



Home Matters February 2026

From our Leadership Team

Q Shelter Pre-Budget Submission

Q Shelter recently distributed our [2026-2027 Pre-Budget Submission](#) to all Queensland State MPs. We are now engaged in providing individual and group briefings to amplify our key messages.

This year, we present a comprehensive and integrated suite of recommendations responsive to the multi-faceted nature of housing stress and homelessness. We urge the State Government to sustain current levels of investment in immediate responses to homelessness, while initiating horizon measures that are upstream-focused, in order to achieve prevention through reforms, investment and system design.

Q Shelter's Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan

Thanks to support from Wade Krueger and [Krueger Consultancy Services](#), Q Shelter now has an endorsed Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). The RAP is now being implemented under the guidance of our RAP Working Group, and we are pleased to have already made progress on several deliverables. You can read more about our Innovate RAP further in this edition of *Home Matters*, and we look forward to keeping our members and stakeholders informed of our progress in this important body of work.

Thrive at Work Summit

Q Shelter is offering an innovative one-day conference in May in Brisbane, focused on workforce wellbeing. [The Thrive At Work Summit](#) is designed for all areas of community services and partner organisations and will explore ways to support wellbeing at the individual, organisational, and systems levels. We invite our members and stakeholders to attend this unique event and share it with your contacts. The full-day event offers diverse content relevant to frontline staff, managers, and executives, with post-event resources and support included with your registration. We look forward to seeing you there!

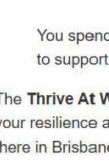
New opportunity for CHP partnerships in Banyo

[Q Shelter has this week shared information about a new opportunity for CHPs to assist in the delivery of affordable homes on a 8ha site in Banyo.](#) Close to transport and services, this site in Brisbane's north will facilitate much-needed housing outcomes. We have publicly commented on the critical importance of retaining public land for social and affordable outcomes. While the plan is to offer the site for sale, the inclusion of CHPs means that critically needed social and affordable homes can be delivered. You can read our [media release here](#) and find out more about the opportunity on the [Economic Development Queensland website](#).

Congratulations to Adrian Pisarski AM

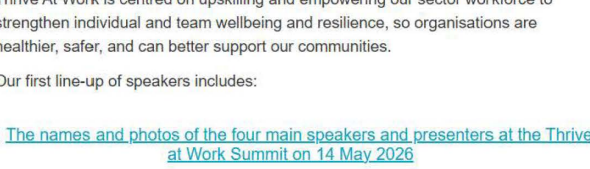
In closing, I'd like to acknowledge and congratulate my predecessor Adrian Pisarski AM, for being appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia in the 2025 Australia Day Honours list. Adrian remains Q Shelter's longest-serving Executive Director (2002-13), and his advocacy on housing and social issues and leadership at a host of peaks and community organisations is exemplary and inspiring.

Warm regards,



Jason Coniglia
Chief Executive Officer

Thrive at Work Summit - Early Bird closes soon!



You spend your days supporting others, but when do you dedicate time to support YOU?

The **Thrive At Work Summit** is your day to unlock wellbeing strategies, strengthen your resilience and rediscover your passion for working in community services. Be there in Brisbane in May to discover how to truly THRIVE at work, every single day.

Q Shelter is proud to present this unmissable day of workshops, inspiring presentations and connection with colleagues from across Community Services, giving you practical tools and resources you can use immediately in your workplace.

Thrive At Work is centred on upskilling and empowering our sector workforce to strengthen individual and team wellbeing and resilience, so organisations are healthier, safer, and can better support our communities.

Our first line-up of speakers includes:

[The names and roles of the four main speakers and presenters at the Thrive at Work Summit on 14 May 2026](#)

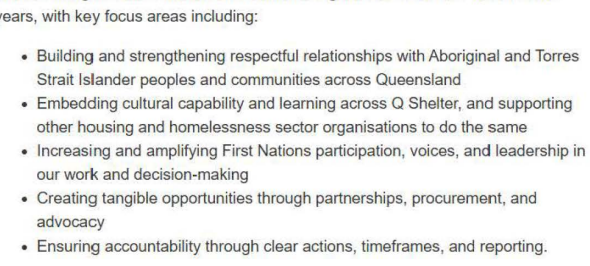
Early Bird discounted tickets are available now, but the discount ends on 28 February! Get in quick for a fantastic deal on a full suite of training and development delivered in one day, not offered anywhere else.

[Book your tickets now](#)



Q Shelter has just announced the date for our June 2026 CEO and Senior Leaders Forum, and discounted early bird tickets are available for a short time. Join us at the iconic Brisbane City Hall on **Tuesday evening 23 June** for our sector networking event, followed on **Wednesday 24 June** by the sector's premier forum for senior leaders and decision makers. [Book now.](#)

Q Shelter Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan



Following official endorsement from Reconciliation Australia, we are proud to unveil the Q Shelter Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

Our Innovate RAP is more than a document. It's a roadmap for how we embed reconciliation into our everyday work, strengthen relationships, and create lasting impact across the housing and homelessness sector in Queensland.

