



20/21 ANNUAL REPORT



CONTENTS

About QYHC	3
Our Plan and Purpose	4
QYHC Strategic Plan 2020-2024	4
July 2020 - June 2021	5
Developing contemporary responses for homeless and at risk young people	5
What young people had to say	6
Young People Finding Home Forum	7
A New Minister and Department	8
Youth Homelessness Matters Day 2021	9
Minister Enoch Addresses Youth Workers on YHMD	12
Parity	13
Peak Collaboration	15
Housing and Homelessness Peaks' Partnership	15
Youth Justice	15
Human Rights	16
ABS	16
Foyer Community of Practice	16
Networks	17
Legislative Reform	17
Make Renting Fair Qld	18
QYHC Chat Newsletter	20
Platform 1225	21
From the Management Committee	23
From the Executive Director	24
Financial Report	25

*"No one should
have no access to
basic human rights
such as a home,
food and water."*

- Bethany, 14.

ABOUT QYHC



The Queensland Youth Housing Coalition Inc. (QYHC) was established in 1984. We have evolved since that time to become a significant voice for the issues impacting marginalised young people with a focus on addressing the underlying causes of youth homelessness, including poverty and social disadvantage.

The vision of the Queensland Youth Housing Coalition is:

All Young People Safely Housed.

We accept the plethora of life issues that lead young people to homelessness but reject any notion that such issues need negatively impact their life trajectory. The experience of homelessness for young people can be short lived and rapidly resolved. There is no reason for young people to experience chronic homelessness and the associated myriad of problematic life outcomes. QYHC acknowledges that social connection and relationships are key for all young people and underpin our collective work.

QYHC is a not-for-profit state-wide coalition of organisations and individuals engaged across projects and campaigns. QYHC is intent on engaging in advocacy, informing policy, conducting projects and enhancing community education. We also focus on workforce development activities to ensure a robust sector and community able to address homelessness and the associated issues that impact young people.

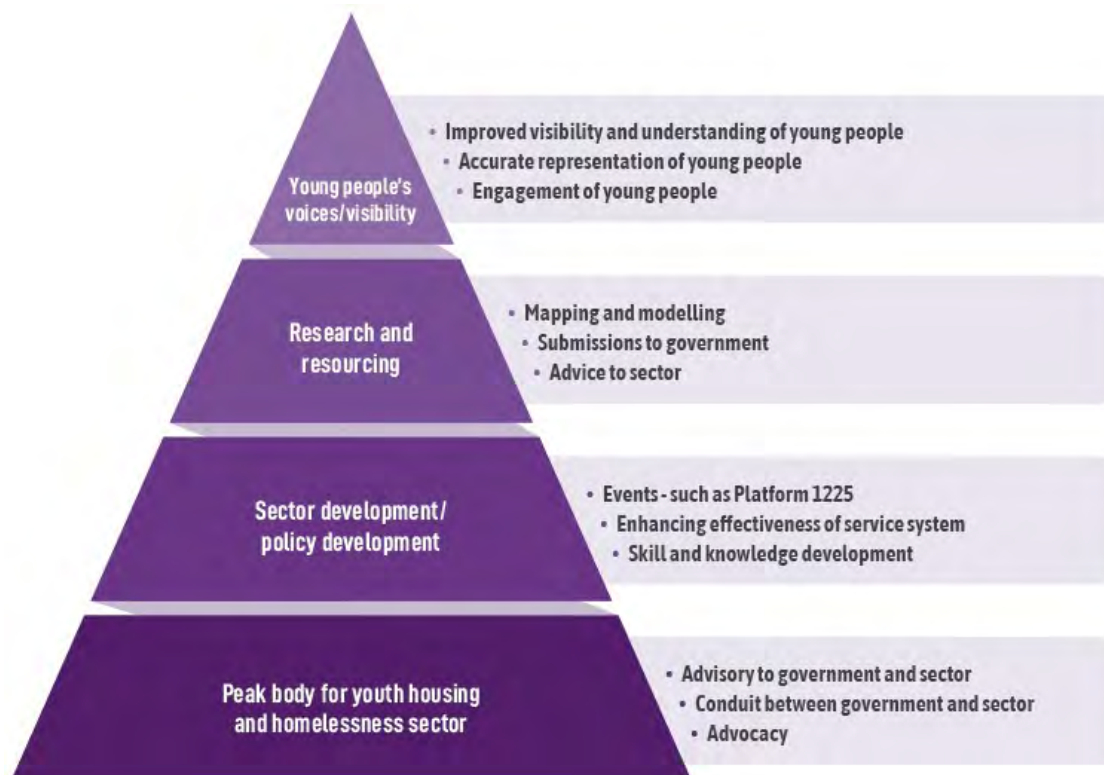
QYHC is committed to improving the life opportunities and wellbeing of young people impacted by homelessness by working collaboratively across government and non-government organisations to address homelessness, through the provision of appropriate housing solutions as well as addressing the multitude of associated issues. We further recognise that access to safety, education, health and income is key in responding to young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

QYHC is proud to partner with Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy (DCHDE) in realising the intent and actions particularised within the Queensland Housing Strategy 2017-2027. As key players in this important strategy, all members of our organisation are committed to our core work and this strategy.

*"...if it wasn't
for the shelter
I would be
sleeping in the
streets."
- Davey, 17*

OUR PLAN AND PURPOSE

QYHC Strategic Plan 2020-2024



JULY 2020 – JUNE 2021

5

When the financial year began in July 2020 we were coming to terms with COVID-19 and being in the midst of a global pandemic. Meeting fortnightly with the then Department of Housing and Public Works and weekly through the QShelter Learning Exchanges. We were working with sector colleagues around responses to health advice and preparations for a potential COVID-19 outbreak. All the while ensuring we were business as usual. For Specialist Youth Homelessness Services this was a particularly challenging year. As always, they rose to the occasion and engaged with efforts underway or developed their own responses. Business continuity plans were ever evolving!

