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Q Shelter calls for deeper housing system reforms with sustained investment to address immediate needs

The following statements are attributable to Q Shelter CEO Fiona Caniglia.

Housing and homelessness peak body Q Shelter's [Pre-Budget Submission](#) is calling on the Queensland State Government to sustain investment into immediate responses to acute homelessness, while ensuring longer-term measures address the challenge through prevention.

'The 2026-2027 State Budget needs to retain current levels of investment in crisis responses while the health of the whole housing system is achieved through wider system reforms and increased investment.

'While we commend current levels of investment, there is more to do to ensure that people in an acute crisis have a housing option and aren't sleeping rough, couch surfing or living in cars.

'We are calling on the Queensland State Government to develop a housing strategy that achieves genuine prevention while people in crisis now can access an immediate response.

'The pressure on the housing market is sustained with low rental vacancies, high median house prices, and the rising cost of rents. This warrants a sustained level of investment in the capacity to help people right now while pursuing deep reforms that ensure a healthy housing system long-term'

'Q Shelter is on the record calling for housing targets. Targets are an important policy lever to establish an overall goal based on population needs.'

'We need to continue to use data to plan for the number of homes that are actually needed with rigorous approaches to monitoring and evaluation so that we can adjust the strategy and investment to address barriers to success.'

'We consider the target of 1,000,000 homes critical with specific targets for social and affordable housing so that people on low-middle incomes have genuine housing options close to infrastructure, transport and jobs.'

'We know that overall supply is not going to solve our current challenges for households on low-middle incomes. Along with the target of 53,500 for social homes, Queensland needs a target for affordable housing where people pay a discount to market rent and where that discount delivers housing at less than 30% of income.

Q Shelter's submission also calls for:

- A target to reduce homelessness by 2032 and further by 2044
- A specific target for supportive housing responsive to the needs of highly vulnerable Queenslanders
- Investment in tenancy sustainment support for vulnerable households across all tenures
- Scaling modern methods of construction

- Further strengthening the community housing industry
- Specific support for First Nations housing outcomes
- A housing guarantee and wrap-around support for homeless families
- More interventions to educate the wider community about the need for housing density and diversity
- Greater protection for tenants, including limits on rental increases matched to inflation
- Greater investment in supporting people with lived experience of housing needs and homelessness to shape policy, programs, and investment
- Improved data monitoring or system performance
- The retention of planning system reforms
- Investment in regional capacity to solve housing challenges
- Upstream prevention through integrating responses across Child Safety, Youth Justice, and housing so that adverse childhood experiences are prevented and complex homelessness in later life is also prevented.

For the first time, Q Shelter has outlined some key policy measures that the State Government could advocate to the Federal Government.

‘States and territories, together with local governments, are engaged in trying to solve this set of challenges. There is more needed from the Federal Government to ensure a nationally coordinated approach, increased investment in homelessness responses and greater investment in social and affordable housing supply such as increased funding for the Housing Australia Future Fund.’

‘Our submission calls for foundational investment to address current needs while outlining horizon measures that are intended to achieve genuine homelessness prevention.’

[The full submission can be accessed on the Q Shelter website.](#)

ENDS

For further comment, interviews or more information:

[Fiona Caniglia](#): CEO: 0400 196 492

[Jackson Hills](#): GM Policy and Strategic Engagement: 0411 395 842

[Q Shelter Communications 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