



2022/2023



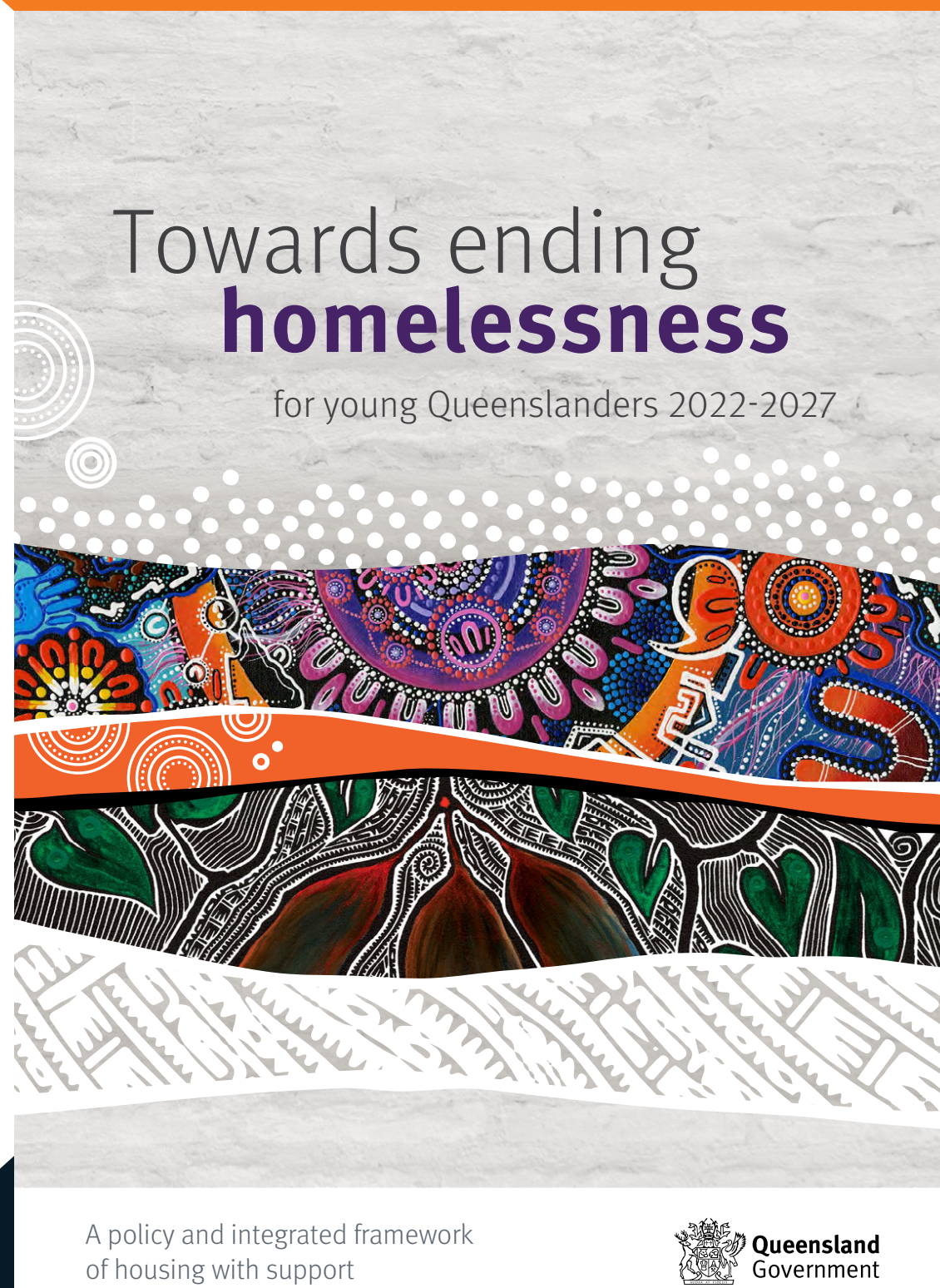
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Towards Ending Homelessness for Young People

In September 2022 the Queensland Government released 'Towards ending homelessness for young Queenslanders 2022-2027.' This policy and framework came with a \$29.8 million investment to deliver initiatives to ensure young Queenslanders have the information, opportunities and support to access safe, secure and affordable housing when they need it. It includes:

- 2.1 million to tailor and improve information on homelessness and housing assistance for young people to promote earlier access to services.
- \$2.8 million to deliver an innovative program of housing with onsite support in Brisbane, to assist families before they come into contact with the child safety or youth justice system, supported by construction of 38 new housing units under the Queensland Housing Investment Growth Initiative.
- \$9.6 million to work with young people and immediate supported accommodation services to respond to the diverse and complex needs of young people.
- \$3.4 million for flexible financial housing assistance to support young people to obtain and sustain housing when transitioning from temporary supported accommodation, care, corrections, youth justice and Youth Foyers.
- \$7 million for additional specialist homelessness services that provide coordinated support to young people, with services funded specifically to support young First Nations peoples.
- \$1.6 million to support young pregnant or parenting women to settle into and maintain secure housing.
- \$3.3 million for new specialist housing workers who will help young people obtain and sustain



Youth Homelessness Policy and Integrated Framework of Housing with Support Launched



QYHC was pleased to partner with the then Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy (DCHDE), the sector and young people in the development of this policy and framework, an important initiative for youth homelessness responses in Queensland and a key step forward. There is so much more to do in our journey to end youth homelessness. Young people are locked out of almost every housing option. They are hugely over-represented in our homeless population – accounting for one quarter. There has been little attention given to young people in our funding and policy responses. Youth housing and homelessness services have been underfunded and under resourced for decades. These services

were in crisis long before the housing crisis. The housing crisis has highlighted that they had no buffer to increase their responses. The Covid brokerage dollars offered such a positive opportunity for the specialist youth homelessness services in receipt of them and the young people accessing their services. Increased brokerage is required across services to enable them to respond to our most vulnerable young people on the streets or couch surfing. We need to provide assertive out-reach to this cohort of young people in order to prioritise their safety and wellbeing. From here, we need to ensure a continuum of housing and support options in every region of Queensland. Read policy and framework [here](#).



A collage of photos from the sector coming together with DCHDE and QYHC in planning for this strategy



Premier's Housing Roundtable

A Property Council of Australia's report showed that Queensland's population grew by almost 750,000 between 2011 and 2021, with close to 90 per cent in south-east Queensland. Population growth has outpaced delivery of new land supply, placed unprecedented pressure on the private rental market and impacted social housing. Also adding to the housing challenges has been continued global supply chain issues, a shortage of skilled tradesmen and multiple weather events.

On Friday 16 September 2022, QYHC attended an urgent roundtable to expand discussions on Queensland's housing issues, ahead of the Housing Summit. The roundtable was an important first step and provided an opportunity for local and state government, housing and homelessness services, building industry representatives and other stakeholders to start working together to combat the challenges Queensland is facing. The backdrop set for roundtable is the reality that while housing shortages are an issue across the country, Queensland is experiencing a period of mass interstate migration amongst other factors exacerbating our housing crisis.

Discussions at the roundtable included the fast-tracking of social housing projects, unlocking land, introducing inclusionary zoning and collaborating with the owners of vacant properties and land. The taxing of vacant properties to incentivise their use as homes, as well as a proposal from Brisbane's Lord Mayor for a state-wide tax on Airbnb's, were also raised. We were delighted to see such good will from all participants to find solutions to Queensland's housing crisis. Premier Palaszczuk concluded the roundtable by noting: "Service providers are doing an amazing job – hats off to them." She acknowledged the pressures everyone is working under.



Queensland Housing Summit

On the heels of the Housing Roundtable, QYHC attended the Queensland Housing Summit in October. Premier Palaszczuk, Minister Enoch, Deputy Premier Miles and many other Ministers and MPs joined together with people with a lived experience of homelessness and housing need as well as representatives from all levels of government, the construction industry, real estate industry, planners, developers, the real estate industry, community services organisations, homelessness advocates and community

housing providers. The summit examined ways of providing more social and affordable housing and innovative ideas to solve the housing issues while planning and preparing for more housing stock into the future. It was heartening to have the Premier and Ministers commit to having all Queenslanders housed. Echoing her statement at the Roundtable the Premier again acknowledged the hard work of the homelessness sector and the support and assistance they require.

Housing Summit Outcomes Report

Following the Queensland Housing Summit, and the many submissions submitted, Premier Palaszczuk tabled the Housing Summit Outcomes Report in December. The Outcomes Report outlined a program of action to deliver on the ideas and opportunities canvassed at the Summit focusing on expanding housing supply and increasing housing support for Queensland.

As a first step, the government released a communication kit about the expanded and current housing assistance available for those needing support. This support ranged from subsidies and other financial support, to assistance through the rental process to help Queenslanders find or keep their tenancy. Of particular interest for young people was the expansion of after-hours outreach services in Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Townsville and Cairns. The aim of this was to ensure that those who are experiencing homelessness are connected to available services and the Homeless Hotline.

Other key actions announced in the report included:

- \$11.7 million to expand tenancy sustainment responses
- \$10 million to expand private rental assistance products and services
- \$10 million to deliver more temporary emergency accommodation with onsite support

- \$8.5 million additional support for after-hours homelessness outreach services
- An additional \$5 million boost to the Immediate Housing Response
- \$5 million for a Community Engagement and Awareness Campaign on growth and housing diversity
- \$3.3 million for cost of living relief
- \$2.5 million to support the review of the South-East Queensland Regional Plan

This \$56 million investment was on top of a \$1 billion boost in funding for the Housing Investment Fund announced at the Summit, and the Immediate Housing Response package announced following the Housing Roundtable in September. Government also undertook an audit of state-owned land and buildings to identify opportunities for residential use, partnering with local governments and non-government organisations to identify similar opportunities.



The Summit Outcomes Report details the types of Housing Support initiated and includes:

- Expanding rental supports to assist more households at risk of losing their tenancy to sustain private market housing
- Delivering critical services such as temporary emergency accommodation to people sheltering in insecure and unsafe situations
- Expanding support services (including after-hours outreach services) to link vulnerable people who are sleeping rough with temporary emergency accommodation and supports, and
- Providing enhanced emergency relief to people

experiencing cost of living pressures, including through the provision of critical food relief

While it is hoped that investment benefits in these domains will ultimately flow through to young people, there is a desperate need for tangible and measurable commitments within the Queensland Government's response to young people experiencing homelessness proportional to their representation within Queensland's homeless population. The doubling of the Housing Investment Fund to \$2 billion – with returns of \$130m a year available for social and affordable homes – is welcomed.