This meaningful, action-driven commitment will guide our work over the next two years, with key focus areas including:

- Building and strengthening respectful relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities across Queensland
- Embedding cultural capability and learning across Q Shelter, and supporting other housing and homelessness sector organisations to do the same
- Increasing and amplifying First Nations participation, voices, and leadership in our work and decision-making
- Creating tangible opportunities through partnerships, procurement, and advocacy
- Ensuring accountability through clear actions, timeframes, and reporting.

Through this RAP we will deliver practical projects and measurable actions that support reconciliation in a way that is genuine, collaborative, and grounded in listening, and that reflects the influential role Q Shelter plays in the housing system.

This RAP matters because housing justice and reconciliation are deeply connected. By walking alongside First Nations peoples and communities, we strengthen our collective ability to advocate, influence systems, and create safer, more inclusive outcomes.

We are exploring ways to share our knowledge gained from the experience to support our members and stakeholders through their own RAP process. In the meantime, we look forward to sharing more as our RAP journey continues, and to working with partners, communities, and allies as we turn commitment into action.

[You can read the Q Shelter Innovate RAP here on our website.](#)

HAFF Round 3 launched

Housing Australia has launched Round 3 of the Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF), supporting the delivery of 21,350 additional social and affordable homes.

Round 3 introduces four tailored funding streams:

- First Nations
- Housing Diversity
- States and Territories
- Partnerships at Scale

This round also includes a First Nations Concierge Service and a more streamlined application process informed by earlier HAFF rounds.

Q Shelter encourages Queensland CHPs and partners to explore this important opportunity to grow social and affordable housing across the state.

[Visit the Housing Australia website for more information.](#)

In Focus: Lived Experience and Expertise

What is Q Shelter up to this year in the lived and living experience and expertise space?

We have a number of existing and new programs and events planned for the coming months, aimed at increasing tenant participation and engaging more voices of lived experience and expertise. These projects aim to help shape policy and improve housing outcomes for all Queenslanders, and are fantastic opportunities for people with lived/living experience and expertise to get involved. We invite you to click the links below to find out more and to register your interest, or to share with your networks if you know of someone suitable for these projects.

- Join the [Tenant Participation Working Group](#)
- Register your interest for the [Peer Leadership course](#)
- Online panel event: ['You Can't Ask That - Lived Expertise'](#)
- Get involved in the [QLD Lived Expertise Community of Practice](#)

Interested in joining an [intersectoral lived expertise leadership group](#), or have questions about any of the projects above? [Contact Q Shelter Sector Capacity Projects Lead Michelle Debert.](#)

Policy and Strategic Engagement

Liveable Housing Design Standards

Q Shelter, along with Queenslanders with Disability Network and around 50 other partner organisations, welcomed the recent decision by the Queensland Government to retain the Liveable Housing Design Standards (LHDS) within the National Construction Code (NCC). This decision is critical in ensuring Queensland provides accessible, safe, and future-ready homes, where people can live independently, age in place, and be part of their communities. [We congratulate and thank our colleagues at ODNI for leading the campaign on this important issue.](#)

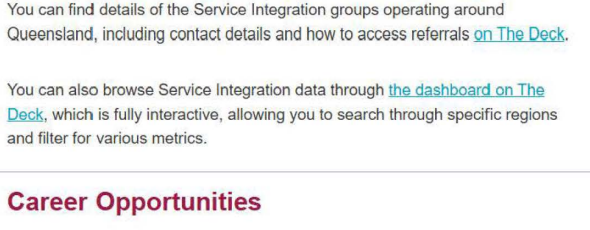
Queensland Productivity Commission Final Report - Government Response

In case you missed it, we recently released an overview of the State Government's response to the Final Report by the Queensland Productivity Commission for the Inquiry into Opportunities to Improve the Productivity of the Queensland Construction Industry. [You can read our comprehensive analysis here.](#)

Proposed changes to police powers in managing public spaces

At the end of last year, we commented on proposed changes to police powers in managing issues in public spaces, and the potential unintended consequences this may have on vulnerable people in our communities. [Find out more in our interview with ABC Brisbane on LinkedIn.](#)

Australasian Housing Researchers Conference 10-13 February 2026, QUT Brisbane



The QUT Design Lab and Q Shelter look forward to welcoming you to the [Australasian Housing Researchers Conference, AHRC 2026](#), being held at QUT on 10-13 February 2026.

Q Shelter is proud to be a silver sponsor of this event, with a number of our team also featuring as presenters in the programme.

[Find out more and register on the AHRC website.](#)

Q SHELTER Events

Engage | Learn | Celebrate

Intro to harm reduction in homelessness settings
Panel with Queensland Injectors Health Network to introduce core ideas of harm reduction and apply to work in our sector.
10 FEB 10-11:30AM - BOOK NOW

Housing First Principles + Case Note Writing CAIRNS
26 FEB 8:30AM - 3PM
Housing first morning session followed by case note writing after lunch.
BOOK NOW: 2-FOR-1 TICKETS!

Motivational Interviewing Training, BRISBANE
A 1-day workshop to introduce motivational interviewing to support people with complex challenges.
26 FEB 9:30-4:30PM - 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.