Developing contemporary responses for homeless and at risk young people

In collaboration with Specialist Youth Homelessness Services (SYHS) and the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy (DCHDE), we identified the need to work with housing and homelessness services across Queensland in order to develop a contemporary response to the needs of Queensland's young people experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness. With the intent to be young-person centred, break down silos in service delivery, and work across the sector and government departments in order to ensure that what young people need is being offered in a holistic way cognisant of their key wellbeing indicators. These indicators can include being part of a community; having social supports; having access to schooling, work or training; having access to income support; being able to build or strengthen relationships with family, Kin and culture; as well as many others. As such, this has meant thinking differently about how we describe and deliver specific services, particularly around the stability of housing and the provision of long-term housing options. QYHC has undertaken this piece of work to ascertain what is needed for young people across the housing and homelessness sector in Queensland, and has involved mapping out what is currently in place, as well as recommending further models of service delivery required.

The aim being - to design a system with housing and support responses that meet the contemporary needs of young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

**"Everyone
deserves
to have a
home"**
- Kitty, 18

The project was initially conceptualised as a snapshot to be gathered through QYHC's monthly meetings with the sector. In order to capture the information, fortnightly meetings in 5 regions across Queensland identified by the sector occurred. With the wealth of information offered it soon became evident that individual service interviews were required. We're grateful to the sector for the inordinate amount of time they've generously spent with us in offering information vital to this piece of work.

The 5 regions identified became 4 when Sunshine Coast identified South East Queensland as a more appropriate fit for the region they worked across and referred within:

- **Central (C):** Bundaberg, Gympie, Rockhampton, Hervey Bay, and Gladstone
- **South East Queensland and Sunshine Coast (SEQ/SC):** Brisbane, Logan, Ipswich, Gold Coast, and Sunshine Coast.
- **Far North (FN):** Cairns, Mackay, and Townsville
- **North West (NW):** Mt Isa and surrounding regions.

Several young people worked with us as research assistants on this project throughout the year.

What young people had to say

We began planning for the Hindsight is 2020 video early in the year. Through this video presentation, young people offered their advice to other young people and shared their thoughts about 2020 as well as their hopes for the future. This project was a highlight for QYHC this year.

The Specialist Youth Homelessness sector and young people responded instantly to our requests for their feedback and insights. This video is a small snapshot of the tenacity and resilience of the young people the SYHS work with and the high respect in which they hold their workers and the organisations that support them.

[Click the laptop to watch the video →](#)



Young People Finding Home Forum

In November we held our Young People Finding Home forum. It included the official launch of the First Time Renter video and resources. This project was a collaboration between QYHC, Community Connections (CLA), Tenants QLD (TQ), and the Youth Advocacy Centre (YAC). The collaboration was established to bridge the gap in information for young people regarding steps to accessing tenancies in either private rental or public housing.

We were privileged to have Dr Phil Crane as our guest speaker. Dr Crane spoke to notions of home and what home means to young people. This segued into our Hindsight is 2020 video presentation mentioned above, an emotional and authentic glimpse into the perspective of some young people from Queensland's Specialist Youth Homelessness Services. We are humbled and grateful for these insights.

We considered the learnings COVID-19 presented us. We saw rapid mobilisation of resources and creative thinking in responding to issues we had never encountered. Above all we saw the commitment and collaboration across both government and the community sector to ensuring our most vulnerable were housed.

"It's opened up the waterworks of what's going wrong and what we need to change, a pandemic shouldn't be the reason why we've come to these conclusions around identifying the issues, but we need more services, we need more funding, to make sure the services that do work are being funded to the best of their abilities to support our young people."

- Jordy (Hindsight is 2020)

We recognise that since launching the First Time Renter product, accessing rental properties for young people in Queensland has become arguably more challenging than ever before.

[Click the laptop for First Time Renter resources and video link →](#)



In November we congratulated the Palaszczuk government on being elected for a third term. We applauded the rapid work early in the pandemic ensuring a funded and targeted response to homelessness was enacted swiftly to ensure those who were sleeping rough, or living in shared crisis accommodation were able to access self-contained accommodation. This is a testament to the combined hearts and hands of the government and non-government sector uniting with a fixed goal.

A New Minister and Department

We thank Minister de Brenni and the Department of Housing and Public Works (DHPW) for the collaborative work within the youth housing and homelessness space that enabled us to continue working towards our core vision: All young people safely housed. We built strong, critical relationships with the DHPW as we traversed a number of shared projects and plans. We welcomed Minister Enoch at the helm of the newly formed Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy. The coming together of housing and communities, an apt union given we are all so potentially aware of the intersecting issues. We also welcomed the Labor Party's plan to establish a youth homelessness working group as a subcommittee to the Ministerial Housing Council to assist in the development of a Youth Homelessness Policy.

We thanked Minister Fentiman for her pledge as the outgoing Minister for Training and Skills Development to provide free TAFE courses for young people under 25 years and recognised Minister Farmer as the person taking this forward thinking promise on via her newly acquired Training and Skills Development portfolio. We also celebrated Minister Fentiman's new role as Attorney General and Minister for Women, in particular, her vital work within the domestic and family violence space, which we know has a profound impact on young people.

We congratulated the Members of Parliament across this state who retained or gained seats. We articulated our interest in working collaboratively to support the needs of homeless and at-risk young Queenslanders in a way that taps into local knowledge and wisdom to ensure our advocacy processes are truly representative of the diversity of experience across our vast state.

Then of course there were 2 state budgets to prepare for in this financial year. We liaised with the sector to come up with budget requests.

YOUTH HOMELESSNESS MATTERS DAY 2021

9

For Youth Homelessness Matters Day (YHMD) 2021 we surveyed many young people and heard their perspectives about homelessness. We then created our YHMD 2021 Posters sharing young people's thoughts about why youth homelessness matters and what we can do to best address the needs of young people who experience or are at risk of homelessness. Young people offered impactful insights.



As part of our YHMD celebrations, Minister for Communities and Housing, Hon Leeanne Enoch graciously took time out of her busy schedule to accept copies of our posters at Parliament House on YHMD - 21st April.

