

Home Matters

April 2026

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From our Leadership Team

Progress on the Sunshine Coast this week

Q Shelter welcomes this week's announcements by Minister for Housing and Public Works Sam O'Connor MP, of the planning to deliver more homes and increased support for people experiencing housing stress in Nambour and across the Sunshine Coast.

The expansion of outreach and mobile support services delivered by JEYS, new crisis and transitional accommodation, fast-tracked community housing with [Coastal Housing Co-ops](#), and progress toward future and improved Supportive Housing through a transaction with the [Sunshine Coast Council](#) reflect the kind of joined-up, place-based response needed to address homelessness locally.

Q Shelter is pleased to have contributed to recent regional roundtables led by Council and the Department of Housing and Public Works, exploring options for further support, and we visited the [Sunshine Coast Housing and Homelessness Network](#) (SCHNN) this week to support ongoing collaboration and help refine strategic priorities for the years ahead.

Together, these efforts help ensure more Queenslanders have access to safe, secure housing with the support they need to sustain it.

Anti-social behaviour legislation

Q Shelter submitted an [opinion](#) on proposed legislation expanding *Adult Crime, Adult Time and Taking a Strong Stance on Drugs and Anti-social Behaviour Amendment Bill*. This resulted in the opportunity to speak at the Committee's Hearing last week.

We urged reconsideration of some measures to ensure that people experiencing homelessness are safe from escalating compliance activities in favour of solutions that firmly focus on housing and support. We signalled our concerns about reducing opportunities for drug diversion interventions.

We advocated for increased supportive housing, in addition to the current social housing target of 53,500. We also advocated for policy that better understands the impacts of adverse childhood experiences and trauma, proposing that so-called perpetrators have often experienced violence and abuse themselves.

We articulated the importance of services and support for problematic substance use. We suggested an urgent Summit to co-design real solutions and drive reforms that embed prevention across systems such as family support, child safety, housing, homelessness, emergency services, education, health and corrections.

You can [read the submission on our website](#).

Seeking more support for families and children in IHR

Q Shelter has made a [submission to the Child Safety Inquiry](#) focusing on measures to prevent children from experiencing adverse childhood experiences through integrated approaches to prevention. We have used the submission to also call for a focused approach to integrating support to families currently accommodated through the Immediate Housing Response (IHR).

We are urgently seeking a support guarantee for all families in IHR that includes a food security guarantee, an education and childcare guarantee, access to health services, safe sleeping support and an integrated support guarantee, including across jurisdictions.

Fuel shortages

Q Shelter has corresponded with the Treasurer and the Department of Housing and Public Works, highlighting potential risks from geopolitical instability and the impact on fuel costs. We are focused on:

- Service delivery continuity
- Sustaining housing growth activities to deliver social and affordable homes
- Alleviating pressure on the workforce regarding the cost of travel
- Addressing the needs of tenants and clients being assisted by your organisation.

You can contact Q Shelter at info@shelter.asn.au or [provide concerns and potential solutions via this survey](#).

Spotlight on boarding house sales

In the last month, Q Shelter has heard from concerned members about potential boarding house sales and the threat of displacement to current residents. There are a few boarding houses on the market at present, which could be a threat to transiently housed Queenslanders who will be vulnerable to homelessness if forced to move. Similar to Brisbane's Urban Renewal Program and Expo '88, the downward pressure on boarding houses is real.

We have raised a specific opportunity to appraise one boarding house for an acquisition, and we will convene a policy discussion about sales and potential closures with QDN and the Department of Housing and Public Works. We are seeking a protocol to achieve early advice from owners about potential sales, and a clear protocol to appraise boarding houses for acquisition or, if they must be sold and closed, a protocol for how residents will be assisted.

We must learn from history and do the best we can to prevent displacement and homelessness. We are monitoring boarding house closures through [our annual Displacement Monitoring Report](#).

Warm regards,



Fiona Cangilia
Chief Executive Officer

Thrive at Work Summit

We're counting down the weeks now until we meet together for our first [Thrive at Work Summit](#) on **Thursday 14 May**. Those who have secured their tickets for this high impact summit are feeling the excitement grow, but it's not too late if you haven't yet booked a place for you and your team.

