to mitigate the risks, not just for homeless people but for homeowners and renters as well.

In some host cities, the Olympic Games has led to the creation of new social housing. After the 1956 Melbourne Games, 600 homes in the former athletes' village were repurposed for public housing, while the 2004 Athens Games created 2,292 social and affordable dwellings. Atlanta also redeveloped much of its public housing stock into mixed-income developments before and after the 1996 Olympics.

"The international spotlight will be on Queensland in the lead-up to 2032, and we have an incredible opportunity to position Brisbane and Queensland as the first Olympic and Paralympic host that has ended and not worsened homelessness," Q Shelter CEO Fiona Caniglia said.

“We know that Brisbane’s Urban Renewal Program in the 1990s caused displacement due to rapidly declining lower-cost rental housing, fuelled by government-facilitated renewal without adequate and timely social and affordable housing supplies,” she continued.

During the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games, temporary increases in funding meant that for a short time, the emergency accommodation need was closer to being met. The Homeless Action Plan for the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games provided an additional 489 beds for temporary emergency accommodation.

Q Shelter Calls to Actions:

1. End homelessness in Queensland by 2032.
2. Link Olympic Games housing impact monitoring to the governance arrangements for the Olympic Games Delivery and Legacy Authority.
3. Confirm the pre- and post-games uses of Athletes Village housing stock in Hamilton Northshore (Brisbane), Robina (Gold Coast), and Maroochydore (Sunshine Coast) for social and affordable housing purposes.
4. Accelerate and prioritise the delivery of Supportive Housing in all LGAs with Games infrastructure.
5. Establish a Housing Trust linked to the Games’ procurement and commercial activity in the lead-up to the games.

High-res photography will be provided. For further information, additional comments or to set up an interview please contact:

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