YHMD 2021

Youth Homelessness Matters Day

YOUTH HOMELESSNESS MATTERS TO ME BECAUSE IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE YOUTH SHELTER, I DON'T KNOW WHERE I WOULD BE. *THALIA, 17*

WHEN A YOUNG PERSON IS EXPERIENCING, OR AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS, THEY NEED MORAL, FINANCIAL, PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL SUPPORT. *BEN, 23*

YOUTH HOMELESSNESS MATTERS TO ME BECAUSE EVERYONE NEEDS SOMEWHERE TO CALL HOME AND NO ONE DESERVES TO BE ON THE STREETS. *MATTHEW, 18*

WHEN A YOUNG PERSON IS EXPERIENCING, OR AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS, THEY NEED GUIDANCE AND SOMEONE TO LEAN ON FOR HELP AND MOTIVATION. *TARA, 18*



Queensland Youth Housing Coalition Inc.

YOUTH HOMELESSNESS MATTERS DAY

YHMD 2021 - WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE TO SAY:

IT'S COMPLETELY OUT OF THEIR CONTROL. THEY ARE BEING PUT THROUGH TERRIBLE AND DIFFICULT SITUATIONS, AND IT'S NOT THEIR FAULT. *WREN, 14*

I THINK THAT EVERYBODY DESERVES A PLACE TO BE ABLE TO BE SAFE, HAPPY AND A ROOF OVER THEIR HEAD. *ALEXANDRIA, 13*

IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE YOUTH SHELTER, I DON'T KNOW WHERE I WOULD BE. *THALIA, 17*

NO ONE SHOULD HAVE NO ACCESS TO BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS, SUCH AS A HOME, FOOD AND WATER. *BETHANY, 14*

NO ONE SHOULD HAVE TO SLEEP ON THE STREETS. *JADE, 18*

I'VE BEEN HOMELESS MANY TIMES OVER THE COURSE OF MY SHORT LIFE AND I KNOW HOW IT FEELS TO NEED HELP AND NOT HAVE IT. *BAILEY, 17*

EVERYONE NEEDS SOMEWHERE TO CALL HOME AND NO ONE DESERVES TO BE ON THE STREETS. *IACHIAN, 17*

I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE HOMELESS AND HAVING TO COUCH SURF, IT'S NOT SOMETHING I WOULD WISH UPON ANYONE. *SCOTT, 21*

I'VE BEEN HOMELESS MYSELF AND SEEN FIRSTHAND THE IMPACT THIS HAS ON A YOUNG PERSON'S MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH. *BEN, 23*

HOMELESS YOUTH LACK SAFETY AND ARE EXPOSED TO DRUGS AND ALCOHOL, THEY HAVE MORE HEALTH AND MEDICAL ISSUES AND A HIGHER LIKELIHOOD OF CONTACT WITH THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM. ABOUT HALF OF THEM WILL DEVELOP A MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION. IT'S IMPORTANT THAT EVERYONE KNOW AND HELP YOUNG PEOPLE LIVE IN A STABLE HOME. *AYESHA, 17*

YOUTH HOMELESSNESS MATTERS TO ME BECAUSE...

IT PROVIDES A SAFE, SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS. THEY CAN GET THE HELP THEY NEED WITH GETTING THROUGH THE BARRIERS THEY FACE ON CREATING A BETTER FUTURE FOR THEMSELVES AND BECOMING THE PERSON THEY WANT TO BE, NOT THE PERSON THEIR LIFESTYLE OF HOMELESSNESS MAKES THEM. *JOSHUA, 23*

YOUNG PEOPLE ARE OUR FUTURE. *JAKE, 24*

THE OUTSIDE WORLD CAN BE VERY DANGEROUS, ESPECIALLY BEING AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE. *TAIESHA, 19*

I UNDERSTAND HOW SCARY AND ISOLATING IT CAN BE. *EMILY, 18*

WE NEED STABILITY, SUPPORT WITH OUR FINANCES, EMOTIONAL HEALTH AS WELL AS OUR SAFETY. *EMILY, 18*

A PLACE, FOOD, BED, TOILETRIES, MONEY, GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT. *SETH, 17*

SUPPORT TO FIND HOUSING AND FIGURE OUT THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM THAT CAUSED THEM TO BE HOMELESS IN THE FIRST PLACE. *LEXUS, 22*

SHELTER, TOILETRIES, SOMEONE TO TALK TO. *JAKE, 17*

MONEY FOOD AND SHELTER. *AYESHA, 17*

SUPPORT FROM PEOPLE. HELP FROM THE GOVERNMENT AND OTHER PEOPLE IN SOCIETY. SOMEWHERE SAFE TO LIVE AND FOOD. THEY NEED A PROPER HOME WITH SUPPORT. THEY NEED THE RIGHT FACILITIES TO SUPPORT THEIR LIFE. *EVA, 14*

GUIDANCE AND SOMEONE TO LEAN ON FOR HELP AND MOTIVATION. *TARA, 18*

CONTACT YOUTH AND HOMELESSNESS SERVICES, AND STAY INTO A HOMELESS SHELTER FOR THE TIME BEING. *BEAU, 23*

FOOD AND WATER AND HEALTH CARE. *JULIETTE, 19*

A SAFE PLACE TO STAY WITH THE SUPPORT AND BENEFITS OF A WARM DINNER AND A COMFORTABLE BED TO SLEEP IN RATHER THAN TIGHTENING IT OUT ON THE STREETS OR COUCH SURFING AT UNSTABLE LIVING PLACES. THE RISKS OF THIS COULD BE GETTING INFLUENCED IN BAD WAYS BY THOSE AROUND THEM BECAUSE THEY ARE VULNERABLE AND EASILY FALL INTO THE HABITS OF THOSE AROUND UNSTABLE AND NON-SUPPORTIVE HOUSEHOLDS. *JOSHUA, 23*

MORAL, FINANCIAL, PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL SUPPORT. *BEN, 23*

ACCESS TO SANITARY ITEMS. *JADE, 18*

SUPPORT FROM OTHER PEOPLE OR ORGANISATIONS TO HELP REMOVE THEM FROM WHATEVER SITUATION IS PUTTING THEM AT RISK. *WREN, 14*

COMMUNITY. *KITTY, 18*

WHEN A YOUNG PERSON IS EXPERIENCING, OR AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS, THEY NEED...