Our latest exciting announcement, is that local singer, song writer, choir master and music dynamo, Emma Dean will be leading a 'Sing Together' session at the summit. A session designed to show us how music can boost mood, build connection and create shared joy, this no-singing-experience-necessary session is another way the Thrive at Work Summit is bringing together innovative options for everyone.

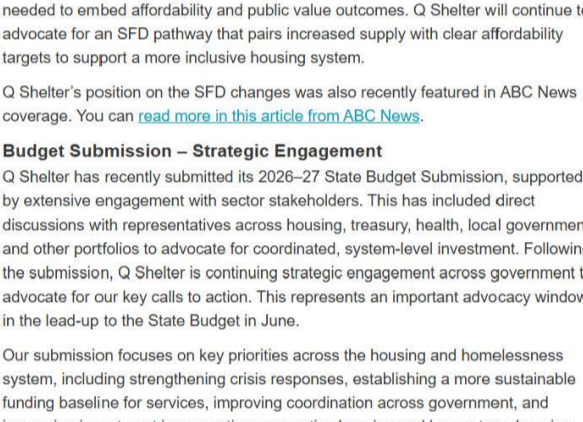
[Thrive At Work Summit speaker profile](#)

Emma Dean

Session Presenter

Meanjin/Brisbane-based Emma Dean is an internationally acclaimed musician, performer, composer, arranger, creativity coach, and self-confessed "choir nerd". She is the Founder and Director of community choir Cheep Trill, and has written choir arrangements for the likes of John Farnham, Katie Noonan, Kate Ceberano and Glenn Shorrock.

Emma is a passionate advocate for the transformational power of group singing, and its ability to create lasting positive change, enhance social connections, confidence, wellbeing and a sense of belonging.



You can follow us on LinkedIn to [hear direct from others in the sector about why they are looking forward to the Thrive at Work Summit](#).

Our thanks to [Platinum Partner Bloom HR](#), providing transformational outsourced HR solutions for the not-for-profit, government and community services sectors.

[Book your tickets now](#)

Partner with us to Thrive

We are inviting a small number of aligned partners to join us in delivering the Thrive at Work Summit in 2026.

Far from being just another event, this will be a high impact summit, bringing together leaders across the community services sector to drive real change in workforce wellbeing, employee development, and performance.

If you want your brand in the room with the people shaping this shift, we have limited partnership opportunities available. To discuss a partnership, [contact Jo Draper](#).

Policy and Strategic Engagement

State Facilitated Development (SFD) reset

Q Shelter welcomes the Queensland Government's reset of the State Facilitated Development (SFD) pathway, particularly efforts to improve coordination and speed up planning approvals.

However, faster approvals alone will not resolve the housing crisis. Without clear affordability requirements, streamlined pathways to delivering housing that remains out of reach for low- and moderate-income households.

While restoring council involvement is positive, stronger state policy settings are needed to embed affordability and public value outcomes. Q Shelter will continue to advocate for an SFD pathway that pairs increased supply with clear affordability targets to support a more inclusive housing system.

Q Shelter's position on the SFD changes was also recently featured in ABC News coverage. You can [read more in this article from ABC News](#).

Budget Submission – Strategic Engagement

Q Shelter has recently submitted its 2026–27 State Budget Submission, supported by extensive engagement with sector stakeholders. This has included direct discussions with representatives across housing, treasury, health, local government and other portfolios to advocate for coordinated, system-level investment. Following the submission, Q Shelter is continuing strategic engagement across government to advocate for our key calls to action. This represents an important advocacy window in the lead-up to the State Budget in June.

Our submission focuses on key priorities across the housing and homelessness system, including strengthening crisis responses, establishing a more sustainable funding baseline for services, improving coordination across government, and increasing investment in prevention, supportive housing and longer-term housing pathways.

You can [read the full submission on our website](#).

This work reflects ongoing strategic engagement, with further updates and opportunities for involvement to be shared in the coming weeks, watch this space. If you would like to discuss any aspect of the submission or our policy priorities, please feel free to reach out to [Q Shelter's Policy and Strategic Engagement team](#).

June CEO and Senior Leaders Forum



Secure your tickets at the early bird price
Time is running out to book your tickets for both the [CEO and Community Networking event](#), and the [CEO and Leaders Forum and Lunch](#) at our early bird rates.

