Media release



Friday 28 February 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement regarding repeal of City of Moreton Bay's Persons Experiencing Homelessness Camping Framework

Q Shelter is aware that the City of Moreton Bay have decided to <u>repeal their Persons</u> Experiencing Homelessness Camping Framework from 12 March 2025.

Q Shelter collaborated with the council to develop a supportive framework for individuals experiencing homelessness, and this repeal is disappointing. This decision marks a setback from the early measures the council had put in place to support people experiencing homelessness, and we are concerned this will further disadvantage vulnerable people affected by the growing housing and homelessness crisis.

Q Shelter Acting CEO, Jackson Hills, has said previously, "Unfortunately, the projections are that the unprecedented levels of housing need and homelessness in our communities across Queensland will continue until we can deliver significantly more social and affordable housing over the next five-to-ten years.

"We appreciate that homelessness and rough sleeping are highly complex issues, particularly when also managing public safety considerations. But the challenge remains that these highly vulnerable people are living in public spaces because they have nowhere else to go," Mr Hills said.

Q Shelter is in direct contact with the City of Moreton Bay and we understand other proactive measures aimed at alleviating homelessness remain in place. We strongly urge the council to collaborate closely with the Queensland Department of Housing and Public Works, other state government agencies, and local service providers to source safe and suitable accommodation for those experiencing homelessness, and to consider how local laws will be applied in a way that prioritises supportive solutions, not punitive measures.

As a peak body representing frontline housing and homelessness services across Queensland, Q Shelter strongly encourages the Queensland Government and South East Queensland councils to come together to discuss a regional response and long-term solutions to a challenge that will not be quickly or easily solved by short-term thinking.

Q Shelter will continue to advocate for and work with local service providers and stakeholders on solutions that support vulnerable individuals and communities in housing stress.

"We must all work together to solve this community challenge," Mr Hills said.

ENDS

Contact: Q Shelter Communication Team: 07 3831 5900.

Q Shelter (Queensland Shelter) is the peak body for housing and homelessness in Queensland. For more than 35 years, Q Shelter has worked to improve housing outcomes for Queenslanders. Over this time, we have remained an unwavering voice for solutions through advocacy, strategic engagement and capacity building. In addition to influencing solutions and policy, Q Shelter provides professional development and shares resources to assist organisations to be effective, so that our combined capacity to respond to housing need is strengthened.