SUPPORTIVE PEOPLE WHO CAN HELP GUIDE THEM AROUND. *GRACE, 20*

SUPPORT - NOT JUST FOOD, WATER AND A SAFE PLACE TO LIVE, BUT ALSO MENTAL SUPPORT. *ANONYMOUS*



PLATFORM 1225

Wednesday 20th April 2022, featuring:



COREY WHITE



DR LINDY ANNAKIN



PROF. KERRY ARABENA



DR ALISTAIR PING



QUEENSLAND YOUTH HOUSING COALITION INC.

Minister Enoch Addresses Youth Workers on YHMD

QYHC joined with the Youth Advocacy Centre (YAC) to bring Laying Down the Law to specialist youth homelessness service workers. This 2 day workshop began on YHMD and offered key information to workers to assist them towards an enhanced understanding of how the law works, particularly within the context of youth justice and child protection.

Youth Workers attending this training on Youth Homelessness Matters Day (YHMD) were delighted to be addressed by Minister Leeanne Enoch who thanked Queensland's front line workers for the tireless work they do in supporting marginalised young people in our communities.

"Our government understands the importance of tackling homelessness – especially in young people - which is why \$36.1 million has been allocated in Homelessness Program funding. This will fund 39 non-government organisations to deliver 61 specialist homelessness services across Queensland, which will deliver temporary supported accommodation and other support services especially for young people."

Minister Enoch then asked youth workers to prioritise 5 key needs for young people and the youth housing and homelessness sector. Her attendance at this event enhanced an already buoyed atmosphere of youth workers coming together to discuss practice improvement and advocacy needs of the young people they work alongside each day.



We attended the Zonta Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month breakfast at Parliament House in May.

parity

APRIL 2021 VOLUME 34 – ISSUE 03

ISSN 1032-6170



13

The Future of Youth Housing

Don't
be Afraid
you're
Already
there



We sponsored April's Youth Edition of Parity Magazine and published 'Being With': The Importance of Relational Practice:

‘Being With’: The Importance of Relational Practice

*Every child deserves a champion:
an adult who will never give
up on them, who understands
the power of connection,
and insists they become the
best they can possibly be.*

— Rita Pierson, Educator

When we look to the future of youth housing and responding to homelessness, we have significant research and insights to rely upon. The youth sector continues to manage the very real dichotomy of trying to do more with less alongside reconciling the fulfilment of young people’s needs with the containment of costs. No matter how much structural reform we undertake, our workers and the young people they support must remain at the heart of our organisations and sector. The reality of the human experience is that we are social creatures. Our human resources are our greatest asset in responding to the varying needs of young people. It doesn’t really matter how much we change the system, the platform always needs to be a strong base of relationship which allows young people to heal. Relationship is the opportunity.

The role of social and human services workers within our ever-changing environment has been the subject of much analysis over the decades. We need to remain cognisant of the fact that core to what we do will always be the strength of relationships formed and the power of connection in building resilience and supporting healing.

The importance of positive relationships with significant adults and practitioners as fostering successful outcomes among young people experiencing trauma has

been strongly highlighted by resilience researchers. A 41-year study of young people considered to be at risk due to multiple factors including violence, substance misuse, and mental ill health found that the majority of young people in the study developed personal strengths to overcome barriers. Researchers made a key observation of the young people: *‘Studies have shown that the most resilient youth all had at least one person in their lives who was absolutely crazy about them.’*¹

Understanding, acceptance, and being consistent in involvement and commitment with young people is key. Ultimately hanging in there and never giving up is essential to their wellbeing.

From the decision makers in government and senior positions to those on the frontline with young people experiencing difficult times in their lives, it takes courage to turn up every day with those who are at their most vulnerable. To sit still as they express their emotions — sometimes anger or fury at the circumstances facing them — is a skill we undervalue. We need to afford the time for that which is difficult to quantify, and relational practice is just that. It requires courage and tenacity to commit to relational practice. When we go to work we take along all our own humanness too. We carry our families of origin, relationships past and present, life experiences, ailments both physical and psychological, and feelings such as grief, loss and disappointments. Life happens to everyone. Most of us have empathy for young people as they tackle a myriad of emotions and experiences. What differentiates us is time, age, and position. We need to be mindful of our privilege and position and our own experiences, while being respectful of young people’s articulation of their own experiences. Workers in our sector have the capacity to appreciate that young people’s behaviours are a roadmap to the interventions required. These behaviours are often the clearest indicator of need.

What young people who are experiencing homelessness have lost, in addition to a safe place to live, is likely to be the fundamental connections that make them secure. Our job as workers is to re-establish connection and build additional supports. Research on the importance of connection for healing and resilience spans decades and over time has moved from focusing on the individual to seeing the young person within a wider family and community context.

Resilience theory crosses over with other relevant theory such as trauma theory, attachment theory, relational and strengths-based practice. These are all relevant to our work in that they all emphasise the importance of relationships and connectedness for young of their developmental needs. Young people can thrive when they are genuinely connected to family, kin, culture, friends, community or significant others such as workers, teachers, coaches or community members.

Homelessness need only be an experience of a point in time. With quality supports and interactions, our hope is that this is an experience or set of experiences for young people from which they can move on and heal with as little impact as possible. The most valuable work we do with vulnerable young people is sharing humanity and experiences — while just being there we can role model how we address difficult situations, how we can just be with each other respectfully, and how we can go about the ordinary tasks of living. There are few youth workers who don’t recognise the value of driving with a young person and the gems of conversations that can be had.

‘Being with’ is the work.

Endnote

1. Werner E E and Smith R S 1992, *Overcoming the odds: High risk children from birth to adulthood*, Cornell University Press, Ithica and London

Peak Collaboration

Alongside 20 other community service sector peaks QYHC is a committed member of the Queensland Peak's Network facilitated by QCOSS. This network gives us a great opportunity to work across sectors, share resources and information and work collaboratively on issues that impact across the service system.