Premier's 2nd Housing Roundtable

QYHC was pleased to participate in the Premier's 2nd Housing Roundtable at which further ideas for housing re-form were shared and several important announcements made. Most notably AHURI being engaged to develop a robust model to predict future supply and demand for housing in Queensland.



THE EVENT YOU'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR!

Queensland Youth Housing Coalition Inc.
presents

PLATFORM 1225

Building Solid Foundations for Young People aged 12 to 25

MONDAY 24TH
OCTOBER 2022

@ RYDGES HOTEL,
SOUTHBANK QLD

Headlined & MC'd by



Corey White
Comedian, Author &
Political Satirist

MAKING TRACKS

Young people on laying solid foundations for life

PIERRO

Debuts his latest 2 singles including - OK!

VISUAL STORYTELLING

Artists capture the events as the day unfolds

ESSENTIAL NETWORKING

The must-attend event of 2022 for all
those who work with young people!

Featuring Guest Speakers, including:



Karl Lacis
Dovetail: Shifting Our Gaze
Strategies for Working with Young
People Affected by Drugs and Alcohol



Dr Lindy Annakin
The Complexities of
Speaking Truth to Power



Dr Alastair Ping
Human Behaviour and the Slippery
Slope of Accepting Justification



Chris Hartley
Shelter from the Storm:
Implementation of Trauma Informed Care
in Australian Responses to Homelessness

CLICK TO REGISTER!

learn more at www.qyhc.org.au

Platform 1225

The much-anticipated Platform 1225 finally happened in October '22! After pandemic rescheduling and much patience from the sector and presenters, we enjoyed a fabulous array of presentations.

Collaborate, don't compete. Work with heart was the overarching message on Monday 24 October 2022, when QYHC hosted the much-anticipated Platform 1225! Putting on a conference in the midst of a pandemic was challenging. We've faced rescheduling and rejigging of programs and presenters on multiple occasions. On the day it finally went ahead, Covid-19 still had an impact on the event – our MC and keynote speaker Comedian and Satirist Corey White was struck down with the virus in Melbourne. There was last minute scrambling and rallying from the team to pull everything together right up until three minutes prior to the official opening. From the moment MC Jenny Wynter took to the podium, the energy in the room was awesome. Our sector is so generous and made the most of the swings and roundabouts and soaked up the inspiring insights offered in abundance. An absolute strength of our sector that we appreciate.

It was such a buzz to finally all be in the room together to discuss housing and support for young people, hear stimulating presentations and network. QYHC relished the opportunity to bring the sector, young people and government representatives together to share in thought-provoking and powerful learning experiences. Some great themes and take-home messages emerged through-out the day, many of them consistent across presentations:

- Collaboration is necessary, competition isn't. This is the case globally as well as locally.
- Housing first that is place based is key.
- Young people need: To be supported to stay in their community, Natural supports built around them, To attend school, training, work or work readiness programs, Options for housing and support responsive to their needs.
- Various options are needed – one size doesn't fit all.
- Young people aren't responsible for their trauma or adverse experiences – the stigma that goes with these experiences is unacceptable!
- The people who do this work are central to young people's well-being. Work with heart. Connection is key. Workers need to be supported in the complex work they do.



Dr Alistair Ping

We have a propensity to default into subconscious pattern matching. In order to disrupt this we need to shift from reactive to intentional thinking – teaching reflective practice is one way. We need a shared vision and intention. We need to shift to collaboration from competition globally!





Dr Lindy Annakin

- We have the power to dominate or inspire
- Courage begets courage – speaking out gives others the courage to do so too
- We have both a personal and structural voice
- Systems aren't half as punitive as we expect them to be when we do speak out
- Find your voice then listen to it – even when it shakes, especially then

Julia's presentation – Young People Making Tracks

Julia spoke to the stigma young people who are homeless or who interface with various systems face. She told the stories of Mary and Rose. Two seemingly different young women. Yet, they are one.

Many young people do really well in life whilst juggling an enormous number of stressors. Julia spoke about the importance of not making assumptions, listening to young people, and responding to them where they are at. Also, of recognising when you don't have a family to fall back on or grew up in care, you are vulnerable to homelessness because of housing insecurity, competition, and limited income. Being a parent makes it harder to access various support systems.

Meet Mary	Meet Rose
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic Violence order against Mother for Family Domestic Violence • Mental Health Barriers • Physically very unwell during pregnancy with multiple weekly visits for monitoring • Very little family and community support • Lives rural in country with limited services • Has to shower at the gym because real estate refuses to fix shower as bath works. • Rental property is not secure because of age of property but there is a lack of rentals in area within price range. 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last year of university completing her Social Work degree • Working fulltime as a trainer and assessor. Teaching job readiness skills and diploma of community services. • Has toddler settled in kindy. • Just been approved for a mortgage to build a house on the acre she bought in cash. • Owns a Toyota Kluger which she brought with cash no older than 4 years old. • No debt apart from her HECS and soon to be mortgage and has never owned a credit card. • No drug and alcohol barriers and a long-term therapist she has had for the last 8 years.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Became homeless in 36 hours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Became homeless in 36 hours

Young people Making Tracks Panel

Young people spoke about the importance of Workers, education, housing and support and being heard.

"Finishing education is tough."

"I had to fight. We need an advocate."

"Homelessness can happen to anyone. Young people need to learn life skills."

"They need to get to know young people and work with them as individuals."

"I don't know how to be an adult and do what they do. I am only 17."

"Connections change lives."

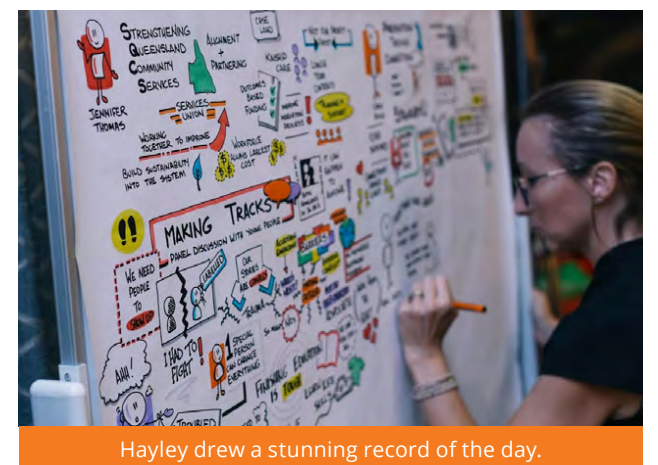
Karl Lacis from Dovetail spoke about managing responses to AOD use, solution versus problem; reducing harm; and insight and ability. Chris Boyle – Stand By U spoke to Prevention through connection and Awareness, context and permission. Jennifer Thomas – Services Union reminded us about the importance of supporting our workforce as well as alignment and partnering. Liza – DCHDE overviewed young people, CHDE, QYHC and policy makers working together Towards ending homelessness. QYHC spoke to Housing First, the need for more support options for young people, A Continuum of care – housing and support pathway in every region, Early intervention and prevention and Varied housing and support models that meet young people's diverse needs.



Young people's identities protected



Pierro and his partner performed 2 of their original songs



Hayley drew a stunning record of the day.

We're so grateful to our Platform 1225 Sponsors



Youth Homelessness Matters Day 2023 Campaign

This year's campaign focused on a poster with over 4 and a half thousand young people named representing the thousands of young people in Queensland who experience homelessness. A letter was also sent to MPs across each region to outline the issues for young people who experience homelessness or are at risk and to request their support.

We were also part of the YHMD petition calling on the Federal government to develop a standalone

National Child and Youth Homelessness and Housing Strategy is still live. For too long, the specific and complex needs of children and young people who are homeless or at risk have been assumed to be the same as those of adults and subsequently not explicitly addressed in government policy and plans to address homelessness. As the Labor Government commits to developing a National Housing and Homelessness Plan, we are calling for a commitment to develop a strategy specifically for children and young people.



We delivered our 2023 YHMD Poster to Ministers Enoch and Scanlon with a member of our youth reference group.

Conversations with Young People

We have the privilege of spending time with many young people who offer their expertise across many systems they interface with, most predominantly, homelessness. The wealth of experience that young people bring to the table is so important in the work we do. Some are newly exited from youth homelessness services or the experiences of homelessness and other Queensland systems, some have had much time to reflect since their experiences and others are still supported by youth homelessness services and/or are in the midst of homelessness. The vast array of offerings remind us there is cause for both celebration and far more action. We've come a long way in a short time but there's still so far to go in responding holistically to young people when they experience homelessness or are at risk. It's also important to remember – the solutions are simple and as Professor Cameron Parsell continues to remind us – far easier to achieve than the cost of ongoing homelessness.

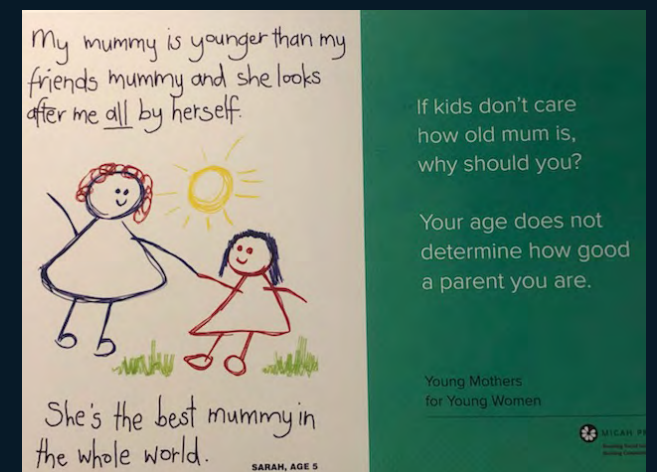
QYHC's Young Person's Reference Group meetings provide young people with the opportunity to



come together in a safe environment to discuss and share their thoughts about relevant topics. Our young people are committed to using their experiences to assist other young people in similar circumstances in having improved responses. These meetings were held on a monthly basis and were attended regularly by a committed group of young people who were willing to share their views and ideas with us. The in-depth feedback that they provided informed the work that we did and was continuously used in our advocacy for what is needed moving forward.

