



MEDIA RELEASE

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State’s peak body welcomes support for Universal Design in this year’s Brisbane City Council Budget

Q Shelter welcomed funding and incentives in this year’s Brisbane City Council Budget towards addressing hoarding, homelessness, and affordable and accessible housing.

Q Shelter’s Executive Director, Fiona Caniglia, congratulated Brisbane City Council on infrastructure charges rebates to those building universal housing.

“This is a critical initiative that demonstrates leadership in universal design and accessible housing. It is an important contribution to the viability of housing projects designed to achieve inclusion and access” Ms Caniglia said.

“It will enhance the bottom line of projects with liveable design, including Specialist Disability Accommodation projects.”

Q Shelter said the scheme, which Council estimates will provide rebates between \$3,000 and \$5,000 per dwelling, would help Brisbane meet a growing demand for accessible housing.

“It’s important that we provide more housing and greater choice in housing for people with disability.”

“If we encourage the supply of more gold -standard universal housing, more people can live independently and remain in their communities.” Ms Caniglia added.

Although Q Shelter expressed confidence that builders and developers would embrace the scheme, Ms Caniglia said there was a need to increase awareness of these housing options across the community.

Q Shelter also welcomes Council’s continued support for:

- supporting homelessness services and organisations to better meet the needs of homeless people through initiatives such as Homeless Connect and the Red Cross Night Cafe
- addressing homelessness in public spaces by providing crisis and transitional housing options through the Community Housing Partnership Project
- responding to people experiencing homelessness and rough sleepers through engagement and referrals to appropriate support and housing services
- demonstrating civic leadership through facilitating practical and holistic responses to homelessness that involves all spheres of government, business and the community
- providing grant funding to support community organisations to assist people experiencing homelessness transition into social housing in the inner northern suburbs through the Housing Support Program
- supporting a partnership to respond to complex hoarding and squalor.

“It is encouraging to see these measures continued. The answers to the challenge of housing affordability and homelessness require every level of Government, the private sector and community to be involved. We look forward to supporting implementation and policy development at the Local Government level wherever we can.”

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