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Federal Budget a ‘missed opportunity’ to invest in social housing

Q Shelter, Queensland’s peak body for the housing and homelessness sector, said this year’s Federal Budget was a missed opportunity to boost the state’s construction industry and provide a safety net for Queenslanders doing it tough.

Q Shelter’s Executive Director, Fiona Caniglia, welcomed the Federal Budget’s further investment in providing low-cost loans to the community housing sector; however said the Federal Government needed to take a more active role in driving social housing investment across the nation.

Ms Caniglia urged the Federal Government to introduce a [Social Housing Acceleration and Renovation Program](#), which would deliver 60,000 new jobs, 30,000 new dwellings, and renovate 100,000 properties to decent standards.

“Now is the time for the Federal Government to work with states to boost the supply of social housing and support thousands of jobs across the state.” Ms Caniglia said.

Ms Caniglia said that despite last night’s announcement of record fiscal stimulus, Queensland was likely to see high unemployment and income insecurity continue for many years.

“People who never thought they would need access to social and affordable housing are going to find a service system that is already struggling to meet demand.” Ms Caniglia said.

“The Federal Government has proven it can be flexible and responsive to the health and economic challenges of COVID-19, and we are asking that they continue this responsiveness by taking a leading role in social housing investment.”

Ms Caniglia also called on the Queensland State Government to provide complimentary investment to the Commonwealth to enable community housing providers to sustainably deliver new social and affordable housing and stimulate the economy in a place-based way across Queensland.

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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.