We endeavour to continually improve how we work alongside young people. With the support of the sector, we have been able to speak with a diverse group of young people from around Queensland. It was vital for us to hear their perspectives for many of our projects and our advocacy work. We thoroughly enjoyed our visit to Young Mothers for Young Women (YMYW) at their Coorparoo site. We had so much fun playing with the adorable babies when we attended their supported playgroup session. In collaboration with the Mater Mothers Hospital, YMYW has been celebrating and supporting young Brisbane mothers for over 20 years. YMYW assists young pregnant and parenting women who are 25 years and under, along with their children and families. During our visit, we were welcomed into a supportive and respectful environment in which the young women could connect with other mums and let their babies explore.

We had great conversations with parents about the housing issues they experience and their desires for the future of the housing system. The group shared stories of being locked out of the current housing market and unsurprisingly, endorsed a model of housing in which young parents live in accommodation that allows them to support each other. You will be able to read more information from this group in QYHC's report 'Queensland Moving Forward: All Young People Safely Housed'.



The Voices of Young People

"Having youth workers on the streets helping people and letting them know about services and options would be very beneficial"

"Safety is key, especially for young women. Housing needs to allow for young people's safety."

"It is difficult to live in a block of flats where the other tenants aren't parents. This is because they complain about the noise that our children make, particularly when they are playing outside."

We remind ourselves and others continuously that in the main feedback from young people who experience homelessness and associated systems remains fairly consistent across years and even decades.

Young people's concerns are that they are heard, housed, supported and prepared for their future. The clear messages from young people are that we need to listen, respond, and support them as individuals to ensure that their holistic wellbeing needs are met – including connection, housing, education, health, employment and living skills.

A young mum shared her story (below) of the stigma she experienced when she became homeless with two children.

"I had 2 young kids, was studying and had lost my private rental due to DV. I couldn't access a lot of the housing options because I had 2 kids. I had a DVO and couldn't access places because of this even though this was the reason that I was homeless. I called 67 places before I found somewhere to go".

The Voices of Young People

Young People reminded us that:

- Everyone's experiences are different - this needs to be acknowledged and each young person should be supported around what is going on for them.
- A continuum of care is required - support needs to be intensive, wrap around and place-based and become less intensive as young people reach milestones and gain further independent skills. The continued outreach or follow up support is also important.
- Regions need to be a focus. Various issues are intensified in specific regions. For example, overcrowding in families across many communities in Central Queensland is leading to increased substance use and Domestic and Family Violence impacts on young people.
- Young people needing to leave their regions to find a house is disruptive to their whole life.
- Stigma is one of the most stifling experiences of being a young person who is experiencing homelessness. It impacts self-esteem and feeling OK about themselves.
- Safety is paramount to young people, but they often feel unsafe in their housing options.
- Young people are locked out of almost all housing options in Queensland.
- Support across systems needs to respect the privacy of young people. Young people will not reach out in systems such as education if their private information is openly shared with other staff members or Principals.
- Young people need increased financial assistance.
- Housing and support options for First Nations young people need to be culturally safe and take into consideration the any barriers they face.

"At 22, I still need support as I have disabilities and get stuck. It would be useful to have workers follow up as it is good to have someone to talk to and I like to improve myself and my skills."

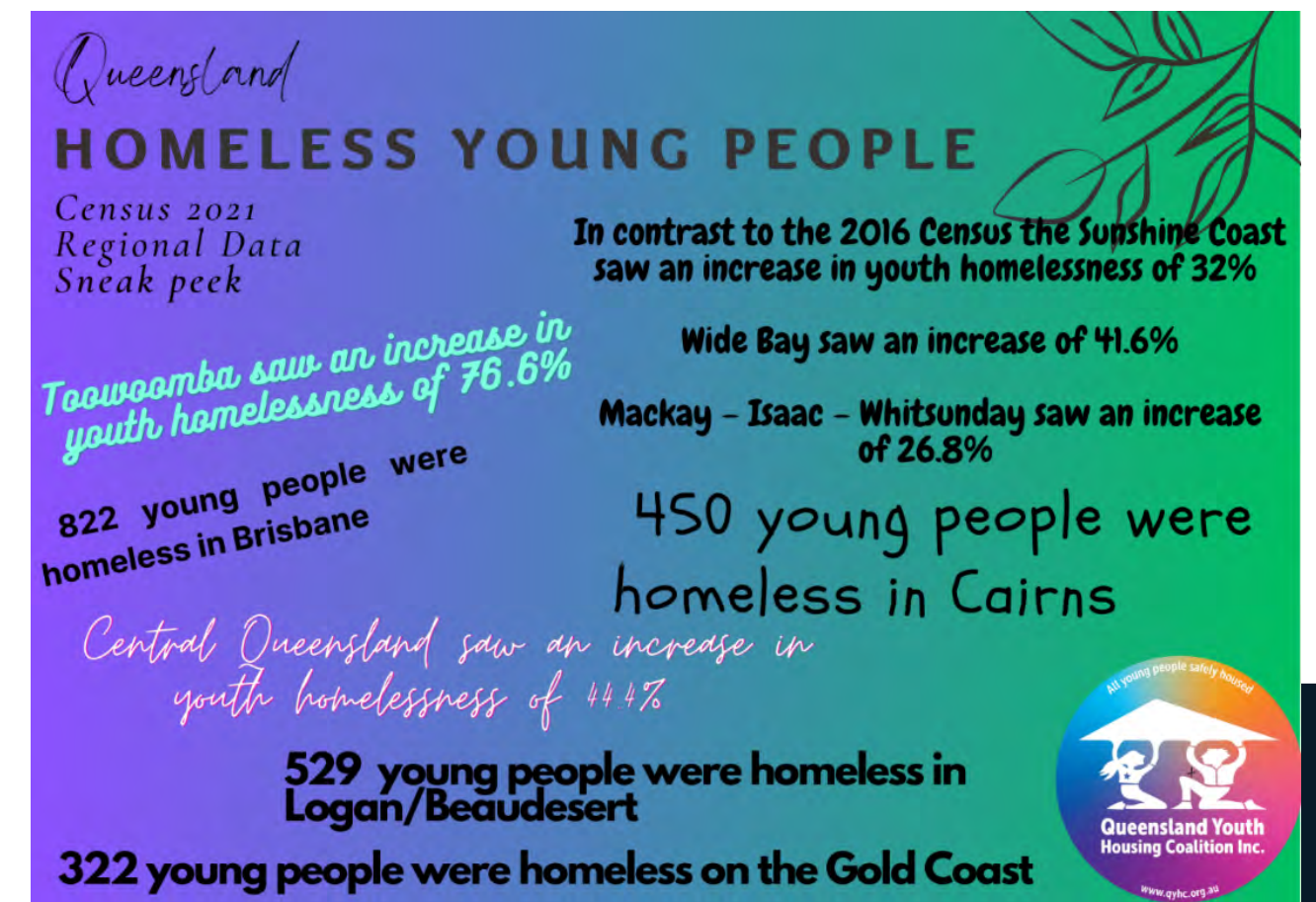
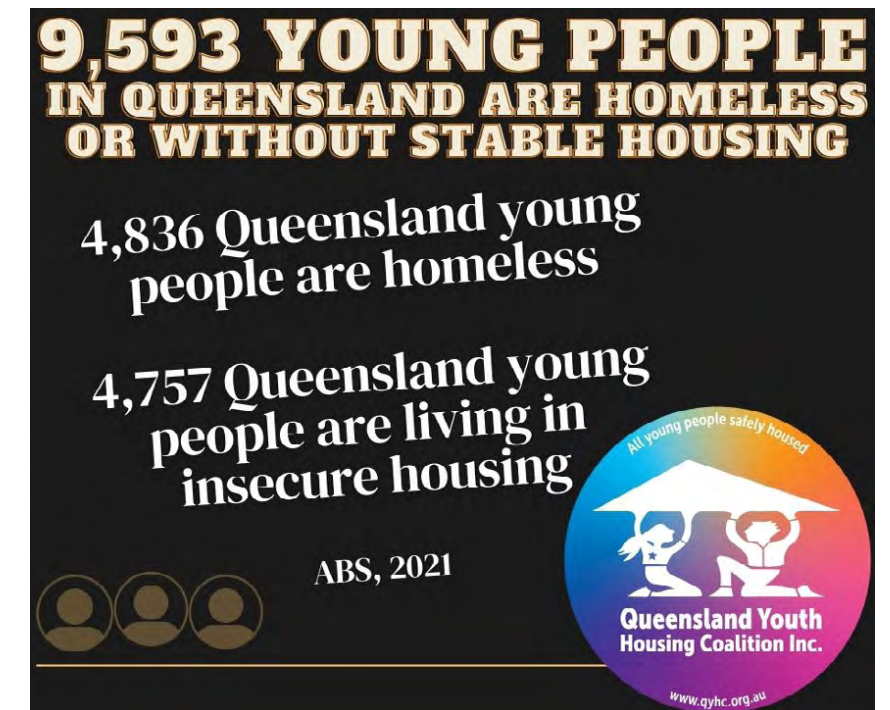
"I need education around becoming an adult and how to navigate all of the systems. I need to learn how to budget, cook and clean so that I can live by myself."

There's more to do

- The most important requirements are safety, support, and access to resources.
- More encouragement and belief in young people's capacity to achieve.
- Youth workers need to be trustworthy, knowledgeable, and easy to relate to
- Schools need to do more – more information, support workers and skills development.
- Mobile support is needed.
- There needs to be changes to policies and procedures to enhance access.
- Support needs to be practical, dependent on need, wrap around and support provided on a follow up basis as young people move on.
- There needs to be a range of housing models available including for young people with complex support needs.

2021 ABS Homelessness DATA

The much-anticipated 2021 Homelessness Data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics stemming from Census night 2021 went live in April 2023. From there we prepared our statewide fact sheets and were able to complete the data in our QMF Report.

