



MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 4 April, 2019 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Queensland's remote communities forgotten in 2019 Federal Budget

The state's peak body for the housing and homelessness sector, Q Shelter, has called on the Commonwealth to reach an agreement with the Queensland Government and provide partnership funding for remote housing.

Q Shelter's Executive Director, Fiona Caniglia, said Minister Scullion needed to end two years of funding uncertainty and get a deal done for Queensland's remote communities.

"For two years, remote communities have been living with uncertainty and anxiety over the future of the National Partnership on Remote Housing." Ms Caniglia said.

"Indigenous Mayors told us that they were starting to see positive outcomes from this program, including new jobs and apprenticeship opportunities for local residents."

Minister Scullion said the Queensland State Government needed to contribute its fair share toward remote housing funding before they would put a deal on the table.

"Last year, the Queensland State Government announced \$145M in their 18/19 State Budget as part of the Premier's commitment of \$1.08B over 10 years and an additional \$40M in 2019 for modest remote housing spend while negotiations continue with Commonwealth. Despite this, we're still waiting on the Commonwealth to deliver on their commitment towards remote housing." Ms Caniglia said.

"We need this uncertainty to end and for the Commonwealth to simply step up and get a deal done on remote housing funding in Queensland."

Q Shelter said that investment in remote housing has delivered jobs, training, health, and education outcomes that are critical to meeting targets under Closing the Gap in Queensland.

Ms Caniglia said that without funding certainty, future Indigenous Affairs Ministers would fail to meet targets under Closing the Gap.

"If people don't have access to housing, then how can we expect to be able to close the gap in health, education, and employment across Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities?" Ms Caniglia added.

Fiona Caniglia, Q Shelter's Executive Director, is available for interviews Thursday 4 and Friday 5 April on 0400 196 492

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Queensland Shelter

Queensland Shelter Inc. (Q 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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