Throughout this year we've maintained and built upon our relationships with many organisations and peak bodies. The wisdom and generosity of QDN, in particular their work around supporting young people with disabilities accessing the NDIS has been significant. We've worked alongside YANQ investigating tiny houses and other avenues of support for young people. We've had many shared processes with our colleagues in community legal services and other peak bodies. We're appreciative of this important collegiality.

Housing and Homelessness Peaks' Partnership

Throughout the year we formalised the Housing and Homelessness Peaks' Partnership with QShelter, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland, CSIA, CHIA and CHPQ. This is an exciting initiative which allows for shared understanding, information exchange and collaborative processes intended to ensure our combined efforts are impactful and avoid duplication of energy from our organisations and the sector. We had our inaugural Housing and Homelessness Sector Peaks Partnership networking event on June 21st.

Youth Justice

QYHC is a member of the Youth Justice Strategy Reference group. The reference group provides advice in relation to the Youth Justice Action Plan which identifies whole-of-government and community actions required to reduce youth offending, re-offending and remand in custody. Delivering more cost-effective community based options is a key intent.

Human Rights

We were the youth housing representative of the QCOSS Human Rights Housing and Homelessness Reference group. The Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld) came into effect on 1 January 2020 and requires the consideration of an individual's human rights in the delivery of government services which includes public services delivered by non-government providers. QCOSS delivered a range of engagement activities to support the housing and homelessness sector to act compatibly with the Act and increase human rights literacy. QYHC is pleased to support this integral work.

ABS

Working with the Australian Bureau of Statistics this year to ensure the most accurate count of Queensland's homeless young people was so important. We know homeless young people are a significant undercount in each Census. It was great to work alongside the ABS, our sector colleagues and young people to improve the opportunities to count our homeless young people. In doing so some had the opportunity for work with the ABS. We are eagerly awaiting the data. We recognise that homeless young people will continue to be undercounted but between data our organisations collect, our own work and the census data, we are optimistic that we will be working with far more accurate data.

Foyer Community of Practice

QYHC runs monthly meetings with Youth Foyer providers, current and emerging. This is an ongoing collaboration of stakeholders committed to Youth Foyers and practice improvement. Logan Youth Foyer has shared many learnings with the Gold Coast and Townsville colleagues. The Gold Coast build was the focus of this past year. We all watched eagerly as the 40 bed building was in creation for young people. Townsville is learning from Logan and Gold Coast's experiences as they await their turn.

Networks

We ran our regular southeast Queensland and Regional Queensland meetings with SYHS and participated in many sector network meetings in person and via zoom around the state. We're planning for greater state wide attendance as our capacity increases. We visited Rockhampton to attend the Central Queensland Homelessness Think Tank and visited our youth organisations whilst there to talk mapping and modelling amongst other topics.

In responding to issues raised by organisations we conducted a forum on the National Redress Scheme with presentations from our colleagues at DCHDE and DCYJMA. When changes to the Queensland Criminal Code were introduced and new legislation required every adult in Queensland to report information relating to child sexual offences committed by an adult in relation to a child under 16 years of age to the Queensland Police Service, we responded to calls for clarity. We joined with Queensland Sexual Assault Network, Youth Advocacy Centre and Women's Legal Service to run a forum to support the sector in the implementation of this legislation across their organisations in time for its commencement on the 5 July 2021.



It was great to meet the fab folk in Rocky alongside Steve from CHPQ

Legislative Reform

Young people typically have difficulty accessing the rental market. Arguably never more so than since COVID-19. Financial capacity alongside lack of rental history and references make it almost impossible for young people to compete in a competitive market. Barriers are extensive. Hence QYHC is a member of MRFQ and campaigns focused on income support and housing such as Raise the Rate and Everybody's Home.

We made a Submission to the Community Services and Support Committee on the *Housing Legislation Amendment Bill 2021* both as QYHC and as a member of MRFQ Alliance. We then appeared before the Parliamentary Committee.

