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Media release

Queensland State Budget: Investment in social and affordable housing, and homelessness solutions is welcome

Q Shelter welcomes new investment to tackle the housing crisis.

In the context of the State Budget announcements today, Q Shelter Chief Executive Officer, Fiona Caniglia, commented: 'More people than ever are struggling with no place to call home or chronic housing insecurity.'

'It changes the way people live, and it erodes wellbeing. Fewer people are connecting in their communities because they are displaced or because of the daily struggle to find, get, and keep a home.

'There is no doubt that increased investment is welcome in a context where need is desperate.

'Q Shelter has called for increased investment in social and affordable housing while also proposing reforms to ensure the health of the whole housing system.

'It is vital that the Queensland Government supports diverse housing solutions, inclusive of access to home ownership and affordable rental homes.

'We are struggling with growing homelessness because of a chronic undersupply of social and affordable homes. The Government's commitment to growing and strengthening community housing providers as an industry is very welcome.

'We congratulate the funding uplift for Specialist Homelessness Services. While increased investment is welcome and much needed, our proposals to Government urge reforms that shift our focus from crisis management to genuine prevention.

'We can't afford to wait until people's circumstances are desperate to intervene. There is so much more work we can do to move upstream in our focus to prevent crises from emerging.

'This includes delivering enough homes for every Queenslander through planning system reforms and revolutionised construction methods. And it includes guaranteeing support for vulnerable households and children so their trajectory is towards education, inclusion, wellbeing and resilience.

'We will be working with Government in the next 12 months to support system reforms that help as much of this investment as possible contribute to the prevention of homelessness.

'We will also be working with Government to establish a stable funding future for the sector while ensuring programs and practices are based on emergent evidence of what works. With Queensland's resources and the commitment of so many people, there is no reason why we shouldn't rank among the most successful jurisdictions in our responses to homelessness and unmet housing needs.'

- This budget delivers long-term investment in the supply of social and affordable housing and investment in immediate responses to the housing crisis.
- Q Shelter welcomes the promised delivery of a new cross-portfolio housing plan to guide policy, investment and successful delivery of housing supply.
- New funding of \$1.967 billion over four years towards the growth of social and community housing will help to boost supply.
- \$500 million per annum ongoing after the next four years will ensure a pipeline of funding for social and community housing and create rolling opportunities to progress growth projects. The ongoing capital allocation beyond the forward estimates is the first time Queensland has provided permanent ongoing funding for social and community housing delivery.
- Q Shelter understands that the Capital and Finance program includes a new rolling procurement process, enabling projects to be brought forward throughout the year, as opposed to discrete funding rounds.
- Enhanced capacity to deliver a crisis response is necessary given the current state of demand for homelessness services however we must prioritise investment in prevention \$380.1 million is allocated over 5 years to deliver crisis accommodation initiatives and support the delivery of frontline housing and homelessness services.
 - The budget highlights that this expenditure is allocated at \$152.6m in the 2025-26 financial year, but scales expenditure back to approximately \$30m, \$38m, and \$40m over the following three years to 2028-29.
- Locking in the 20% uplift in funding for specialist homelessness funding is welcomed given the continued surge in demand for front-line services assisting people with their acute housing needs.
- A targeted approach to shared equity products through Boost to Home providing more households with opportunities to enter home ownership shows commitment to arresting the decline in home ownership since the 1970s. Home ownership is an important aspect of prevention helping households achieve the resilience that comes from equity in a home. It also offers more households with the stability of a secure form of tenure. This measure also incentivises the purchase of newly built homes supporting an increase in housing supply.

- We commend the commitment to permanent supportive housing and youth foyers for the capacity to address the needs of the most vulnerable people experiencing homelessness.
- The commitment to expanding the community housing sector is welcome including through an expanded asset base through master leases.
- Investment in new and upgraded housing for First Nations peoples is an important step in the right direction as is support for greater levels of home ownership.
- We welcome indexation for community services of 3.81% reflecting the rising costs of service delivery.

ENDS

All quotes can be attributed to Q Shelter CEO, Fiona Caniglia.

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About Q Shelter

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 other organisations to be effective, so that our combined capacity to respond to housing needs is strengthened