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Q SHELTER
Because home matters

Home Matters

July 2026

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From our Leadership Team

State Budget analysis

Q Shelter has been working through the details of the 2026-27 Queensland Budget following its release last week. We are continuing to consult with the Department and stakeholders to fully inform our analysis, which we will provide in due course.

Regional Representatives

Last week Q Shelter hosted our mid-year Regional Representatives forum, where we ask representatives from across the state to come together, discuss current issues, and meet with some of the team from the Department of Housing and Public Works.

This was my first Regional forum since starting in this role, and it was amazing for me to see the passion and dedication of individuals working in the sector from around the state, as well as seeing the full Q Shelter team in action.

National Shelter

Last week Q Shelter also hosted a workshop facilitated by National Shelter CEO, Jackson Hills, to set the strategic direction for the national peak body. While not every state in Australia has a formal Shelter member, the Shelter Network attended in full force, with representatives from each state and territory body, as pictured above.

Remember to follow Q Shelter on LinkedIn for all our up-to-the-minute news.

Dean Griggs
General Manager, Policy and Strategic Engagement

Diploma of Leadership and Management

Classes for 2026-2027 start next week, last chance to enrol

The next intake for the Diploma of Leadership and Management starts soon, and enrolments are almost full for both Monday and Tuesday class options.

This nationally recognised qualification is delivered as one-day virtual workshops for self-paced learning, over 12 months starting **Monday 13 July**, or **Tuesday 21 July**. The sessions are followed by self-directed learning that includes readings, negotiated workplace activities, work-related projects and simulations.

Dozens of people from our sector have completed this diploma over the last few years, boosting their work skills and the capacity of the organisations where they work. Don't miss this last chance to enrol for this latest intake.

Policy and Strategic Engagement

Residential Activation Fund

We welcomed the Queensland Government's decision in June to double Round Two of the Residential Activation Fund from $500 million to $1 billion following strong demand from councils and industry.

The additional investment expands the second round of the Government's existing $2 billion Residential Activation Fund, which is designed to fund enabling infrastructure such as water, sewerage, roads and power. These essential works are often a significant barrier to housing delivery, even where land has already been identified for development.

Round One is expected to support infrastructure enabling more than 98,000 homes, while Round Two attracted 209 submissions from local governments and industry stakeholders across both South East Queensland and regional, rural and remote communities. The commitment to allocate at least half of Round Two funding to regional Queensland is also an important recognition that housing pressures extend well beyond South East Queensland.

Unlocking land and accelerating housing delivery can help increase supply and support growing communities across the state. At the same time, increasing supply alone will not meet the needs of all Queenslanders. Continued investment in social and affordable housing, supportive housing and homelessness services remains essential to ensure people on the lowest incomes, and those experiencing or at risk of homelessness, can access safe, secure and affordable homes.

Housing Affordability Solutions Summit

Our team attended this UDIA Queensland summit, bringing together voices from across the housing system, from government and community housing providers to developers, investors and lenders.

Despite the different approaches and perspectives, there was broad agreement that there is no silver bullet when it comes to housing affordability. It is shaped by many interconnected factors, including planning, infrastructure, construction costs, workforce constraints, financing and housing supply. Improving affordability will require action across all of these fronts.

Modular construction

We were invited to visit the Modscape + Modbotics factory in Archerfield to witness some of the current innovation happening in modular building construction.

The visit reinforced a point made repeatedly throughout the affordability summit earlier in the day: innovation is not a future concept, it is already happening. The challenge is scaling it. Our thanks to Robbie Claase and the team at Modscape for the invitation.

CEO and Senior Leaders Forum

Thanks again to everyone who made this event special

On 24 June, we welcomed more than 250 leaders representing a truly diverse spectrum of organisations and agencies across not-for-profit, government and commercial sectors to the iconic Brisbane City Hall.

We strive to present an interesting mix of speakers and perspectives each time we host this forum, and we are grateful to our special guest speakers who delivered such thought-provoking and insightful remarks on various aspects of the housing system.

Our sincere thanks to housing market commentator Eliza Owen, Jackson Hills CEO of National Shelter, and our keynote speaker Adrian Schrinner Lord Mayor of Brisbane. Thank you also to our Management Committee President and CEO of Footprints Community Dr Tanya Bell, and Riye Arai-Coupe from our gold sponsor Bluebird.

Thanks to everyone who attended, posed questions, networked with colleagues new and old, and contributed to the spirit of the day.

We encourage you to reserve your place for the next Lunch in November through Eventbrite.

An offer from our sponsor

McCullough Robertson

We are pleased to welcome McCullough Robertson Lawyers as our Palladium Sponsor for our November 2026 CEO and Leaders Forum and Lunch.

With a century of experience, and a deep understanding of the community housing and homelessness sectors, McCullough Robertson understands that a key challenge for decision makers in these sectors is navigating planning and regulatory requirements while advancing housing outcomes. McCullough Robertson can help identify clear, workable pathways, enabling projects to progress with confidence.

Reach out to one of Australia's leading independent law firms for practical, commercially focused advice across the housing lifecycle. Q Shelter members and supporters can contact McCullough Robertson by email, or call 07 3233 8888.

