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because housing matters

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**Rents remain unaffordable for lower income households in Queensland, despite continued improvement in affordability**

Queensland's peak body for the housing and homelessness sector, Q Shelter, says the latest Rental Affordability Index shows that despite improving affordability across Queensland, affordable rent is still frustratingly out of reach for low to moderate income Queenslanders.

Q Shelter's Executive Director, Fiona Caniglia, said that without more affordable housing, a significant number Queenslanders would continue to struggle in the rental market.

"While we welcome the increase in overall affordability for Brisbane and the rest of Queensland, we have considerable concerns about the declining affordability for very low and low income households in our community and the very real impact that high rents have on those households forcing them into insecure living, overcrowding and homelessness." Ms Caniglia said.

Ms Caniglia said that a lack of affordability in inner and middle suburbs as well as key population centres like the Gold and Sunshine Coasts; was pushing disadvantaged Queenslanders into areas with fewer services, infrastructure challenges and barriers to education and training.

Ms Caniglia said that there needs to be more investment in well-located social and affordable housing to address affordability issues for low to moderate income Queenslanders.

"In a state like Queensland it is critical to maintain a regionally sensitive approach to the solutions and also one that addresses the needs of specific household types such as older people, single parents and single income families."

You can find an interactive map highlighting these figures here - <https://www.sgsep.com.au/maps/thirdspace/australia-rental-affordability-index/>

**Q Shelter's Executive Director, Fiona Caniglia, is available for interviews.**

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**Queensland Shelter**

Queensland Shelter (Q Shelter) is the state's peak body for the housing and homelessness sector. Founded over thirty years ago, Queensland Shelter is a member-based organisation funded by the Queensland Government. They work with both the state government and housing and homelessness sector to reform, grow, engage, and build the capacity of the housing and homelessness sector.

