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Homelessness Ministerial Advisory Council a step in the right direction

Q Shelter welcomes the announcement made today by the Minister for Housing and Public Works, Sam O'Connor MP, regarding the formation of the Homelessness Ministerial Advisory Council (HMAC).

The council will include representatives from the housing and homelessness sector, including Q Shelter, as well as relevant state agencies and local government representative bodies.

Q Shelter Acting CEO Jackson Hills said the announcement was a strong step in the right direction, following calls from the peak body and the sector for the State Government to convene a meeting of multidisciplinary agencies and service providers, SEQ regional councils, and the State Government.

"We look forward to collaborating with the Minister, the Department of Housing and Public Works, and other sector partners as HMAC is established and meets bimonthly. We are optimistic that it will serve as an effective platform for evaluating current policy responses while also considering new approaches.

"This united effort will be especially important as we prepare for the 2032 Games, during which we anticipate that these challenges will become even more significant.

"In addition to the new HMAC, Q Shelter believes enhancing regional cooperation in South East Queensland is just as essential.

"We are hopeful the State Government can also facilitate a meeting of all SEQ councils—whether via the HMAC or by some other mechanism such as the SEQ Council of Mayors—to collaboratively review current approaches and explore additional measures.

"Given the escalating issues surrounding homelessness and housing pressures, there has never been a more critical time for a coordinated, strategic, and long-term response to ensure that every Queenslander has a safe and stable place to call home," Mr Hills said.

ENDS

For further comment, interviews or more information: <u>Q Shelter Communications Team</u>: 07 3831 5900.

About Q Shelter

<u>Q Shelter</u> (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 other organisations to be effective, so that our combined capacity to respond to housing need is strengthened.

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