MAKE RENTING FAIR QLD

18

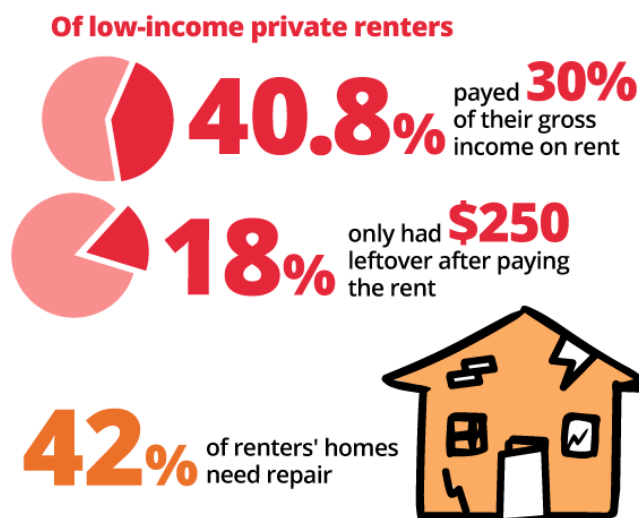
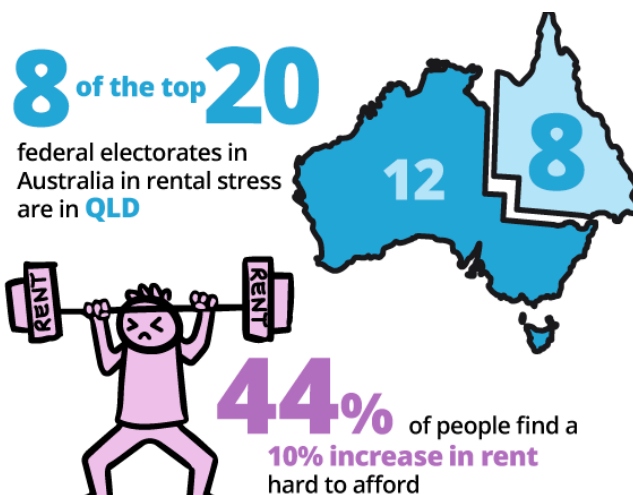
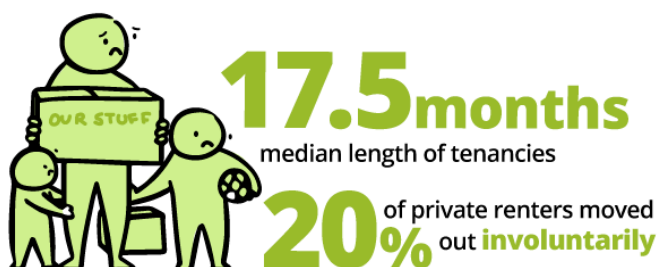
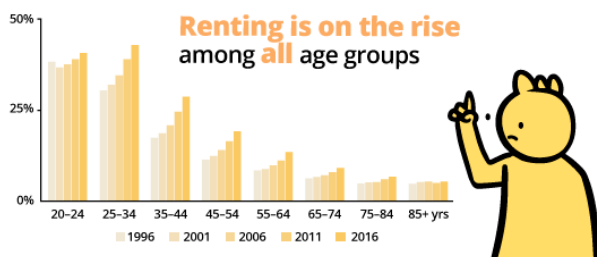
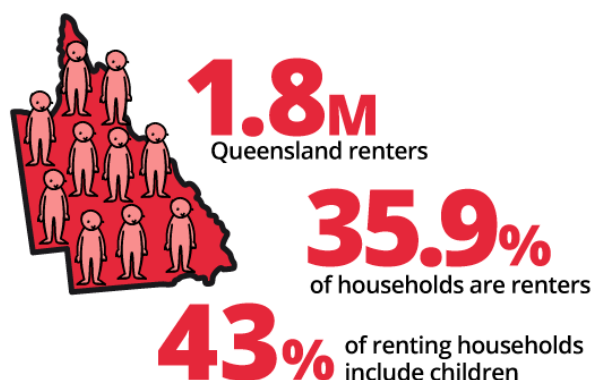


MAKE RENTING FAIR IN QUEENSLAND

RENTING LAWS NEED TO BE MADE FAIR, SAFE AND CERTAIN



QYHC is a member of Make Renting Fair in Queensland Alliance, made up of over 50 supporter organisations. The campaign supports progressive reform of our renting laws so that all Queenslanders can make the place they live in their home, whether they rent or own.





MRFQ Campaign relaunched with a media conference outlining the importance of fair rental laws for the almost 40% of our population who are long term renters.

QYHC CHAT NEWSLETTER

20

Each month our QYHC Chat Newsletter offers sector updates, shares training and employment opportunities and notes key events and research. The newsletters and blog posts can be viewed on our website <https://www.qyhc.org.au/media/>



PLATFORM 1225

21

Platform 1225 is our annual QYHC Forum. Having a safe place to call home is a fundamental right for young people and we are clear that homelessness and social exclusion is about poverty and disadvantage.

These are factors that impact young people and others in our society and can be changed. As an organisation, we aim for holistic responses with regard to the wellbeing of all in our society and systems. This is particularly so for children and young people who experience life and our systems through a specific developmental and experiential lens. Platform 1225 is a Forum for all to come together across government and non-government sectors to address these many layers of these issues.

We planned Platform 1225 Forum twice this year. If we've learned anything from events management in a pandemic it's patience amidst the frustration of planning with a plan A, B and C and resorting to another letter of the alphabet in actuality!

The theme of Platform 1225 circa plan D is – Truth, advocacy and systemic reform. We aim to unpack all the conundrums and complexities that truth and advocacy entails when addressing complexities in organisations, relationships, systems and reform agendas. The great news is that in spite of COVID—19 all our keynote speakers and Corey White, our MC, have generously remained on the roller coaster with us and will be turning up on Youth Homelessness Matters Day next year to share their wisdom with us. This is what we have to look forward to so far:



Corey White **Comedian and Author**

Our home-grown talent will headline then MC. Corey is an inspiration to all young people and those of all ages. He reminds us that hanging in there and being yourself whilst being true to your story really matters! In a very short time he has won the respect and acclaim of many in Australia, including our comedy greats. His comedy and political satire is loved, as is his autobiographical book; *The Prettiest Horse in the Glue Factory*.

Professor Kerry Arabena **Reimagining Indigenous Housing, Health and Wealth**

The Necessary Ecological Response to Unlock the Potential in the Indigenous Estate. While taking contemporary standards of 'housing for health' and construction standards and overcrowding as a starting point, and fully recognising their important physical and mental health and wellbeing implications, this presentation also considers the 'housing for culture' and 'housing for wealth' dimensions to housing and community. As such it adopts an empowerment-based approach and requires Indigenous people, families and communities to be at the centre of the co-design of contemporary Indigenous housing, and urban or community settings within the context of any entirely new way of 'doing business' in this space.

Centre for Social Inclusion

What else might it take to end homelessness? Leadership, power and moral courage

Rarely, do we see a collective, cross-sectoral response to the complex problem of homelessness. Even where social purpose is clear, Royal Commissions have demonstrated what can go wrong, and leadership literature has shown how systems can be set up to both address and keep a problem entrenched. How might we better understand power, leadership and moral courage to support our efforts in ensuring everyone has a safe place to call home?

Dr Lindy Annakin

The Complexities of Speaking Truth to Power

What happens in a system that is intent on client centred service delivery and does so within a large bureaucratic environment that often adds layers of complexity to client centred practice?

What happens when we are intent on implementing the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and the environments noted for causing the harm have similar impediments in current circumstances to those in place when atrocities occurred?

Dr Alistair Ping

Human Behaviour and the Slippery Slope of Accepting Justification

Dr Ping will talk to the complexities of human behaviour and the need to stay true to ethics, advocacy, truth and decency and what it takes to do so. Strategies for ensuring organisations and systems that are focused on holistic wellbeing and positive outcomes remain true to their vision whilst recognising risk, without being risk averse, will be discussed.

