



**SHELTER**  
because housing matters

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Monday 17 December, 2018**

**Q Shelter welcomes Australian Federal Labor plan to tackle rental affordability**

Queensland's peak body for the housing and homelessness sector, Q Shelter, has welcomed Opposition Leader Bill Shorten's announcement of a 15-year \$6.6 billion policy to tackle rental affordability.

This initiative will provide institutional investors with \$8,500 per year to cap rents at below 20% market rates, and will support the construction of an additional 250,000 dwellings over the next decade.

Q Shelter's Executive Director, Fiona Caniglia, said this announcement demonstrates that housing affordability has now been elevated as a key election issue for everyday Australians.

"We know that over 800,000 Australians need some sort of support to avoid rental stress." Ms Caniglia said.

In recent years, the [Rental Affordability Index](#) produced by National Shelter with SGS Economics and Planning, Community Sector Banking and the Brotherhood of St Laurence have highlighted growing rental stress across Queensland. These reports have particularly highlighted the worsening affordability for low-moderate income earners in the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and Bundaberg regions.

"Over the past eighteen months, Q Shelter has supported the Everybody's Home Campaign, which has been calling on all major political parties to commit to more social and affordable housing."

"We welcome this announcement by Labor and thank all Australians who helped raise the profile of housing affordability leading into the 2019 Federal Election."

Although Ms Caniglia welcomed the announcement, she cautioned that further investment in social housing was critical to ensure vulnerable members of the community had access to safe secure accommodation.

"While we welcome support for low-moderate income Australians, we need to ensure that those at risk of homelessness, including people fleeing domestic and family violence, have access to appropriate housing options."

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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.

