



Corona risk for people needing homelessness and housing services and support

Funding for vulnerable Queenslanders experiencing homelessness and housing stress will reduce the risk of them contracting and spreading corona virus says peak body Q Shelter.

“This funding is desperately needed to ensure housing and homelessness services can continue support for those in need,” says Q Shelter Executive Director Fiona Caniglia. “These are essential services that don’t have the option of closing down.

“The risk of those who are experiencing housing stress and homelessness being exposed to, contracting and spreading corona virus is very high. This risk will be reduced with the vital Queensland government funding announced today.

“Housing and homelessness services are working with government in Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Moreton Bay, Sunshine Coast, Brisbane, Redlands, Logan and the Gold Coast following today’s announcement of \$24.7m for housing, homelessness and support.

“Extra funding for people sleeping rough will help get people off the streets and into accommodation. Those experiencing this extreme end of homelessness don’t have the option of protecting themselves by self-isolation at home.

“Q Shelter and service providers throughout the state realise that people experiencing homelessness and housing stress will be supported so their risk of being exposed to the virus is reduced. Supporting specialist and crisis accommodation helps protect people living in centres and the staff working there.

“Q Shelter and all organisations see this support as invaluable for providing essential services and support during this crisis. Boosting housing brokerage services, prompt cleaning of properties, fast tracking Dignity First Funding, improving Home Assist as well as bond loans and rental grants will all be invaluable to support people experiencing the many forms of homelessness.

“Organisations working in housing and homelessness areas are feeling the pressure of losing workers due to the Corona virus. Extra funding for replacement workers during this crisis means these services can continue to work with vulnerable Queenslanders,” says Fiona.

For over thirty years Q Shelter has worked to improve housing for vulnerable Queenslanders.

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