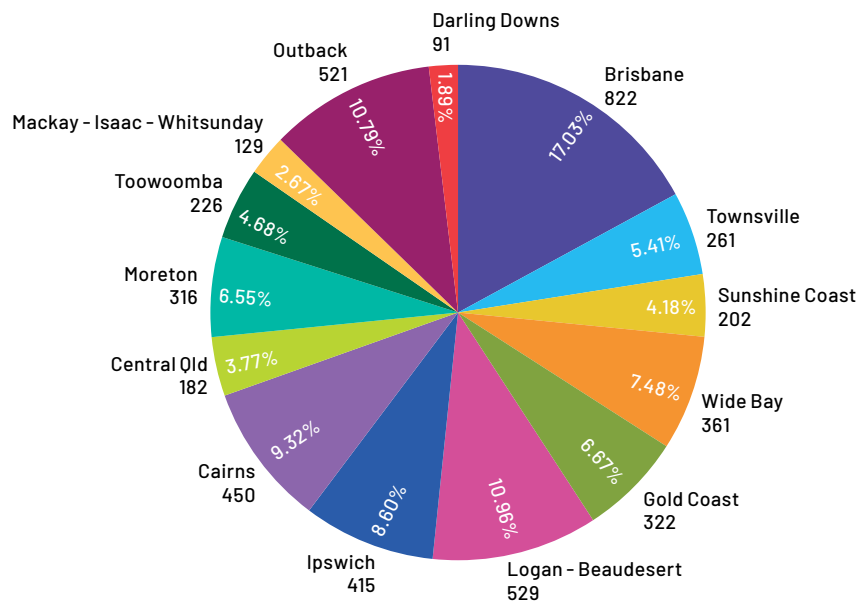


FACTS & FIGURES

Queensland youth homeless numbers



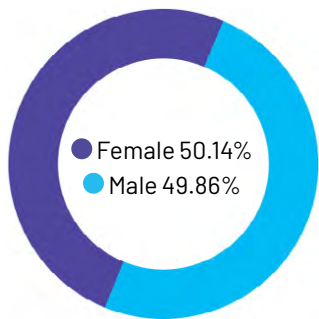
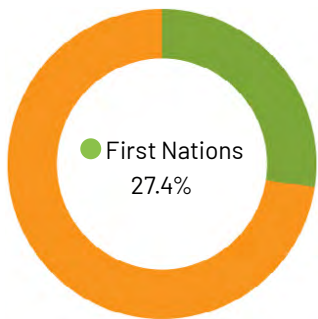
Number and Percentage of Young People Experiencing Homelessness by Region



- Breakdown of distribution for the 4827 young people experiencing homelessness in 2021 included:**
- Living in improvised dwellings, tents, or sleeping out (4.9%)
 - Living in supported accommodation for the homeless (20.4%)
 - Staying temporarily with other households (15.4%)
 - Living in boarding houses (6.7%)
 - Living in other temporary lodgings (0.9%)
 - Living in 'severely' crowded dwellings (51.7%)



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Bed per homeless young person based on 2022 QYHC survey it is estimated that QLD has 803 funded beds



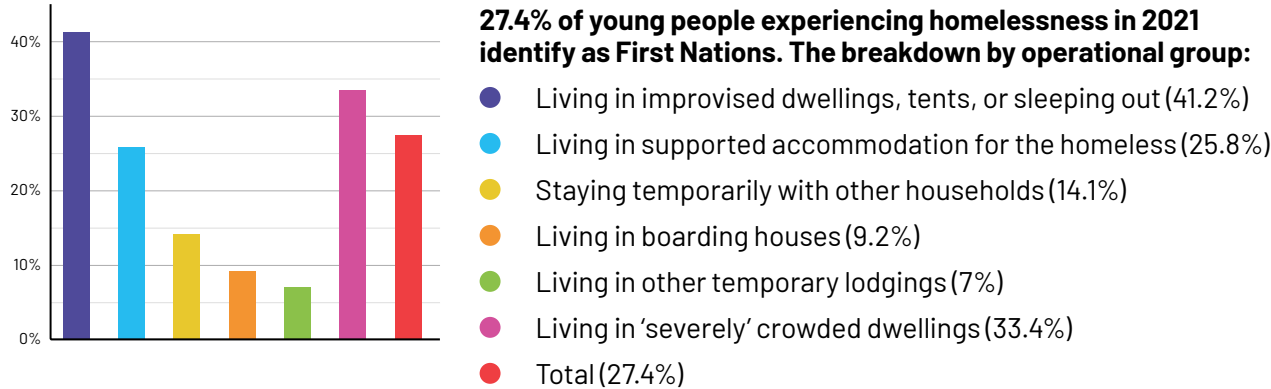
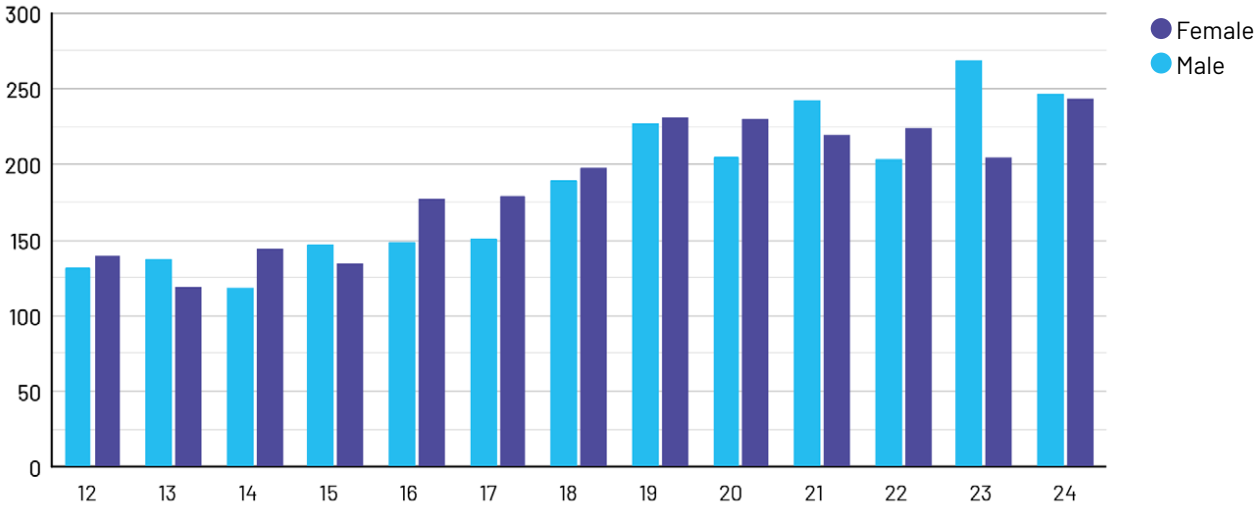
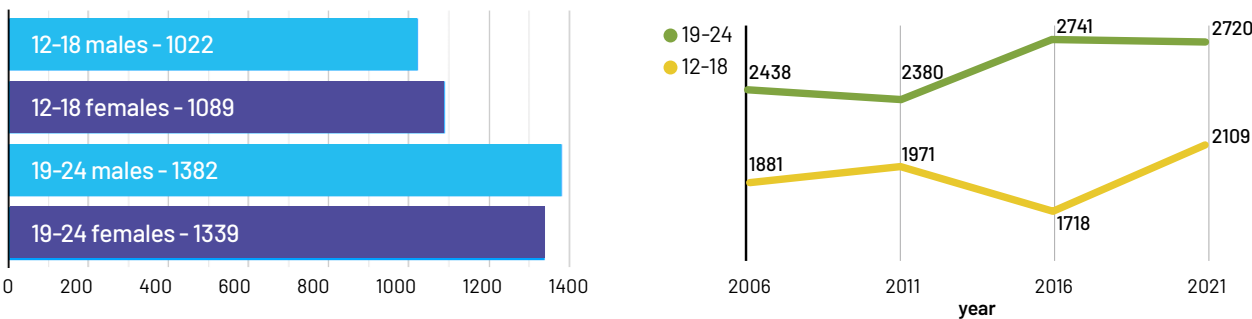
*Totals for SA4 regions can be affected by random adjusts by ABS to avoid the release of confidential data. This accounts for minor discrepancies against other quoted homelessness figures.

FACTS & FIGURES

Queensland youth homeless numbers



Queensland Youth Homelessness Breakdown by Gender and Age



*Totals for SA4 regions can be affected by random adjusts by ABS to avoid the release of confidential data. This accounts for minor discrepancies against other quoted homelessness figures.

All Fact sheets including the region by region can be found on our website, [click here](#).

Queensland Moving Forward

All Young People Safely Housed Report

The Queensland Moving Forward – All Young People Safely Housed Report (QMF Report), the record of our Mapping and Modelling Project, was slowly simmering away in the background for much of the year whilst we crunched the 2021 ABS data, the final addition to the research. This project of Queensland Youth Housing Coalition (QYHC) in collaboration with Specialist Youth Homelessness Services (SYHS) and Department of Housing aimed to identify what's in place for homeless and at-risk young people in Queensland and develop a contemporary response to their needs. This includes housing and support options that address the myriad of needs young people currently experience. This involved mapping what is in place, identifying improvements and recommending further housing and support options needed. Periodic meetings were conducted in 5 regions across Queensland as well as Individual service interviews with every Specialist Youth Housing service to gather the relevant data. Conversations with young people around Queensland and the QYHC Reference group were held at each stage of the process.

QYHC conducted a literature review. Articles and publications were reviewed, and key topic searches included understanding the current and historical policy context of homelessness in Australia and internationally; recognising key drivers of youth homelessness; identification of strategic approaches undertaken to address homelessness; determining developmental considerations and barriers for homeless young people; case studies of innovative housing models and understanding youth participation. Particular attention focused on the Australian context and to research published within the last 5 years. A variety of publication types were used to achieve a comprehensive picture of youth homelessness including, journal articles, including the homelessness, health and policy

publications, not-for-profit studies and reports, government publications, and material published through research institutes. QYHC analysed all the data that was captured from the interviews with the Specialist Youth Homelessness Services across Queensland. Data was examined to gain an understanding of organisations/services perceptions and motivations. Young people were consulted to ascertain their experiences and thoughts about what is needed for young people moving forward.