Service Integration

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](#).

You can also browse Service Integration data through [the dashboard on The Deck](#), which is fully interactive, allowing you to search through specific regions and filter for various metrics.

Career Opportunities

If housing advocacy is important to you, and you wish to be more involved with policy discussions on a national level, National Shelter is looking for their next CEO - could it be you?

If you are passionate about housing security for all, especially those on low to very-low incomes, and have an interest in policy, [apply now through Ethical Jobs](#).

Q Shelter Member organisations are also recruiting for the following vacancies.

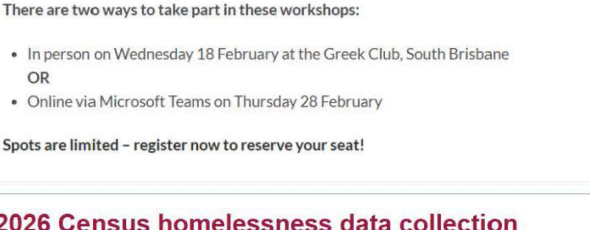
- **Kyabra - Case Worker for Keys to Early Intervention Homelessness Service, Caboolture.** Closes this week!
- **YFS - Housing Specialists for Slacks Creek and Jimboomba** (2 positions).
- **Micah Projects - Specialist Domestic Violence and Housing Connector.** Brisbane and Gold Coast.
- **Community - Homelessness Intervention Worker, Fortitude Valley.**

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

Sector Events/Opportunities

AHURI Australian Homelessness Conference

Applications close soon for abstracts and speakers



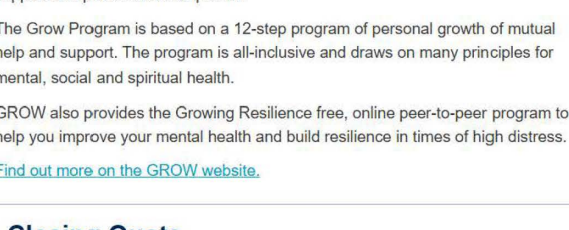
AHURI is calling for submissions from prospective speakers for the Australian Homelessness Conference *Homelessness: disrupting the narrative*, being held in Darwin this October.

The Australian Homelessness Conference is Australia's largest homelessness conference, bringing together all sectors addressing homelessness in Australia to share new ideas, best practices, and opportunities for system reform.

AHURI is seeking abstracts that offer fresh thinking, practical insights and evidence-informed approaches relevant to the homelessness sector. Submissions should help the sector understand contemporary issues, re-examine established ideas, and showcase opportunities for meaningful progress.

This year includes a dedicated research and academic abstract stream, showcasing submissions on theory, methods and critical perspectives from university-based researchers as well as people who are working in the field. [Submissions close on 11 February 2026.](#)

Australian Homelessness Conference 2026
Date: 7-8 October 2026
Location: Darwin Convention Centre



Let's talk future planning and who will care for the person you're supporting when you no longer can.

Thinking ahead can feel hard, but planning now can make a big difference later.

Join us to hear from a panel of experts about the services available to support people experiencing mental health challenges to find and maintain housing.

You will also learn about the Housing Older Women's Support Service - a service that supports women over 50 (and First Nations women over 45) to navigate housing systems and move towards finding permanent housing suitable for their situation.

There are two ways to take part in these workshops:

- In person on Wednesday 18 February at the Greek Club, South Brisbane
- OR
- Online via Microsoft Teams on Thursday 28 February

Spots are limited - register now to reserve your seat!

2026 Census homelessness data collection

Local Engagement Officers sought across Queensland

The Australian Bureau of Statistics is hiring Local Engagement Officers in locations all over Queensland to support as many people as possible to participate in the Census, and ensure accurate data on homelessness rates in our communities.

Some Local Engagement Officers will be responsible for supporting engagement and Census collection activities with people experiencing homelessness. They will interact with local service providers, other community groups and the public to raise awareness, respond to questions about the Census, and seek information on local homelessness populations and services. They will also manage activities to support people experiencing homelessness to participate in the Census, including the rough sleeper count. We are looking for people who have worked in the sector, or with lived experience of homelessness.

Census data helps inform support funding, community groups and local service providers understand the needs of their local communities and in turn helps people experiencing homelessness. We need accurate data on homelessness in Australia to ensure funding and services are targeted to areas of need.

Visit census.abs.gov.au/jobs and join the Talent Community to get notified.

Free mental health support through the GROW

GROW is a community-based organisation that has helped thousands of Australians with their recovery from mental ill-health through a unique program of mutual support and personal development.

The Grow Program is based on a 12-step program of personal growth of mutual help and support. The program is an all-inclusive and draws on many principles for mental, social and spiritual health.

GROW also provides the Growing Resilience free, online peer-to-peer program to help you improve your mental health and build resilience in times of high distress.

[Find out more on the GROW website.](#)

Closing Quote

"We hope that all strategic sites of this nature will retain a component of social and affordable housing under community ownership and management."

Piona Caniglia, following the announcement of a new [project providing around 400 homes in Banyo](#) in Brisbane's north.

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.