

Wednesday 24 June 2026

For immediate release

2026-27 Queensland Budget continues the focus on housing and homelessness solutions

Q Shelter welcomes increased funding for the housing and homelessness sector announced this week in the 2026-2027 Queensland Budget.

With more Queenslanders than ever struggling to secure and afford a stable and suitable home, this week's budget offers some hope to those teetering on the edge of homelessness and to those who already need assistance to find a safe place to shelter each night.

Q Shelter Chief Executive Officer, Fiona Caniglia, said of the budget announcements: 'The additional \$450m in funding for the housing and homelessness sector over four years means proven effective support such as tenancy sustainment, outreach and youth services can continue to provide the help many Queenslanders need right now.

'These funds also help maintain regional coordination capacity, supporting more integrated responses to housing and homelessness across Queensland.

'We note the budget measures continue to respond to immediate homelessness needs in the short term, which is justified considering the level of demand.

'However, Q Shelter cautions that while immediate needs remain high, it will take a concerted effort across systems to design and achieve genuine prevention against people falling into housing instability and homelessness in the first place.

'We can't wait for prevention to emerge; it requires a determined and courageous approach to system reform and the alignment of investment to those reforms,' Ms Caniglia said.

Q Shelter urges the Queensland Government to work closely with peak and industry bodies and the wider sector to strategically design and implement genuine prevention systems and programs.

'While housing supply is critical to prevention, so too is how families and children are assisted with a housing guarantee, food security, high-quality support, an education guarantee, and additional specialised measures to address other needs such as disability and mental health.

'If we start now to prevent homelessness through bold system reforms, we can expect to see a reduction in complex adult homelessness, intersection with justice systems and in child safety system involvement,' Ms Caniglia said.

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'We note commitments to child safety system improvements; however, Q Shelter has called for greater investment in intensive family support before children and families are engaged in this system. High-quality, intensive support from pregnancy onwards could prevent children experiencing homelessness and adverse childhood events, and over time, reduce complex homelessness among adults exposed to the child protection system.'

Q Shelter also welcomes the Government's stated intent to focus on strengthening prevention and early intervention and supporting people into long-term housing outcomes. The budget's increase in DFV responses, youth foyers and supportive housing projects are examples of the proven transformative mechanisms that Q Shelter has long been advocating for on behalf of the housing and homelessness sector.

Finding the balance of increasing proven prevention measures so more people do not fall into housing need, while still providing the crisis support for those currently in crisis will be key.

'Queensland's community housing providers and specialist homelessness services have a track record of providing the best care and long-term support for people in need, and we're glad to see the government's commitment to both in this budget,' said Ms Caniglia.

'Any increase in social and affordable housing, overall housing supply, and private rental assistance will contribute to alleviating the pressure many are feeling to be able to afford a safe, stable and secure home.

'Importantly, contracting for tenancy sustainment services, outreach services and coordinated responses to complex housing and homelessness needs will be until June 2029, which provides better continuity of service delivery and improved staff retention.

'Q Shelter will continue to work with the Queensland Government to advocate for five-year contracts with flexibility to respond to current, emerging and future community needs.'

Budget highlights for housing and homelessness include:

- An additional \$1.024 billion over four years to deliver social and affordable homes against the target of 53,500 homes by 2042.
- Continued commitment to \$500 million ongoing baseline capital funding from 2030-2031. This commitment beyond the forward estimates is unique to Queensland.
- Consolidation of commitment to delivering homes in partnership with Community Housing Providers.
- Confirmation of eight new Youth Foyers distributed throughout Queensland.
- Confirmation of the commitment to Supportive Housing in Southport and East Brisbane.
- An additional \$450 million for homelessness responses, strengthening continuity of service delivery for frontline services. This includes funding for peak and industry bodies.

- \$6.4 million over four years, and \$1.6 million ongoing to support the regulation of community housing, disability housing, retirement villages, residential parks, and residential services.
- \$83.4 million over three years to continue private rental market measures.
- An additional \$163 million in 2026-2027 to support first home ownership through the Boost to Buy home ownership scheme. This provides up to 30% equity contribution for new homes and \$25% equity contribution for existing homes
- \$72 million over four years for the boosted \$30,000 First Homeowner Grant, which was due to revert to \$15,000 on 1 July 2026.
- Measures to assist with the cost of living are welcome, however Q Shelter stresses the financial pressure for families and vulnerable individuals is worsening. This requires more coordination across the tiers of government to consider how more targeted measures to address poverty and disadvantage could be embedded. Q Shelter notes measures such as legislation to protect reduced public transport fares, continuation of vouchers for sport, and an extra \$50 per week to support families with back-to-school costs are welcome. There is also a 3.4% increase to the electricity rebate scheme for eligible vulnerable households.
- Q Shelter notes the \$3.5 billion investment in the delivery of the 2032 Games Athletes Villages in partnership with the private sector. We continue to engage with the Government about how a genuine housing supply legacy from the Games can be achieved.

Q Shelter will be looking at the detail of this budget in the coming days and providing full analysis for its members, stakeholders, and the wider sector.

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

For further comment, interviews or more information:

[Fiona Caniglia](#), Chief Executive Officer: 0400 1964 92

[Q Shelter Communications Team](#): (07) 3831 5900.

About Q Shelter

For almost 40 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.