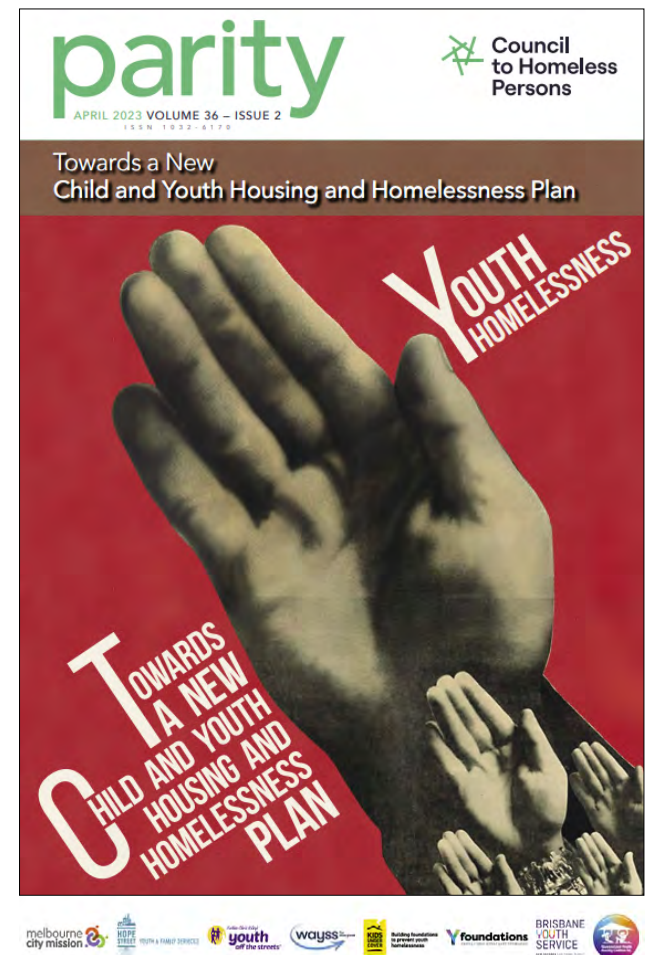
When we attend to the current literature, note the views of Specialist Youth Homelessness Services and associated partners and listen to what young people who have experienced being homeless or at risk, or are currently homeless or at risk, have to say with regard to housing and homelessness responses for young people in Queensland, we see clear agreements for simple ways forward. There is an appetite for systems improvement and a strategic approach to eliminate homelessness, not just reduce it. It is evident a redesigned homelessness system would encompass: locally managed community organisations working across relevant local services, in particular with schools; simplified entry points which act as cooperative networks; investment into prevention and early intervention; correcting the disproportionate allocation of social housing to young people; incorporating developmentally appropriate and needs-specific, place-based collaborative support; and the inclusion of a wide variety of housing models that partner with young people in their design. A systems improvement approach must also seek to address the wider societal burden of poverty and social disadvantage.

Improvement requires housing to be viewed as a right, for implementation of place-based preventative action and greater collaboration between homelessness and mainstream services. This must be accompanied by the removal of



regulatory and financial barriers to building more affordable housing, increase supply, and mandate affordable housing requirements (Spinney et al, 2020). There is a need for proportionate social housing for young people to enable them to successfully transition from adolescence to adulthood and to escape the all too familiar relapse into homelessness. A major expansion of housing options must be backed by greater investment of developmental and needs-specific support, and intent must be exercised to ensure First Nation young people, CALD young people, LGBTIQAP+ young people, young people with disability, those exiting systems and those under 16 years of age are captured.

You can read the QMF report [here](#).



We contributed a write up of our work on Queensland Moving Forward All Young People safely Housed to the Youth Edition of the Parity Magazine.

We also joined with several national and state homelessness peaks and organisations in sponsoring the April Youth Edition of Parity.

QYHC Chat Newsletter

Over the course of the year, we have continued to publish our monthly newsletter called 'QYHC Chat.' It is sent out widely to the insert number people that have subscribed and is also available on our website. This year our newsletter has provided those in the sector with a place to catch up on news that they may have missed, find out about upcoming training and events and learn about opportunities that are available for young people.

Each newsletter begins with an update on the big news for the month. In 2022-23, Premier's Roundtables, Housing Summit, Youth Homelessness Matters Day, Platform 1225 and how young people fared in the state budget – were a few of the topics highlighted. We have

also kept the sector up-to-date with current research, articles and things going on around the state for young people. Additionally, the newsletters have provided information about how to celebrate and get involved with events, how to join important campaigns, how to apply for grants/awards and how to register for a range of training opportunities. There have also been regular updates from services and promotion of workshops and groups for workers to refer young people into.

We love that QYHC Chat connects workers with relevant and useful information that they may not have otherwise seen in amongst their busy work schedules. We look forward to continuing to produce it.



To view our newsletters from the last year, click [here](#).

Submissions

- Queensland Youth Strategy Submission
- Queensland Housing Summit Submission
- 2023 State Budget Submission
- MEASURING IMPLEMENTATION & IMPACT: THE INTRODUCTION OF A FAILURE TO REPORT OFFENCE IN QUEENSLAND - Submission of the Failure To Report Working Group
- Support of the National Child and Youth Housing Policy



Presentations

Community of Practice for Specialist Domestic and Family Violence Practitioners (SDFVP)

QYHC presented at the Community of Practice for Specialist Domestic and Family Violence practitioners. The presentation focused on findings from the Mapping and Modelling work conducted earlier in the year and provided context of the current state of youth homelessness in the state. The presentation was well received with positive engagement from attendees. We value the opportunity to develop connection with our sector colleagues.

Brisbane South Youth Interagency

As well as attending the Interagency QYHC also presented a similar presentation to that noted above. It was great to be able to offer an overview of the Queensland Moving Forward – All Young People Safely Housed Report findings and talk about the realities of the homelessness experience for young people in Brisbane.

Events

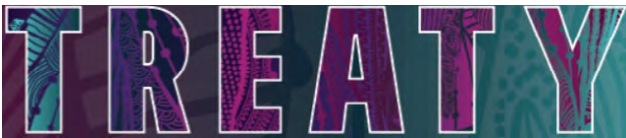
Our New Housing Minister



May 2023, we welcomed a new Housing Minister in Hon Meaghan Scanlon, Minister of the newly formed stand-alone Department of Housing. We also welcomed Director General to the same portfolio, Mark Cridland and then many new colleagues in the department across the 4 newly developed teams.

Queensland Government on the Path to Treaty

On 16 August, the Palaszczuk Government announced the historic next steps on the Path to Treaty. This marked an historic leap toward reconciliation in Queensland including the structures to be established in legislation – a First Nations Treaty Institute and a Truth Telling and Healing Inquiry.



QYHC was thrilled to be in attendance as Premier Palaszczuk signed a Statement of Commitment with First Nations leaders and hundreds of guests. An excerpt from the Statement reads: *“This Path to Treaty is a journey, not for the timid, but for those who are courageous to confront our uncomfortable past, the curious who long to find out and live with the truth, and the optimists who dream of the possibilities of a future where we live comfortably with the past, free of blame and rancour.”*



QYHC was delighted to attend Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland’s Inaugural Housing Conference in November ‘22. This conference explored key issues, developments, opportunities, and solutions to create improved Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing outcomes in Queensland.

We relished the opportunity to hear from a range of presenters and be a part of a powerful learning experience. Key learnings from the conference included:

- First Nations people first
- First Nations housing services driving First Nations housing solutions
- The key to change is voice, treaty and truth
- Policies need to be from the grassroots level
- Safe and secure homes = empowered communities
- Connection with community is vital – need to be led by mob
- Place-based and co-design – involve First Nations people in the design of their homes
- Resourcing to need, First Nations’ voices in the workforce and equitable funding.

2023 State Budget

The 13th of June saw the state budget 2023-24 released. An additional \$18 million over 5 years for enhancing 5 immediate supported accommodation services for young people across the state as well as specialist outreach support in 13 locations has been allocated. QYHC is continuing our work with the government to enhance housing and support options for young people.

As part of the government's promise to focus on the housing crisis currently ravaging Queensland, an additional \$322 million dollars has been directed to build 500 more social homes. This is additional to the \$3.9 billion for social and affordable housing to assist in building 13,000 homes. Additionally, \$64.3 million has been allocated towards the purchase and lease of emergency accommodation in Brisbane.



Attorney General's Roundtable

The Failure to Report Working Group (FRWG) was an initiative of Queensland Sexual Assault Network, Queensland Youth Housing Coalition, Women's Legal Service Queensland, Youth Advocacy Centre and LawRight. These organisations came together in response to organisations approaching us who were then newly aware of the July 5th 2021 legislative changes and seeking clarification and support in implementing them. In response two Forums were held. These included presenters from WLSQ, YAC, LawRight, DJAG and QPS. From these Forums, representatives from several community organisations formed the Failure to Report Working Group (FRWG). Membership consists of Queensland Sexual Assault Network, Women's Legal Service Queensland, Youth Advocacy Centre, Queensland Youth Housing Coalition, LawRight, Zig Zag, Encircle, Jabiru, Community Living Association, QNADA, Yourtown and Brisbane Youth Service.

These groups joined together to discuss the impact of Failure to Report offences in Queensland. We also conducted a survey across our sectors and prepared a submission to the Attorney General Fentiman to outline the impact of this legislation would have on young people, alongside recommendations for amendments to ensure the legislation didn't have unintended consequences of impacting young people's agency with regard to reporting. We raised issues regarding the legislation, the commitment to resources for the community including across language groups and the need to safeguard clients' access and practitioners via a delegation at the DJAG Roundtable on 21st November 2022.

QCOSS Breakfast

Braving the early morning chill of June 15, QYHC joined representatives of the community, government and private sector gathered to hear from Treasurer Cameron Dick, as he outlined the recent budget and spending targeted at responding to the increasing cost of living. During his speech the Treasurer announced an estimated \$50 million a year in extra funding for frontline services in the form of indexation (at a rate of 5.63%).



Queensland Care Consortium

QYHC attended the launch of the Queensland Care Consortium (QCC) in March. The QCC is a partnership of Jobs Queensland, CheckUP Australia, the Community Services Industry Alliance (CSIA), Queensland Council of Social Services (QCOSS) and The Services Union (TSU). The QCC support the development and delivery of industry-led, government-enabled activities that will support workforce development, attraction and retention in the health and community



sectors. The Queensland Government committed \$750,000, part of an almost \$2 million three-year package, towards grants funding for not-for-profit community organisations, industry organisations, an enterprise or group of enterprises to design and implement projects to meet the gaps in local workforce planning and development.

CEO and Leaders' Lunches and Forums

In November, QYHC attended the QShelter CEO and Leaders' Forum and the 'Go for Gold' Housing Legacy Workshop. The 'Go for Gold' Report – a social inclusion legacy framework for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Workshop explored the report in detail, expanding on the recommendations and workshopping for localised advocacy efforts and implementation across all LGAs and Queensland regions. The CEOs and Leaders' lunch included a warm welcome to country by Louise Bonner and opening remarks by Q Shelter President Darren Mew. The Hon Meaghan Scanlon MP followed with her opening address focused on housing solutions. Keynote speaker, Futurist Dr Colin Russo, explored how leaders can shape the future they desire, before presentations on housing diversity and building community support, enabling community housing providers for growth, and philanthropic investment options for the future.

