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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tax cuts won't solve housing crisis – Q Shelter's response to Federal Budget 2018

Queensland's peak body for the housing and homelessness sector, Q Shelter, has expressed disappointment that social, affordable, and remote housing is 'missing in action' from this year's Federal Budget

Q Shelter's Executive Director, Leone Crayden, said that last year's budget had made promising steps towards addressing housing affordability, but the Treasurer had squibbed the opportunity to follow these measures with any meaningful reform.

"In last year's budget, Scott Morrison said there wasn't a silver bullet to making housing more affordable." Ms Crayden said.

"We're not asking the Commonwealth Government to fix housing affordability overnight; we're asking them to lead the way with a national strategy on housing and to empower the not-for-profit sector to deliver new housing supply for low-income Australians."

Q Shelter is calling on federal and state governments to work together to address social and affordable housing shortfalls across the state.

"Malcolm Turnbull and Scott Morrison have consistently said that more supply is key to solving our housing affordability crisis."

"In that case, we need a coordinated approach between Commonwealth and state governments under a national housing strategy to boost supply of social and affordable housing."

"We call on Scott Morrison to target public subsidies for not-for-profit housing providers to deliver and manage social and affordable housing."

"We also call on the Queensland Government to support these measures by unlocking public land at below market rates for not-for-profit providers, and allowing higher density housing for affordable housing projects." Ms Crayden added

"If we have both levels of government working under a coordinated national strategy, we have a greater chance of meeting the housing needs of all low income Queenslanders."

Q Shelter also expressed their disappointment with the lack of funding for remote housing for Queensland in the Federal Budget 2018.

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“Since December, we’ve been calling on the Commonwealth to continue funding remote housing in Queensland, and to finish the job they started in addressing overcrowding across Indigenous communities.” Ms Crayden said.

“We know that investment in remote housing has delivered jobs, training, health, and education outcomes that are critical to meeting targets under Closing the Gap.

“We call on the Commonwealth to match funding from the Queensland Government and continue delivering housing that is desperately needed across remote areas of Queensland.

Q Shelter has also commended the Federal Government for their continued funding for Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA) and extension of the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement.

However, Ms Crayden said that maintaining existing CRA funding and ignoring calls to boost the rate of the Newstart allowance meant that the Federal Government was accepting rising levels of homelessness and a growing backlog of demand for affordable housing.

“We need the Federal Government to alleviate the burden of housing for the lowest-income Australians.” Ms Crayden said.

“The Federal Government can make significant progress in tackling poverty by boosting the Newstart allowance and complementing this with an increase to CRA.”

Q Shelter is calling on the Federal Government to:

- Finish rolling out key housing measures in Budget 2017; including the National Housing and Investment Finance Corporation (NHFIC), the National Housing; Infrastructure Facility (NHIF), and the Australian Housing Bond Aggregator (AHBA)
- Develop a National Housing Strategy and coordinate more closely with state governments;
- Engage and empower the not-for-profit sector to deliver social and affordable housing;
- Reinstate funding for remote housing across Queensland, West Australia, and South Australia;

Key housing measures in Budget 2018:

TBC





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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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