

14 July 2023

Queensland Government
Department of Housing

By email: ourplace@chde.qld.gov.au

Dear Colleagues

Our Place: A First Nations Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2024 - 2027

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback in relation to the above.

About QCOSS

Queensland Council of Social Service (QCOSS) is the peak body for the social service sector in Queensland. Our vision is to achieve equality, opportunity, and wellbeing for every person, in every community.

QCOSS' position

QCOSS supports the development and implementation of *Our Place: A First Nations Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2024–2027* (the Action Plan). QCOSS acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled housing providers as experts who can provide the best inputs into the development of the Action Plan. Our feedback provided in this letter is a response to the consultation question 'What do you want Our Place: A First Nations Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2024-2027 to achieve?'

Queensland's housing system is under unprecedented pressure. In the face of renewed population growth, the chronic undersupply of housing is escalating the scale of housing stress. On current funding commitments the Queensland Government is expected to deliver just over 1,300 new social and affordable housing dwellings each year for the next decade. This level of investment is insufficient to maintain the status quo - that is, to prevent further deterioration beyond the current situation.

In March 2023, QCOSS, Tenants Queensland and The Services Union, along with the [Town of Nowhere](#) campaign partners commissioned the report '[A blueprint to tackle Queensland's housing crisis](#),' (The Pawson Report) which clearly articulates the need for more affordable housing in Queensland, including housing that meets the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.¹ The Pawson Report found that there are approximately 100,000 households across Queensland who have unmet housing need and would typically be eligible for social housing.¹

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are over-represented among people experiencing homelessness in Queensland. In 2021-22, people of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island background accounted for 35 per cent of persons assisted by Supportive Housing Service agencies.¹ This is partly associated with disproportionately large numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experiencing serious overcrowding.¹ According to the 2021 Census, no less than 38 per cent

¹ Pawson et al. (2023). A blueprint to tackle Queensland's housing crisis. UNSW City Future Research Centre.



of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households in Queensland were occupying homes with insufficient bedrooms, as compared with only 16 per cent of non-Indigenous households.¹

In order for the Action Plan to be effective, it must include enhanced governance and reporting mechanisms to ensure delivery and transparent reporting on housing commitments. The Action Plan must include specific goals with associated detailed actions that are quantified and time specific, costed, resourced and monitored, with outcomes reported transparently.¹

The Action Plan should aim to:

- increase the supply of high-quality social and affordable housing to meet current and future need
- increase the capacity of community-controlled Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Housing Providers in Queensland. This should include transferring housing assets to community-controlled Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Housing Providers and increasing investment in these organisations to respond to local housing challenges.¹

Conclusion

Queensland is in the grip of a housing crisis and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are significantly overrepresented among people experiencing homelessness and housing stress.

QCROSS strongly supports the development and implementation of the Our Place Action Plan that includes initiatives to increase the supply of client-centred and place-based social and affordable housing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people that is managed and monitored through a strong and transparent governance and accountability framework.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide our submission.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aimee McVeigh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Aimee McVeigh
Chief Executive Officer