Trauma-informed practice workshop

In-person Tue 1 Sep 9am-3pm, online follow-up 8 Sep 12pm-1pm

This new, unique in-person workshop, will be followed by an online session designed to support implementation into your own framework. Your registration gives access to both sessions.

Facilitated by Monica Lord, an accredited Mental Health Social Worker and lecturer in Social Work at Griffith University. Designed for frontline workers across homelessness, health, social services, and community settings, this workshop equips participants with the knowledge and tools to respond to distress in ways that promote safety, trust, and connection.

Check ticket prices, including Q Shelter and ATSIHQ member discounts, and book through Evenbrite.

Grants for mentally healthy communities

Queensland Mental Health Week 2026 Grants Program offers $300,000 for mental health support and training

The Queensland Mental Health Commission has two grant programs to help build stronger connections, improve wellbeing and create mentally healthier communities across Queensland.

Half the grant program is for events during Mental Health Week, while this year, an additional $150,000 is also available through a new Mental Health First Aid Training Grants Program to enable individuals and organisations access accredited Mental Health First Aid training.

Grants for the training program are available on a first-come, first-served basis, so early applications are encouraged. Full details are available on the Qld Mental Health Week website.

Trauma Informed Approaches Framework

The Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (IUIH) and Queensland Mental Health Commission are holding a **Yarning Session/Facilitated Workshop** as part of the development of a **Trauma Informed Approaches Framework**.

This Framework will provide practical guidance for Queensland Government agencies to build a shared understanding and common language, to apply trauma informed approaches consistently, and to support best practice in working collaboratively and in partnership with the community-based sector.

Yarning Session/ Facilitated Workshop
Wednesday 15 July 10.00am - 1.00pm (catered lunch)
400 George Street, Brisbane
(online attendance is also an option)

It is essential that First Nations voices are sought, heard, and reflected in this work, to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives on social and emotional wellbeing, holistic care and support, and healing from trauma are meaningfully embedded in the framework.

Register by emailing selena.king@everywhengroup.com or call directly on **0412 263 480**.

This work is part of implementing the whole-of-government Queensland Trauma Strategy 2024-2029.

NAIDOC Week: 50 years deadly

NAIDOC WEEK
50 YEARS DEADLY
5–12 JULY 2026

Activities happening around Queensland

You'll find plenty of activity happening around NAIDOC Week, 5-12 July, that you and your team can get along to, support, and learn more about country where you are.

For those in Brisbane, you'll find a Family Fun Day at Musgrave Park, South Brisbane from 9am to 5pm on Friday 10 July, as well as a free community weaving circle, local tours, and plenty more listed on the NAIDOC Week site.

SHELTER Events

Engage | Learn | Celebrate

Property & Tenancy Managers Knowledge Exchange

A peer networking group for property and tenancy managers to connect, share, and learn from each other's experiences.

21 JUL 10AM-11AM - BOOK NOW »

Making sense of the system: Bigger picture insights

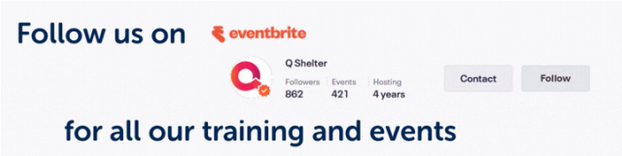
Building on previous sessions exploring housing justice and the movement to end homelessness, we zoom out to look at the national level, and policy reform driving change across Australia.

18 AUG 10AM-11AM - BOOK NOW »

Learning Exchange: Immediate Housing Response

Our Learning Exchange session for September will discuss experiences and approaches for evictions and exits from social housing and IHR.

15 SEP 10AM-11AM - BOOK NOW »



Can't find the training you're looking for?

Register your interest in a future training session

From Trauma Informed Care and Mental Health First Aid to Supervision Training and Tenancy Sustainment – you can add your name to our training waitlist to be the first to hear when the next session is scheduled.

Housing First Nations conference 2026

Registration still open

While you may have missed out on the early bird pricing for tickets to the **Housing First Nations 2026 National Conference**, in Brisbane on 19-21 October 2026, there's till time to register.

Taking place at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre for two impact-packed days of learning, networking, and shaping the future of the Australian housing sector.

AHURI Australian Homelessness Conference

Sponsored Delegate Program - applications open

Q Shelter is coordinating Queensland applications for the Sponsored Delegates program for the Australian Homelessness Conference in October, presented by AHURI.

Thanks to the generous sponsorship of Mission Australia, the conference is delighted to offer a limited number of sponsored delegate places for people engaged in contributing lived experience perspectives within the housing and homelessness sector. Sponsorship includes:

- Free registration
- Full access to the conference sessions
- Meals
- Travel and accommodation costs.

You can find more information on the conference website.

Send applications to info@qshelter.asn.au by **Friday 7 August**.

Membership Matters

Q Shelter Limited

As we enter a new financial year, the plans to transition to a new legal structure are well underway. Our application to transfer our incorporation as Queensland Shelter

Inc, an association, to Q Shelter Ltd has been lodged with ASIC. We expect formal notification from the regulator by the end of July.