This June we're at the iconic Brisbane City Hall in the heart of the CBD. As always, you'll hear from leaders in government, decision makers, and thought leaders on current developments and housing solutions. [Follow us on Eventbrite](#) to see the latest updates to the speaker line up, but be sure to [secure your tickets today](#).

New sponsor Hamilton Locke

Q Shelter is pleased to welcome our latest sponsor for our June 2026 CEO and Leaders Forum, [Hamilton Locke](#).

Hamilton Locke is one of Australia's fastest growing law firms, providing comprehensive and commercial solutions throughout the entire housing lifecycle and with expertise in community housing, build-to-rent and specialist accommodation.

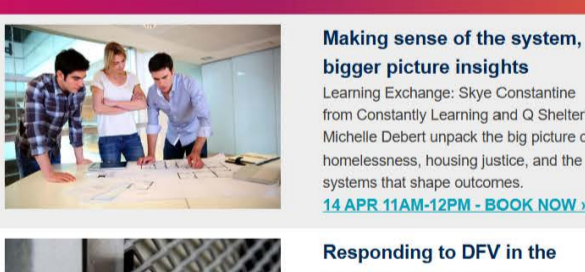
Dedicated to a thriving housing system, Emile McPhee and the team are passionate about helping housing providers succeed.

Emile and the Hamilton Locke team will have a space setup at the CEO and Senior Leaders Forum for anyone who'd like to meet to discuss how they can support your organisation.



Emile McPhee
Hamilton Locke

8th National Housing and Homelessness Forum




Q Shelter is proud to support the [8th National Housing and Homelessness Forum](#) this May in Sydney.

Held from 26 – 29 May, the forum brings together service providers, policymakers, and community leaders to work through key issues our sector is grappling with right now, including funding models, tenancy stabilisation, First Nations housing reform, and breaking down silos that slow everything down.

The forum agenda features a strong Queensland contingent, including our CEO Fiona Cangilia, and Jackson Hills who will moderate a panel on supportive housing using his new role as CEO of National Shelter.

Find out [more about the forum](#) and [secure your tickets through the website at housingandhomelessness.com.au](#)

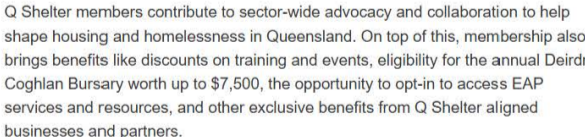
Building a national local government network to end homelessness



AAEH needs survey
The Australian Alliance to End Homelessness is establishing a new national local government network on ending homelessness, and are asking for local government staff – anyone whose job intersects with homelessness – to help by [completing a short survey by 16 April](#).

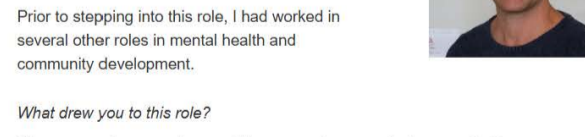
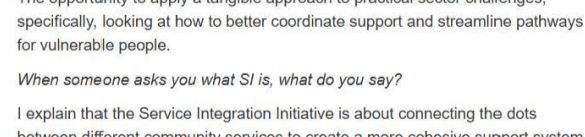
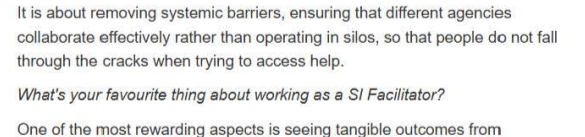
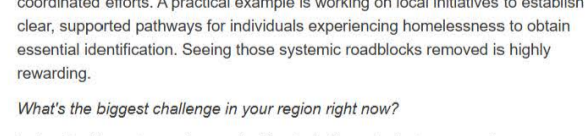
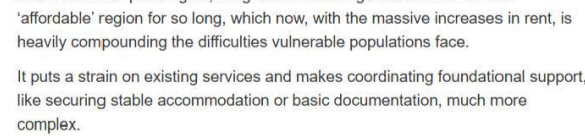
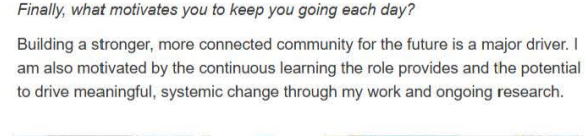
Broad participation is essential to ensure this network is effective for everyone involved, so we encourage those in our network who meet the criteria to contribute to the short seven question survey.

