



SHELTER
because housing matters

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday 6 February 2018

Queensland delegation arrives in Canberra to fight for remote housing

Queensland's peak body for the housing and homelessness sector, Q Shelter, has led a delegation to Parliament House to press for fair funding for remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Q Shelter's Executive Director, Leone Crayden, said she was leading this delegation to speak up for the communities who will be devastated by the Commonwealth's exit from the National Partnership on Remote Housing (NPRH) in June this year.

"We will be speaking with Senators and Members of Parliament from across the political divide to provide the voice for local councils, residents, and communities across remote Queensland."

Ms Crayden said that the Commonwealth needed to continue their funding role in as housing outcomes in remote communities are inextricably linked to Closing the Gap.

"Over the past decade, the state and Commonwealth governments have invested around \$1.8 billion to improve housing outcomes in remote communities." Ms Crayden said.

"Despite this success, there's still a huge gap in housing outcomes for these communities."

Ms Crayden said that overcrowded housing had massive impacts on education, mental health, and physical health for remote communities."

"My question to people who think overcrowding is simply a housing issue - how would your children be affected by sharing your house with another three families? How would your child's educational opportunities be affected? What about your family's mental and emotional wellbeing?"

"A 3 bedroom house shared by 20 to 30 people is still a sad and unacceptable reality for many remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities."

"If the Commonwealth is going to take responsibility for Closing the Gap, then housing needs to be part of that responsibility." Ms Crayden added.

"The Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Nigel Scullion, said that Queensland, Western Australia, and South Australia need have skin in the game and put up funding for remote housing - and we completely agree."

"The Queensland Government has already said it's going to commit funding toward housing in remote communities - now it's time for the Commonwealth to get on board with their commitment as well."

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“We call on the Commonwealth to commit to a new 10 year funding agreement and Close the Gap for housing in remote communities.”

Q Shelter’s delegation includes:

- Leone Crayden - Executive Director Q Shelter
- Adrian Pisarski - Executive Director National Shelter
- Russell Logan - Richmond ALP Minjungbal Branch
- Peta Winzar - Community Housing Industry Association
- Cr Michael Sand - Deputy Mayor Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council
- Stephen Hall - Shelter WA

The Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) and Queensland Minister for Housing and Public Works, the Hon. Mick de Brenni MP, will also be leading delegations this week.

Leone, Adrian, and Peta are available for interviews via phone or at Commonwealth Parliament House.

Q Shelter Media Contact: Scott McGregor – 0430 100 932

Queensland Shelter

Queensland 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.

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