Again in June we attended the QShelter CEO Leaders' Lunch as well as the Regional Representatives Forum. The Leaders' Lunch included presentations by guest speakers, the Minister for Housing, Hon Meaghan Scanlon MP, Tess Pickering, Deputy Director General of Planning, and Debbie McNamara, GM of Economic Development Queensland.

Partnerships and Networking

A significant amount of time is spent on meeting with stakeholders and networking with non-government and government agencies. The following is a snapshot of our meetings over the past year.

Housing and Homelessness Peak and Industry Leaders

On 29 August 2022, peak and industry leaders from the housing and homelessness sector joined the Honourable Leeanne Enoch MP, Minister for Communities, Housing and Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts, Director-General Clare O'Connor and representatives from the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy to discuss continued priority actions to respond to housing pressures across Queensland.

This continues the Government's partnership approach under the Housing Strategy and its Action Plans, to jointly deliver meaningful outcomes through combining resources and expertise for collective impact. It will help us to prioritise actions and focus efforts for the next 6-12 months to best deliver on the Action Plans.

The need to prioritise housing supply was at the forefront of discussion, with a focus on identifying suitable land and more innovative methods of housing construction.

Work was planned for preventing and responding to homelessness, tenancy and housing sustainment and supporting people who can transition through the housing and homelessness system from Specialist Homelessness Services and supported accommodation, through social housing, and the private rental market and home ownership.

With collaborative work already commenced on agreed priorities, this sector group plans to meet again in early October to continue the momentum for delivering shared solutions and meaningful outcomes, as we also prepare for the recently announced housing summit. We will continue to work together to respond to the housing needs of Queenslanders, navigating the challenges and optimising opportunities in the current environment.

We continued to meet with the Minister and Director-Generals throughout the year in preparation for roundtables and to discuss significant developments.



Senior leaders from the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy and the housing and homelessness sector's peak and industry bodies attended a workshop on 29 August

Ministers and Director-Generals; Members of Parliament

It is so important to note the generosity of spirit and time we are afforded by our Ministers and Director-Generals and the many others who support them, such as policy advisers. There's an enormous amount of information for Ministers, MPs and policy advisers to be across. We've really appreciated the time and energy with which those we meet take on the information, share the concerns and genuinely work towards solutions. We met with a number of MPs throughout the year as well as sending information and our campaign material for YHMD 2023. We recognise their concern for young people in their communities and will continue to work together in our journey to end youth homelessness. An extra special note of thanks to Minister Enoch and Minister Scanlon and their teams. We're excited about the opportunities that lie ahead.

Department of Housing

We meet regularly with our colleagues from DoH. It's been a huge year for them with machinery of government changes and a whole new stand-alone Department. We appreciate their collegiality, the willingness to work through the conundrums and seek solutions and their desire to improve homelessness responses for Queensland's young people. There's so much to be done and it's wonderful for all concerned to be seeing inroads. We're excited about working in partnership to grow the capacity of the youth homelessness sector to ensure that when young people in Queensland experience homelessness or are at risk, they receive a response, the right response at the right time, to ensure their homelessness experience is short lived.

QYHC/SYHS meetings

These meetings occur monthly or as needed to ensure organisations across Queensland are abreast of key information and have the opportunity to input into the work of QYHC on their behalf. We gain significant input from organisations via these meetings and have

discussed young people's needs, policy positions, legislation, research (including the QMF report) and projects. These meetings occur either state-wide or by region.

CHQ Collaborative – Adolescents with Complex Social Needs

In November 2022, QYHC had the opportunity to join the formation of a new sector collaborative. The Adolescents with Complex Social Needs (the Collaborative) was formed to promote interagency collaboration, gather collective expertise and advance initiatives aimed at improving psychosocial out-comes for adolescents (aged 12-18) presenting with social complexity. This initiative supports integrated service responses in South-East Queensland (SEQ) Hospital and Health Services, other government and community agencies with a targeted focus on the psychosocial care of socially complex adolescents and their families who encounter multiple levels of care. Meetings ran monthly through to end of financial year and QYHC attended most meetings. In instances where online attendance was not possible recordings were accessed to stay up to date.

While the initial meetings of the Collaborative focused on defining scope and focus of engagement, including Terms of Reference, within a few months the group formed the following aims: Collaboration and Partnerships, High Level Advocacy, Promote Initiatives, and Innovation. The Collaborative has also worked toward establishing consumer engagement with young people with lived experience of navigating multiple systems including health and homelessness. The meetings are a good opportunity to hear broader sector information sessions, through Member Spotlights, and to explore emerging trends and current issues through Wicked Problems Solution Sessions.

Queensland Peaks Network (QPN)

This network is facilitated by Queensland Council of Social Services (QCOSS) and brings together Queensland peak organisations to discuss issues and work together on matters that impact the

community sector. This important network provides the opportunity for all the peak organisations to share thoughts and problem solve, focusing on solutions to the key issues that impact our organisations working with Queensland's most vulnerable.

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. This has been a particularly complex space this year with a myriad of changes and many difficult terrains to navigate. We're looking forward to more robust conversations and more balanced discussions in various domains about young people and the layers of disadvantage that impact behaviours.

Youth Homelessness Matters Day National board

QYHC is a member of this board. This is an important undertaking for QYHC in the national arena. The focus this year was on the campaign for the Federal government to develop a standalone National Child and Youth Homelessness and Housing Strategy. For too long, the specific and complex needs of children and young people who are homeless or at risk have been assumed to be the same as those of adults and subsequently not explicitly addressed in government policy and plans to address homelessness. As the Labor Government commits to developing a National Housing and Homelessness Plan, we are calling for a commitment to develop a strategy specifically for children and young people.

PIF/QYHC Partnership

Our work together ensures shared understanding, enhanced relationships across sectors and avenues for additional housing for young people in regions across Queensland.

Homeless Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Advisory Committee (HIDRR)

QYHC continued to support HIDRR Advisory Committee throughout the year promoting sector engagement in the development of person-centred emergency preparedness (P-CEP) resource and cross sector collaboration to reduce disaster risk in communities. QYHC had several opportunities through the project to ensure matter related to young people experiencing homelessness were considered. Consultation and development workshops for the resource were promoted through networks and by end of year the P-CEP resource was completed by the project team, drawing together learnings over the entire project. The guide for providing disaster preparedness support to people experiencing homelessness prepared for release during National Homelessness Week in August 2023.

Foyer Community of Practice

QYHC meets 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. Townsville is learning from the experiences of Logan and Gold Coast.

Cairns Youth Housing and Homelessness Working Group

This working group brings together services and support agencies working with young people experiencing homelessness in Cairns. QYHC has been able to stay connected with regional challenges and developments through this network, and keep the members up to speed with the work that QYHC is doing state wide and the formation of the QMF Report.

Brisbane Local Level Alliance (LLA) – Responses for Young People (Domestic Violence)

The Brisbane Local Level Alliance (LLA) – Domestic Violence is a collection of services from across

Brisbane who come together monthly around issues affecting children, young people and families. Member organisations are committed to collaborating to improve outcomes for families, particularly those experiencing disadvantage. Membership spans government, community and for-profit agencies across education, health, justice and the social sector. The purpose is to bring services together to identify the best collaborative, timely and appropriate responses to families with complex needs. It also aims to develop an embedded domestic violence specialist workers/knowledge in services to young people.

Logan Housing and Homelessness Network

During the year QYHC had opportunity to present QMF Report preliminary findings to the Logan Housing and Homelessness Network. We've maintained an ongoing connection to this network of Housing and Homelessness services and associated organisations. An important process for us to maintain these important relationships and to keep our ear to the ground concerning local trends and collaborative responses.

Ipswich Housing and Homelessness Network and Youth Interagency

Connecting in with the Ipswich Housing and Homelessness Network and Youth Interagency meetings has provided QYHC an opportunity to keep connected to what is happening at grassroots level, and insight into the unique community collaborations that are making a difference in housing outcomes for young people and the broader population. These gatherings also provide QYHC an opportunity to note emerging trends, build relationships, support and promote housing and homelessness initiatives, contribute research, and to relay information to the community sector services of what is happening at state and federal level and where these intersect with day-to-day work.

Inner Urban Youth Interagency

This meeting is facilitated by Brisbane City Council and brings together youth and community sector

organisations to co-ordinate services and respond to the needs of young people. Each meeting has a guest speaker and provides a space for workers to give an update on their service and discuss trends that they are seeing. Our presence at this meeting was welcomed as so many services were facing housing as an issue with their clients. QYHC had the pleasure of presenting its mapping and modelling project in its early stages at one of these meetings as well. Information shared at these meetings is often advertised in our QYHC Chat newsletter and working relationships between services have been formed. QYHC initially attended the Inner Urban Youth Interagency on a monthly basis, sometimes falling short now with competing meetings and such a small team.

Housing and Homelessness Peaks' Partnership

This partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland, Community Services Industry Alliance (CSIA), Community Housing Industry Association (CHIA), QShelter and Homelessness Queensland (HQ) is an initiative which can allow for shared understanding, information exchange and joined up processes intended to ensure our combined efforts are impactful and our energies in sync.

There were many meetings this year, all focused on initial discussions about the possibility of a workforce wellbeing project, followed by discussions relevant to preparing the submission for the project, then a full day planning workshop and several more meetings to plan for the Workforce Connect Project.

Brisbane South Youth Interagency

Facilitated by Brisbane City Council, the Brisbane South Youth Interagency brings youth and community sector organisations together to coordinate services and respond to the needs of young people. QYHC had the opportunity this year to connect in and present preliminary findings of the QMF Report and to build connection with local services.

Campaigns

Make Renting Fair in Queensland (MRFQ)

QYHC has been part of a broad group of community-based organisations which launched the Make Renting Fair in Queensland campaign for progressive tenancy law reforms. Over the course of the year MRFQ focussed on raising awareness, sharing community experiences, and generating support around the seven distinct Campaign Asks:

- Limit Rent Increases
- Make Bond Returns Fair
- Fairer Contract Terms
- Your Home Accessible, Safer and Healthier
- Make your home your own
- Protect Your Privacy
- Ensure you are treated with respect

This year MRFQ also called for responses to the Queensland Government's Stage 2 rental law reforms. QYHC promoted the opportunity through networks during the community consultation process, encouraging feedback into key reform areas that included: installing modifications, making minor personalisation changes, balancing privacy and access, improving the rental bond process, and fairer fees and charges.

Raise the Rate for Good

The campaign to Raise the Rate for Good is key to reducing poverty and inequality in Australia. The goal of this campaign is to raise Australia's social security safety net to alleviate poverty. This requires an income of at least \$70 a day.