Training delivered direct for your organisation



Our Sector Capacity team are working directly with organisations across the sector and around the state to deliver in-house training. If you'd like the team to deliver a session for your staff, such as the free Housing First training, or the fee-based, in-person Introduction to homelessness (Perfect for New Workers, casual and other sectors such as mental health) [get in touch with Michelle Debert today](#).

Q SHELTER Events

for all our training and events

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 mailing list](#) to be the first to hear when the next session is scheduled.

Membership Matters

News for Q Shelter members and their staff

At our [last Annual General Meeting in November](#), Q Shelter members voted unanimously to transfer the incorporation of Q Shelter from an association to a company limited by guarantee. The Management Committee is progressing this move, and over the coming months we will be sharing more about the next steps.

Q Shelter members contribute to sector-wide advocacy and collaboration to help shape housing and homelessness in Queensland. On top of this, membership also brings benefits like discounts on training and events, eligibility for the annual Deirdre Coghlan Bursary worth up to \$7,500, the opportunity to opt-in to access EAP services and resources, and other exclusive benefits from Q Shelter aligned businesses and partners.

Watch this space for more announcements on this benefits in the coming months. Find out [more about becoming a Q Shelter member](#).

Service Profile: John Clayton, Central Queensland

When did you start as a Service Integration (SI) Facilitator?
October 2024.



Prior to stepping into this role, I had worked in several other roles in mental health and community development.

What drew you to this role?

The opportunity to apply a tangible approach to practical sector challenges, specifically, looking at how to better coordinate support and streamline pathways for vulnerable people.

When someone asks you what SI is, what do you say?

I explain that the Service Integration Initiative is about connecting the dots between different community and sector services to create a more cohesive support system. It is about removing systemic barriers, ensuring that different agencies collaborate effectively rather than operating in silos, so that people do not fall through the cracks when trying to access help.

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

One of the most rewarding aspects is seeing tangible outcomes from coordinated efforts. A practical example is working on local initiatives to establish clear, supported pathways for individuals experiencing homelessness to obtain essential identification. Seeing those systemic roadblocks removed is highly rewarding.

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

In the Rockhampton region, a significant challenge is that we were the "affordable" region for so long, which now, with the massive increases in rent, is heavily compounding the difficulties vulnerable populations face.

It puts a strain on existing services and makes coordinating foundational support, like securing stable accommodation or basic documentation, much more complex.

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

Building a strong, resilient networked community is the future in my mind. I am also motivated by the continuous learning the role provides and the potential to drive meaningful, systemic change through my work and ongoing research.

Presenting a case study from Central Queensland at the November 2025 Regional Representatives forum

John with visiting Q Shelter team members meet with Michelle Landry MP, Federal Member for Capricornia

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:

- [Aboriginal Hostels Limited](#) - Hostel Managers / Assistant Managers, Townsville, Thursday Island, Mackay, Cairns, Rockhampton, Brisbane
- [Orange Sky](#) - Program Coordinator, Youth Services, Brisbane
- [The Salvos](#) - Doorkays Case Worker, part-time, Rockhampton
- [Micah Projects](#) - Service Design and Improvement Lead, Brisbane Queensland
- [Tradewind Australia](#) - Homelessness Crisis Worker, casual, Central Queensland
- [Dept Housing & Public Works](#) - Senior Housing Officer, Gold Coast
- [Anglicare](#) - Practitioner, Immediate Housing Response, Brisbane
- [Anglicare](#) - Property and Tenancy Officer, Brisbane
- [Tenants Queensland](#) - QSTARs Tenant Advice Worker, Maroochydore
- [Millingcare](#) - Case Worker, Homelessness, Brisbane
- [BHC - Housing Manager](#) (Property Manager), Brisbane
- [Churches of Christ](#) - Senior Housing Support Worker, Brisbane, Logan, Ipswich

Don't forget that you can list job vacancies for free anytime on [The Deck: thedeck.org.au/jobs](#)

Closing quote

"The State Facilitated Development reset misses an opportunity to embed affordable housing outcomes, a feature of similar fast-track pathways in other states, where public benefit tests and affordability benchmarks are standard."

[Fiona Cangilia](#), in [Q Shelter's response](#) to the Queensland Government's announced changes to State Facilitated Development pathways.

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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.