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An end to Queensland’s moratorium on evictions ‘a disappointing decision’ says housing peak body

Noting the Queensland State Government’s commendable and rapid response to COVID-19 and support for people affected by homelessness, today’s announcement not to extend the rental evictions moratorium could erode the efforts to protect vulnerable rental households in Queensland.

Q Shelter, Queensland’s peak body for housing and homelessness services, expressed its disappointment in today’s decision by the Queensland State Government to not extend the moratorium on evictions beyond 29 September.

Q Shelter’s Executive Director, Fiona Caniglia, said that it was vital for government to prevent people from being tipped into housing insecurity or homelessness.

“As we continue to manage this pandemic against a backdrop of high unemployment and income insecurity, we should certainly ensure that people aren’t forced into homelessness.”

Ms Caniglia said that the end to the moratorium on evictions, along with the looming reduction to JobSeeker payments, would likely cause severe stress for vulnerable rental households leading into Christmas.

“We have serious concerns that reduced rental protections and lower incomes will see households evicted into homelessness or face enduring poverty.” Ms Caniglia said.

“We are also concerned that evictions across private market tenancies will create additional pressure on an already stretched social housing and homelessness service system” Ms Caniglia said.

Ms Caniglia said that other state jurisdictions had extended their evictions moratorium, and encouraged the Queensland State Government to consider an extension until 31 December 2020.

“This would be a terrific opportunity for government to ensure the dignity of renters and build on this year’s significant achievements in supporting vulnerable Queenslanders”

Q Shelter Media Contact: Scott McGregor – 0430 100 932





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Queensland Shelter

Queensland Shelter (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.