QYHC consistently reminds government and stakeholders that poverty is the main precursor to homelessness. Income support for young people that keeps them above the poverty line is essential. QYHC is a proud supporter of the Raise the Rate for Good campaign as this is key to reducing poverty and inequality in Australia.

Raise the Age

It's well understood that children do best when they are supported, nurtured and loved. However, across Australia, children as young as 10 can be arrested by police, charged with an offence, hauled before a court and locked away in a prison. These laws are harming children at a critical time in their lives. The #RaiseTheAge campaign was born to change this. The #RaiseTheAge campaign was born to change this. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, organisations and activists have been pushing for the age of criminal responsibility to be changed for decades, having seen first hand how locking away young children and removing them from their communities and families only does more damage.

From QYHC's perspective, offending behaviours and homelessness sit within a symptomatic continuum of structural imbalances, poverty and social disadvantage. Relevant to this is the reality that, in Australia, 1 in 6 young people are living in poverty (ACOSS) and in Queensland 83% of children in the youth justice system were known to Child Safety Services in 2014 (Atkinson, 2018).

QYHC asserts that the role for adults and systems in Australia is to pay more attention to what children and young people have to say. As an organisation we aim for the developmental needs of children and young people to be more widely recognised across our society in order that children receive the appropriate supports and interventions as they need them. Children belong in classrooms and playgrounds, not in handcuffs, courtrooms, or prison cells. QYHC joins the call to #RaiseTheAge of criminal responsibility from 10 to at least 14 years old.

Call to Halve Child Poverty by 2030

Poverty affects far too many Australian children and families. As one of the wealthiest countries in the world, it's just not right that 1 in 6 of our children grow up in poverty. These were amongst the messages of the recent Anti-Poverty Week, a campaign aimed at improving community

understanding of poverty and calling on collective action to eradicate it. The campaign calls upon all politicians to commit to halve child poverty by 2030.

QYHC is clear that childhood poverty is strongly connected to homelessness in later life and that if we work to prevent this, we change the course of a person's life. We are strongly aligned to the goals of this campaign.

Everybody's Home Campaign

Everybody's Home is a national campaign to address the housing crisis. It focuses on working together to call on Australian governments to bring balance back to the system, so that everybody has a place to call home. Building more social and affordable housing and providing immediate relief for Australians in chronic rental stress are critical steps to ensure ongoing stability and prosperity for all.

The campaign celebrated the major housing package announced in the federal budget as a landmark step towards tackling Australia's rental crisis. QYHC consistently reminds government that all young people should be safely housed and is a proud supporter of this campaign.

We participated in the campaign, open letter and media call for the Stop Youth Crime – Get Smarter, Not Tougher campaign.

Our open letter to the Queensland Parliament

STOP YOUTH CRIME – GET SMARTER NOT TOUGHER

We are organisations and individuals concerned about preventing youth crime, reducing re-offending and achieving community safety. As you deliberate about youth crime, we respectfully urge you to consider the following:

STOP POLITICISING YOUTH CRIME

Queensland communities deserve evidence-based solutions to youth crime that actually work. They do not deserve political point-scoring about who is the toughest on crime.

A bi-partisan approach based on getting smarter, not tougher, will produce better outcomes for everyone in keeping communities safe.

TAKE NOTICE OF THE FACTS

Queensland already has some of the toughest laws and the highest number of children imprisoned in Australia. Despite decreasing youth crime rates, the number of children held in Queensland detention centres continues to increase.

In 2021-22, with detention centres overflowing, around 470 Queensland children – some as young as 10 – were held in adult watchhouses for periods of up to 14 days. A watchhouse is not a fit place for a child.

Locking children up does not free communities from crime. There is overwhelming evidence that youth detention does not work to deter crime, rehabilitate, or make communities safer. In fact, the experience of being incarcerated increases the likelihood of children offending. Almost all children who are imprisoned in youth detention in Queensland reoffend within 12 months of their release.

We can never imprison our way to a safer community, but there is plenty of evidence about how we can reduce crime.

PROTECT OUR CHILDREN – MORE THAN ANY OTHER AGE GROUP, THEY ARE THE VICTIMS OF CRIME

While we are all concerned about children who break the law, please remain aware that children, more than any other age group, constitute the majority of crime victims. Many of the children who find themselves on the wrong side of the law have been the victims of crimes far more serious than any offences they have committed.

Many have grown up learning that adults are not to be trusted. Is it any wonder that they have little respect or trust in authority figures and the justice system? It takes time, persistence and skills to regain the trust of these children.

LET FIRST NATIONS LEADERS LEAD

The gross over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in detention - over 70% - continues to draw shame on the world stage. When First Nations leaders and organisations have been able to design and manage responses to youth crime within their communities, the results have been impressive.

Governments need to get out of the way and let First Nations leaders lead. This means making a genuine commitment to self-determination by First Nations peoples and resourcing of their communities to deliver local responses that they, more than anyone else, know will work best.

PROPERLY RESOURCE OUR TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS

By the time children enter detention, over 50% have not been attending school. It is within the classroom that anti-social behaviours usually begin to emerge. Non-attendance at schools and high rates of suspensions and exclusions are frequent precursors to children's involvement with the youth justice system.

Better resourcing of teachers and schools with the programs and supports they need to keep children engaged in schooling will help stop problems before they start.

TAKE ACCOUNT OF CHILDREN'S DISABILITIES AND MENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS

Many children in the youth justice system have severe disabilities, including fetal alcohol spectrum syndrome disorder. There are no systematic screening or assessment processes in place to identify disabilities of children involved with Queensland's youth justice system, meaning we are currently detaining children with undiagnosed disabilities and providing no appropriate supports when children leave detention – a recipe for reoffending. Failure to consider neurodisabilities and mental health concerns of children encountering the youth justice system mean all current solutions are doomed to fail.

TACKLE OUR SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Research by the Queensland Family and Child Commission and others has found that most children in detention have experienced violence within their homes, poverty, homelessness or the absence of a safe place to call home, and/or exposure to alcohol and other substance misuse.

We must address these issues by tackling child poverty, collectively ending youth homelessness, addressing the impact of family violence on children, and increasing the number and range of

specialised youth mental health services, alcohol and drug treatment services, child protection, family support, early education and mentoring programs.

Ban social media outlets from posting both children's illegal exploits and 'hate messages' from vigilante groups – both are inciting children to commit offences.

Get tougher on the causes of youth crime - it will represent a far better, less costly and more effective investment of taxpayers' dollars in achieving community safety.

HOLD CHILDREN ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR BEHAVIOURS IN WAYS THAT WORK

Threats of harsher punishments do not deter children from offending. The incarceration of children is the single biggest predictor of children entering into a lifetime of crime.

Why is it that there has been a significant reduction in the use of restorative justice approaches in recent times? In many instances, restorative justice very effectively brings children and the victims together face-to-face to help children understand and take responsibility for their behaviour and work out the ways they can repair the harm. It is just one example of getting smarter, rather than tougher, in using solutions that work. There are many more.

DIVERT CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 14 FROM THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

The younger children are when they first have contact with the justice system, the more likely they are to go on to re-offend. Effective responses involve children quickly discovering the consequences of bad behaviour, whilst also providing guidance to not repeat their mistakes. Children, especially very young children, do not understand or benefit from fronting courts and waiting months while the wheels of justice slowly turn. There are much more effective ways of holding children to account in ways that are timely and well-matched to a child's age and stage of development.

Any evidence-based policy to keep the community safe should include significant investment in strategies that work to divert children, especially those younger than 14, from the criminal justice system.

Collectively, we remain firmly committed to working with members of the Queensland Parliament on strategies to reduce youth crime. We are especially committed to working on strategies that are smarter, not tougher, in protecting Queensland communities and keeping them safe.

The figures referred to within this letter have been drawn from the Children's Court of Queensland Annual Report 2021-22. Please refer to the 'Orange Paper #2 – a ten-point evidence-based plan for investment to address youth offending' first published by the Youth Advocacy Centre in 2020 – it provides a good starting point for getting smarter, not tougher.



Alyssa Venning	Assoc Prof Heather Fraser	Carol Ronken	Dr Meg Perkin FASD & ASD Consultancy	Dr Michelle Newcomb	Dr Natasha Reid Senior Research Fellow	Dr Shane Warren	Dr Terry Hutchinson	Elena Marchetti	Hon Margaret White AO
Jean Carruthers	Jennie Briesie	John Homan	Prof Christine Morley	Prof Karen Healy	Prof Silke Meyer Leneen Forde Chair in Child & Family Research	Rev Dr Wayne Sanderson	Sam Pattison	Sandy Patton	Scharryn Kneen

From the Chairperson

For almost 40 years, the Queensland Youth Housing Coalition has demonstrated an unwavering committed voice for the issues impacting on marginalised young people. Our vision is All Young People Safely Housed, and despite the changing times and evolving landscape this commitment is no different today as it was in those early years of this important work.

The 2022/23 financial year has presented a set of new challenges for our young people and the services who support them. The past year has been tough, marked by a cost-of-living crisis, where inflation continues to rise, as do interest rates. Housing availability is at an all-time low, as is affordability.

More and more people are feeling these pressures, which sees the challenges experienced by our young people to access support and be safely housed amplified. Those who were already on the margins, are being pushed completely out.

This is why I present this report with gratitude for the continued exceptional work of QYHC and I acknowledge that although our organisation may be small, we are mighty.

QYHC led by Executive Director Lorraine Dupree, as demonstrated in this Annual Report have embarked on the proverbial 'eating of the elephant' in their approach to an enormous volume of work in 2022/23. It can not be overstated the sheer commitment and determination of Lorraine and her very small team (of one) John Williams, marked by their collective wisdom and expertise to keep chipping away.

Thank you, Lorraine, and John, for supporting the services who provide vital support to our young people, and for continuing to hold our community in the highest regard in your advocacy. Never let the courage you bring to QYHC waver.

Thank you to Hon Meaghan Scanlon, the Minister for Housing, and to your department for valuing

youth homelessness in the broader housing conversation. We have valued our opportunities to connect and be involved this year.

To our Management Committee, thank you for your continued allyship. It is a privilege to work alongside of you all as we work towards to strategic objectives of QYHC. As we edge towards this intent one thing remains clear, until funding matches the commitment to actually end youth homelessness, there is urgent need for not-for-profit organisations to prioritise an investment strategy that seeks to diversify our funding streams. I acknowledge that as a committee we have work to in this space and will endeavour to navigate the opportunities into our future.

