A Contribution to the Development of a Supportive Housing Policy for Queensland.

A proven approach to addressing the challenges that homelessness creates for individuals, families, and communities... and for service systems experiencing high utilisation of acute, institutional, and tertiary settings.

The following **peak bodies and peer organisations** urge the Queensland Government to adopt a policy to invest in Permanent (or secure tenancy) Supportive Housing.

Supportive Housing is a Smart Investment for Queensland.

Supportive housing with a secure tenancy is a proven approach to addressing the challenges homelessness creates for individuals, families, and communities... and for service systems experiencing high utilisation of acute, institutional, and tertiary settings.

The current social housing system is inadequate to support the increasing number of vulnerable individuals who require secure, safe, affordable housing with integrated healthcare and support services. Mental illness, disability, problematic substance use, trauma, and chronic health issues often lead to housing instability, and over reliance of acute care and tenancy services.

The solution is facilitating innovation through partnerships and collaborations across sectors to reduce the failures to the community and strains on the government resources. This approach incorporates Government Inter-agency and NGO planning, development, implementation, and evaluation of targeted Supportive Housing investments.

Supportive housing with permanent (or secure tenancy) = rental subsidy + services acute, crisis or correctional.
This improves housing stability and quality of life for vulnerable groups. Supportive housing considers support is delivered for people with a range of needs by:

- Develop a financial formula for Queensland based on evidence best practices in other jurisdictions.
- Allocates a rental and security subsidy per tenant.
- Identify funding for tailored support services.
- Dedicated planning and funding of tailored support and healthcare services for targeted population groups, to be embedded into housing.

Supportive housing offers targeted solutions to prevent crisis, create long-term stability and achieve more positive and equitable outcomes for vulnerable and disadvantaged adults, families and for young people as a pathway out of short term or temporary housing options.

Success is driven by partnerships of the roles, tenancy manager, services provider, concierge, clinical and non-clinical support. For First Nations populations are culturally safe and/or community controlled and coupled with the allocation of housing.

Supportive Housing is well suited for First Nations agencies to design, plan, and be implemented to reduce over representation of First Nations people who are experiencing homelessness in Queensland. Supportive housing is culturally adapted for First Nations and a diversity of population groups.

Studies show it also reduces costs for health, justice, and homelessness systems. With the right design and partnerships, supportive housing can transform lives.

It aligns with Queensland Government priorities around reducing homelessness, improving community health, and supporting inclusion.

Scaling up social and affordable housing includes targeted investments in the multiple models of Supportive Housing to see reductions in emergency department use, hospital admissions, and justice system involvement by vulnerable populations.
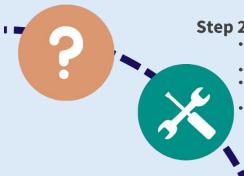
By investing further in evidence-based permanent (or secure tenancy) supportive housing, the Queensland Government can drive better social, health, and financial outcomes. It is a smart policy and fiscal strategy to help our most disadvantaged citizens and strengthen communities. The time is right for a supportive housing system innovation.

Designing and Planning for Supportive Housing

The principles for capital infrastructure, with embedded support services, and the built form required co-designed planning from concept to evaluation. This includes partnerships with First Nations organisations and culturally specific populations to ensure culturally appropriate design outcomes for our diverse community.

Step 1. Identify the Purpose and Need.
- Who needs to be involved?
- Location.
- Scale.
- Specific needs of tenants.
- Community.

Step 2. Planning for Purpose
- Adjust social housing specifications to be inclusive of communal areas and mixed-use building for supportive area.
- Determine the operational implications for mixed-use.
- Create a formula for rent to reduce costs for Govt and NGOs to utilise service spaces.
- Create a community assist for easy access by community members.

Step 3. Design
- Single site and scale.
- Number of units and/or rooms.
- Dispersed housing in community.
- Multi-purpose use building - **Number** of residents and tenants; **Design** for services, *i.e. health, childcare, and other support services;* **Community** Facilities.
- Environmental:
  - Cooling.
  - Heating.
  - Energy efficient.

Planning Supportive Housing.

Step 4. Financial Model
- Ownership and planned maintenance over time.
- Property Tenancy Management, day to day maintenance and repairs - *Govt or CHPs.*
- Commonwealth Rental Assistance *(Yes or No).*
- Create a formula for rental and security subsidy per tenant by State.
- Identify funding agency for healthcare social services acute needs of "target" population (in reach or on site).
- Capital funds for services space.

Step 5. Partnerships
- Planning, development and construction.
- Operational.
- Community and culture.
- Evaluation.

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