Making Tracks

We're especially looking forward to the young person's panel - Making Tracks.

"I think that everybody deserves a place to be able to be safe, happy and have a roof over their head."

- Alexandria, 13

FROM THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

23

It is with gratitude that I present this report, as the Chair of the Management Committee of the Queensland Youth Housing Coalition in the 2020/21 year. To walk alongside the brilliant work of the Coalition this year has been my absolute honour.

We were delighted to welcome Minister Leeanne Enoch as the Minister for the newly formed Department of Communities and Housing. We have valued our partnership with DHPW and Minister de Brenni and continue to do so with DCHDE.

Operating through a pandemic, with uncertainty of funding has had its challenges particularly with regards to staff retention and work planning. It was a welcome relief to be granted an extended funded period so that QYHC can continue to uphold our commitment to championing the rights of young people who receive services from the youth housing and homelessness sector and walk with organisations towards a Queensland where all young people are safely housed.

QYHC has a long history of hard working and invested individuals who make up the Management Committee, this year being no exception. I am grateful for the commitment, passion and skill that our committee has collectively invested this year to support the Coalition achieve its goals.

Our focus has been on consolidation and creating a solid foundation to demonstrate our work. Through supported strategic planning the Management Committee cemented our ideological position, an integral thread that weaves its way through all our work – that 'All young people need a safe and secure home.'

Our strategic direction is framed through a Leadership, Advocacy, Partnerships and

Sustainability lens – goals that underpin our innovation. We are delighted that we are now able to provide leadership over our strategic direction and support its operational delivery.

Thank you Fotina, Brett, Alan, Kirstin, and Alvin – it's been a wonderful year working with and learning from you all. Best of luck to outgoing Committee Member Alvin. Your contribution to the Coalition has been so valuable, you will be missed.

They say a true leader is someone who others gladly and confidently follow. To Lorraine Dupree, our courageous Executive Director, we gladly and confidently follow your path and walk alongside you on it. For it is your leadership that supports our capacity to translate the Organisational vision into reality. On behalf of the Management Committee, we thank you for your ever-present integrity, grit and ongoing aspiration for the Queensland Youth Housing Coalition.

On behalf of the Management Committee I extend my thanks to Minister Leeanne Enoch and the Department of Communities and Housing for their continued support of our work and the significant investment of a 4-year funding package for the Coalition. This announcement was fundamental to acknowledging the vital work of QYHC while also recognising that in order to create change, both a fiscal and time investment is required.

We look forward to the future of QYHC, welcoming new staff and committee members and new ambitions.

Megan Hall Chairperson

"Our future leaders should be able to feel safe"

- Grace, 17

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

24

I ended last year's report by saying "If 2020 has taught us anything it is that with challenges comes the capacity for growth, learning and added tenacity. Let's call 2020 and COVID-19 the litmus test. In doing so, I'm certain our QYHC team and our Specialist Youth Homelessness services and our colleagues in government and across peak bodies will continue to rise to all the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead". The 2020-2021 Financial year brought more challenges and further opportunity.

Most of us are lamenting the speed at which it occurred. The process of running organisations during a pandemic means each program, project or indeed decision has a plan A, B and C. Nothing is concrete and most decisions, especially with regard to events were difficult to pin down. We continued much work online and began returning to face to face meetings which was heartening.

For QYHC and our sector, so much of what we do is relationship based that the events of the past couple of years have been really impactful. As we've planned our projects and sector work, the need for connection and positive relationships is always at the forefront of our minds. That's a challenge given the size of this great state and doubly so during a pandemic. Having said that, our increased use of technology for meetings has been an absolute bonus for our connection with regions in a resource stretched environment. We're looking forward to connecting more regularly in person in the year ahead.

I'm amazed by the generosity, resilience and warmth of organisations in the youth housing and homelessness sector. It's been a pleasure working alongside them in their work to create more equitable opportunities for young people who experience or are at risk of homelessness.

I'm conscious that our partnership with the department and some of our work has been disrupted by the urgent need to respond to the

challenges COVID-19 has presented. In spite of such challenges, we're on track preparing solidly for responses to youth homelessness and building new relationships with departmental colleagues. '

The work throughout the past year has been undertaken by our Project Officer Jessica Geron and a team of young people who assisted when Jess moved on. Jess was an enigmatic member of our team, no task too hard or too small. Prepared to hop in boots and all and do what was needed. I appreciate her significant contribution to our organisation and the sector. I'd also like to thank Samantha Textor who worked casually in assisting with the mapping and modelling project as well as a host of fabulous young people who I trust gained new skills as they offered their perspectives: Sarah, Ange, Julia and Teagan. Thank you all. I hope the learning exchange was fruitful for you all too. I'd like to also thank Caitlin King for her very on again and off again role in preparing for then parking plans for Platform 1225. Your efforts will come to fruition. Last but not least a huge thank you to Julyan Xavier for his much needed and appreciated graphic designing and desktop publishing talents.

I'd like to thank the Management Committee, expertly led by Chairperson Megan Hall. They've provided solid leadership and positive workplace and organisational culture and a genuine commitment to the young people and organisations for whom we work. Our conversations are always robust and solidly grounded in our reason for being – that all young people in Queensland are safely housed. It's an absolute pleasure to work with you all.

We've had a great year of consolidation, hard work and forward planning. We have so much to do and we're excited about working alongside our colleagues in the sector, peaks, DCHDE and across government to improve housing and holistic life opportunities for Queensland's young people.

Lorraine Dupree

FINANCIAL REPORT

25

The 2021 financial year was a tough year for Queensland Youth Housing Coalition Inc. (QYHC), (as it was for our members and the young people we all support). With uncertainty over the continued funding of QYHC, we unfortunately and very sadly were not able to retain our project officer for the duration of the year. For the final quarter we only had our Executive Director on staff, who had to do a mammoth task in ensuring we were able to deliver on projects, collaborations and relationships. A further 3 months funding then secured us into the new financial year.