As the new legal structure requires members to provide a $10 guarantee if Q Shelter Ltd is wound up, we have asked members to formally consent to the transfer of their membership from Queensland Shelter Inc to Q Shelter Ltd. It is pleasing to report that we have received overwhelming support for this transition, with more than 180 member organisations and individuals providing their consent. Please email comms@qshelter.asn.au if you have not provided this consent and want to remain a member of Q Shelter.

Our dedicated Management Committee, who will become the Board of Q Shelter Ltd upon registration, have been working behind the scenes to review membership offerings, membership categories and fees. Our Management team and staff have taken the opportunity to consult with our members about existing services and fees at our recent events, including the CEO and Leaders Forum last week. This feedback is being discussed at governance levels to provide a pathway to membership value for members of Q Shelter Ltd.

Service Integration

Facilitator Profile: Lauren Bell, Logan

When did you start as a Service Integration (SI) Facilitator?

I started in November 2024 in admin support for Q Shelter and Service Integration. I remember my first few weeks feeling like everyone was speaking another language of acronyms and I doubted whether I'd ever be able to keep up.

You're also studying while working "part-time", tell us about your studies.

What I'm learning doing a Bachelor of Social Work is making me a better Facilitator and in turn, my experience in Service Integration is deepening my understanding of concepts I'm learning at university. Engaging with the broader themes of social work has helped me maintain a sense of optimism when challenges such as the housing crisis can feel overwhelming.

I'm especially looking forward to completing my placements, where I'll have the opportunity to experience different work environments and explore how my skills can be applied in other sectors. At this stage I am interested in working specifically in youth work or youth homelessness after graduation.

What did you experience in your early days at Q Shelter that drew you to this role?

Learning about Service Integration from an admin support perspective let me learn everything I know in the shadows of my fellow facilitators. Supporting the team from Ipswich, to Brisbane, Logan and Redlands meant I gained a well-rounded understanding of the Initiative, while learning that each region has a different dynamic and unique way of collaborating.

Watching stakeholders work together for the good of the community make me feel more engaged in my work than ever before, and the growth I experienced through learning on the job was incredibly rewarding.

When you're telling your friends about your work, how do you explain what Service Integration is?

Service Integration exists to connect a broad range of services and create a coordinated response for people experiencing homelessness. Together we collaborate to develop practical plans that support individuals and families towards their housing goals. Service Integration works to coordinate services to that those in crisis don't have to navigate quite a complex, fragmented system and risk getting lost along the way.

What's your favourite thing about working as an SI Facilitator?

Aside from the obvious positive outcomes we get to see, I love witnessing the shared passion, understanding and knowledge of a room of like-minded professionals.

The Service Integration meetings across SE Queensland bring together services all working towards a shared purpose - supporting those experiencing hardship. Witnessing the dedication and advocacy in these rooms inspired me and played a significant role in my decision to pursue social work.

What's the biggest challenge in your region right now?

I think across the board, the lack of available and affordable housing options is the biggest barrier. Services have had to become increasingly creative in response and build relationships across different sectors to maximise supports and make the most of limited resources.

Finally, what motivates you to keep you going each day?

It can be heartbreaking to witness the stress and uncertainty that housing insecurity places on people when many of the contributing factors are beyond their control. On the flip side, witnessing the positive outcomes that come from coordinated responses really shows that well-funded programs and dedicated staff do have the ability to positively influence lives.

I'm driven by a curiosity to witness how human services will develop in the future and what role I might play in the process. Above all I know younger me would be proud that I found a career I love that is guided by my values.

Lauren speaking at the recent launch of Q Shelter's Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan

Region contact and referral information

You can find details of the Service Integration groups operating around Queensland, including contact details and how to access referrals on The Deck.

Career Opportunities

Q Shelter Member organisations and partners are recruiting for the following vacancies.

- Multiple vacancies for tenancy and DFV support - Micah Projects
- QSTARS Advice Worker, Cairns - Tenants Queensland
- Tenancies Project Support Officer, Brisbane - Tenants Queensland
- Multiple vacancies across property, support and case management around Central Qld - Anglicare

Don't forget that you can list job vacancies for free anytime on The Deck: **thedeck.org.au/jobs**

2026 Census opportunities

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is recruiting more than 30,000 temporary staff to help deliver the 2026 Census, including Community Field Officers to support participation by people experiencing homelessness and other groups that are often undercounted.

If you or your service knows people who could benefit from paid work that contributes to better evidence and better public policy, find out more on the ABS Census careers page.

Closing Quote

> "Adequate housing ... is the precondition that makes agency possible rather than the reward for having exercised it correctly."

Abe Oudshoorn, in the Editorial for the latest edition of the *International Journal on Homelessness*.

Thanks for signing up to Q Shelter's newsletter and regular updates. Check our social media channels above to follow us for more regular updates, or to share our stories with your colleagues and networks.

Q Shelter, PO Box 214, Spring Hill, Queensland 4004, Australia, (07) 3831 5900

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