

**Attention:** Treasury  
[housing@treasury.gov.au](mailto:housing@treasury.gov.au)  
**11/01/2023**

## Introduction

I am writing to you as the Chief Executive Officer of Brisbane Youth Service. BYS has been making a difference in the lives of vulnerable children and young people aged between 12 and 25 years and their children for 45 years. BYS was founded in 1976 in response to the growing issue of youth homelessness. From a single worker, the organisation has grown to employ more than 90 staff, providing a holistic response to vulnerable young people and their children. BYS works with many children, young people and young families who need support with early intervention parenting, safe relationships (KIND program), DFV, housing, mental health, emergency assistance, primary health and alcohol and drug issues. We are a specialist homelessness service and community housing provider for young people in Queensland.

I have worked in the Child and Youth Homelessness sector for several years, previously as the Chief Executive Officer of [Yfoundations](#), NSW peak Body youth homelessness and as the last co-chair of the National Youth Coalition of Housing (NYCH) which has now dissolved and as Board Member of the [End Street Sleeping](#) collaboration. I currently sit on the Board of [Homelessness Australia](#) and hold a leadership position on the [Thriving Queensland Kids Leadership Table](#). I have lived experience of homelessness as a child and young person. I am passionate about advocating for systemic change through collaboration and targeted service and social policy responses that lead to ending this awful issue for Australia's children and young people.

## National Housing Supply and Affordability Council Bill 2023 Feedback

### Part 2, Section 8, 9 Functions 1(a)-(g)

**Issue:** There is no accountability or reporting back on the effectiveness of the Council and its ability to hold stakeholders accountable in increasing the affordable housing supply and decreasing the number of homeless people in Australia.

**Resolution:** The additional clause: The council will monitor conditions related to homelessness, using the data from the AIHW, Census and other data sets measuring housing demand. The Council will publicly publish a report on the number of homeless people and the impact of the Housing Australia Future Fund in decreasing homelessness for key vulnerable groups (i.e., young women and children, older women, unaccompanied children, and young people). This reporting should be back to parliament and published publicly. The Council should be responsible for the development and maintenance of the National Housing and Homelessness plan in consultation with key stakeholders. Holding the

accountability of reporting on the success of the plan in increasing the housing supply and decreasing homelessness.

#### **Part 4 Members, Staff, and Consultants Part 4**

Members Division 2, Section 22 Appointment, 9 (2) Appointment notes (j) experience in one of the nine categories.

**Issue:** The current council does not adequately represent the Homelessness Policy area for children and young people and Indigenous representation.

**Resolution:** Council members are immediately recruited to provide expertise in unaccompanied children and young person homelessness.

That the membership of the Council needs to represent key stakeholder groups that make up the vulnerable groups noted in (Part 2, Section 10, (f), the clause should also state that members must hold experience in relation to the needs of specific vulnerable cohorts who are currently identified as highly vulnerable in the current homelessness data.

The Housing Australia Board should also reflect these skill sets.

To discuss the recommendations further, you can contact:

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