I'm going to step out of the financial year we're reporting on and note that the good news is that with the recent confirmation from the State Government, (specifically the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy (DCHDE)) that our funding has once again been secured, QYHC will be able to continue to build on the important work undertaken thus far and further strengthen our role as a statewide advocacy organisation. We would like to thank the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy for their commitment to young people in Queensland, in particular those who experience homelessness or are at risk, as we continue to work side by side to deliver projects and services across Queensland.

It has been a pleasure working with my fellow Management Committee members and I'd like to especially thank all the staff for their hard work this year. QYHC has continued to grow successfully due to their commitment and tireless work. In particular Lorraine Dupree our Executive Director for her commitment and passion.

Income for the 2020 -2021 Financial Year was \$428,268.19 which includes carried over funds from projects from the previous year.

Total expenses amounted to \$378,203.83, leaving a surplus of \$50,064.36. The generated surplus is made up of interest earned on QYHC organisational funds and a very significant growth in membership fees received. Additionally, there was income from the Australian Taxation Office's Cash Flow Boost scheme.

QYHC organisation funds

We opened the Financial Year with a balance of \$112,148.10 and we closed the 2020 -2021 Financial Year at \$162,212.46. QYHC holds \$81,913.10 of these funds in an interest bearing fixed account.

Audited Financial Statement

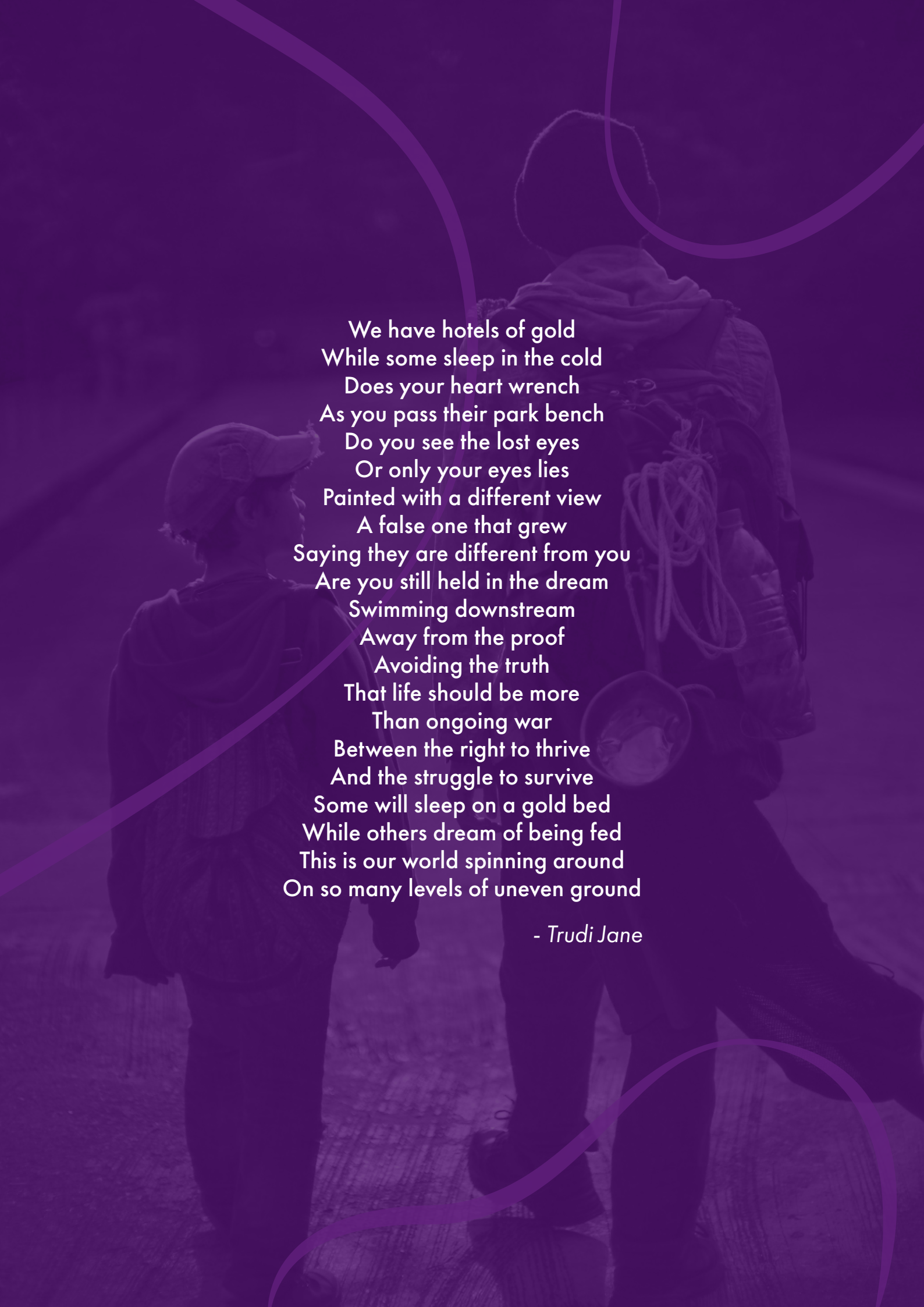
Our Audited Financial Statement has been prepared by Haywards Chartered Accountants who have declared that Queensland Youth Housing Coalition Inc. is in a viable financial position.

Appointment of Auditor

I propose that Hayward Chartered Accounts be appointed as the auditors for the 2021 - 2022 financial year.

Fotina Hardy
Treasurer

*"I know what
it's like to have
grown up
without secure
housing"
- Chinel, 23*



We have hotels of gold
While some sleep in the cold
Does your heart wrench
As you pass their park bench
Do you see the lost eyes
Or only your eyes lies
Painted with a different view
A false one that grew
Saying they are different from you
Are you still held in the dream
Swimming downstream
Away from the proof
Avoiding the truth
That life should be more
Than ongoing war
Between the right to thrive
And the struggle to survive
Some will sleep on a gold bed
While others dream of being fed
This is our world spinning around
On so many levels of uneven ground

- Trudi Jane