

13 March 2025: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## South East Queensland urgently needs a coordinated response to homelessness

Q Shelter is concerned that the Brisbane City Council has directed its officers and police to 'shut down' homeless camps in the city, giving people who are rough sleeping 24 hours to move on.

Tents in public parks are, indeed, not an acceptable substitute for secure and safe accommodation, however what is being proposed does not offer a long-term solution. It is an approach that merely shifts the issue rather than resolving it.

As Queensland's peak body representing frontline housing and homelessness services, we are acutely aware that this is a complex challenge that severely impacts many in the community. People experiencing homelessness are among the most vulnerable in society, and we don't believe that criminalising the actions of those who have no suitable long-term housing options is part of a long-term, strategic solution.

Q Shelter Acting CEO, Stuart Jobling said: 'We appreciate that homelessness and rough sleeping are highly complex issues, particularly when also managing public safety considerations. The reality remains, however, that these highly vulnerable people are living in public spaces because there are either inappropriate or no other housing options at all.'

While we applaud the steps taken by council and others in the lead-up to Cyclone Alfred to ensure that those who were sleeping rough had access to temporary shelter, it is an oversimplification to say that anyone still rough sleeping in a tent is refusing long-term support.

We need long-term, consistent and coordinated solutions to a challenge that will not be quickly or easily solved by short-term thinking. When one council enforces fines or evictions on people who are sleeping rough, those people are pushed to relocate, merely shifting the issue rather than resolving it.

At the local level, Q Shelter has been in direct contact with councils in the SEQ region, proactively scheduling meetings to find an effective, compassionate and coordinated response to this complex issue.

We have previously written to the state government to offer support for a regional approach, and today, as supporters of [the Brisbane Zero campaign, we called on the Premier](#) to urgently hold an action-focused summit to coordinate consistent solutions to these shared challenges.

At a national level, as part of [the National Shelter network and alongside other partner organisations, Q Shelter has recently called on the Federal Government](#) to legislate a national plan that will deliver consistent and coordinated approaches to housing and homelessness that meet real needs in each region.

We will continue to advocate and take action to bring about solutions that support vulnerable individuals and communities in housing stress.

**ENDS**

All quotes are attributable to Q Shelter Acting CEO, Stuart Jobling.

**For further comment, interviews or more information:**

[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.