My gratitude to Fotina, Brett, Aunty Sandy, Allan, Kirsten, and Jordanah – the years come and go, but the stability and commitment of our committee is commendable. Thanks for all that you do.

It is with sadness that we farewell Brett Johnson and Allan Mitchell from the QYHC committee in 2023/24. I have highly valued Brett's experience and considerable contributions to the QYHC Committee over the past five years. Brett brought with him such insight and aspiration for QYHC and will be missed. Allan your commitment to young people, the youth homelessness sector and QYHC shone through in all you said and did. Your insight and fire in your belly are commendable. Your real-world take was absolutely appreciated. Thank you, Brett and Allan, for walking with us and being part of the QYHC story.

Finally, thank you to our Membership. We look to you as our guides, and beacons. Your support of QYHC and unwavering commitment to providing space and place for young people in Queensland is essential, and we must never stop. Each of us can make a difference, together we can make change.

Megan Hall
Chairperson, QYHC

From the Treasurer

2022–2023 FINANCIAL YEAR

Queensland Youth Housing Coalition Inc. (QYHC) continues to engage in our strategic alliance with the Department of Housing. We have worked closely throughout this financial year and celebrated many successes for the Specialist Youth Homelessness Services - improved resources to support young people through the Towards Ending Homelessness for Young People investment and the further investment in the June '23 budget.

- Our funding income for the year was: \$297,541.74.
- We also had unexpended funds carried forward of \$67,444.53.
- Conference income was \$6689.08.
- Interest was \$660.54.
- Other income was \$20197.28.
- We ended the financial year with a deficit of \$2960.18.

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 2023 – 2024 financial year.

I'd like to thank our Accountant June for her diligence and guidance. She covers a significant amount of work for us in very small amount of time. We're very fortunate and grateful for her expertise. I am aware of the enormous amount of work our CEO and very small staff have been able to achieve over the last year and want to commend them on their achievements. I continue to feel privileged to be part of QYHC and a member of Management Committee. I would like to thank the rest of the MC and to our CEO and staff for their ongoing commitment and hard work.

Dr Fotini Hardy
Treasurer, QYHC

From the Executive Director

Another action-packed year for QYHC, our colleagues in Specialist Youth Homelessness Services and the Department as well as our young people. Through all the swings and roundabouts, there's been some impactful steps forward for the sector and consequently the young people with whom we work.

From the Premier's Housing Roundtable to the Queensland Housing Summit, the subsequent submissions, and reports, the landscape of housing and homelessness in Queensland has shifted considerably over this 2022/2023 Financial year. Young people were not without gain in this changing environment. We began the year preparing alongside the then Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy for the Towards Ending Homelessness for Young Queenslanders 2022-2027 policy and integrated framework of housing with support. With this important innovation announced in September '22 came a \$30 Million investment across several key areas. A really important step in tackling the increasingly complex realities of homelessness for young people in our state.

More good news for the sector and young people arrived with the 2023 State Budget and announcements overviewed earlier in this report. By the time of this announcement, we had a new Minister for the standalone Department of Housing. It's been fabulous working with Minister Scanlon and her dedicated team. Their enthusiasm for understanding and responding to the housing and support needs of young people who experience homelessness in Queensland

is awesome. We also thank Minister Enoch who began the financial year as our Minister for Communities, Housing and Digital Economy. She began the many conversations of addressing the complexities of the housing crisis. We appreciate the generosity of spirit and time we are afforded by our Minister and many Ministers in associated portfolios. This thanks extends to the ministerial teams of advisers and supporters. Throughout the year we've had multiple meetings with Ministers, advisers, Director-Generals, and departmental colleagues. They are incredibly busy people who are always generous in accepting meetings, questions and responding to a host of requests.

Speaking of those who are generous and responsive, I'd like to acknowledge our Management Committee members – Megan, our Chair, Fotina, our Treasurer, and academic extraordinaire, Brett, our secretary and members, Aunty Sandy, Jordanah, Kirsten and Allan. We're finding our stride and gaining momentum, really looking forward to the year ahead with the MC. I'm going to miss Brett and Allan. Both brought such great discussions and varied experiences to the table. Thank you all for always being so approachable and committed and willing to share your vast skills with us for our benefit. You're all very accomplished in your own very busy careers, the fact you go beyond that to support QYHC, is so appreciated. I particularly thank our Chair and executive who need to be across so many aspects of the organisation, and they're my go to people. Your input and wisdom makes for a far less bumpy ride through our work!

Another group of integral volunteers are our young people. Those who have taken their own experiences and use them to envision improved responses for other young people facing similar situations. They bring with them a knowledge across systems and skill base of learning and personal attributes that are inspiring. They're also fabulous to spend time with and learn from. They keep us focused on the real reason we're here. Thank you all!

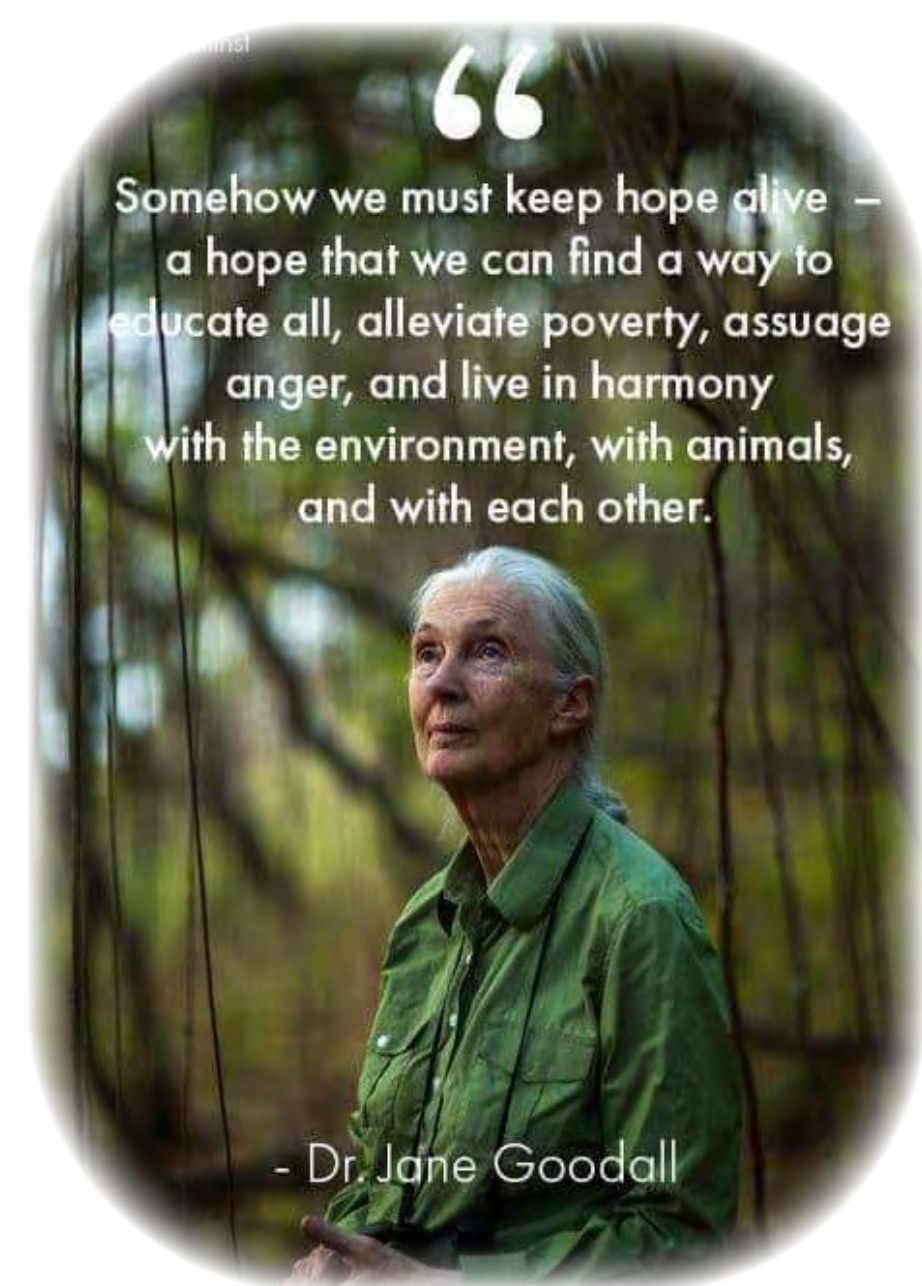
We began the financial year with the benefit of a small team, the additional much needed hands the result of the MC's preparedness to use QYHC's funds to extend our capacity. Unfortunately, infinite funds are not a reality and we're now back to 1.6 FTEs. We've learned to do much with little. A huge thank you to QYHC's staff – Rachael, John and Dina. We began the year together, continuing the momentum from the previous year. Dina left mid-year to have her beautiful baby boy. Rachael moved on towards the end of the year, our loss but Homelessness Queensland's gain. We would have loved to retain our dynamic little team as I thoroughly enjoyed working with them for the varying skills and perspectives offered, and because they're awesome humans. However, if you're going to run an organisation with one other team member, having someone with the breadth of experience and skill that John has leaves very little to complain about. I'm also very grateful for his patience, tenacity and his preparedness to come along for this windy and often unpredictable ride. Thank you John!

I'd also like to thank Julyan, our creative wiz, Caitlin our events wiz and June, our financial wiz. All bring significant expertise to the organisation, fulfil essential tasks that add such value whilst billing us very little. Your capacity and generosity are hugely appreciated.

This organisation is small with an extraordinary reach. The support, relationships and good will we receive is in no small way due to all those who contribute – from the Management Committee to organisations, staff and young people. It's wonderful working with such decent people who are fair, committed, motivated and love a good debate!

Let's face it through, the real stars of the show are our sector and young people. This is a sector that continues to attract brilliant advocates, workers with that fabulous blend of heart and grit and leaders who continuously look for innovation and improvement whilst staying grounded and person centred. We appreciate the trust, collegiality and good will that's been so evident throughout our projects. Meeting the myriad of requirements whilst staying young person focused is a times a tricky competing demand. We're clear what comes next, and our young people are leading the way, we'll be working on some of the age-old conundrums across systems to ensure young people's needs are met at the time the needs arise by the system responsible for meeting the need.

Lorraine Dupree
Executive Director, QYHC



Queensland Youth Housing Coalition Inc.

