

ANNUAL REPORT 2025





We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we live and work. We pay our respects to Elders past and present. We honour the leadership and lived experience of people with disability, whose voices are vital in shaping inclusive communities and driving meaningful change.

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OVERVIEW AND HIGHLIGHTS

Foreword from the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson

We congratulate the Queensland Government for launching the Expert Disability Housing Advisory Panel (EDHAP) – a national first and a model of co-design and lived experience leadership.

With diverse representation from across Queensland, including rural and regional communities, EDHAP brings deep cultural insight and lived experience to its work. This enables practical, evidence-informed advice on issues such as modular housing, Specialist Disability Accommodation, domestic and family violence, and inclusive disaster planning.

Initiatives like the My Housing Options Toolkit and Accessible Pathways Home reflect the EDHAP's tangible impact. EDHAP demonstrates the power of collaboration between people with lived experience, government, and industry – driving progress toward a housing system where every Queenslander with disability has genuine choice, inclusion, and a place to call home.

Karin Brady, Chairperson
Sara Shams, Deputy Chairperson



Members



Karin Brady (nee Swift) Chair



Sara Shams Deputy Chair



Jane Britt Member



Dane Cross Member



Alan Duffy Member



Julie Saunders Member



Nigel Webb Member



Jasmen Sivyer Youdale Member



Panel purpose

The purpose of the EDHAP is to provide expert and lived-experience advice to the Queensland Government on the implementation of Partnering for Inclusive Housing with Queenslanders with disability 2024-2027 (Partnering for inclusive housing) and responding to the national and state disability reform agendas. The EDHAP contributes towards improving housing outcomes for Queenslanders with disability through co-design and person-centred approaches. The EDHAP is made up of people with lived experience of disability, expertise and knowledge to represent the views of Queenslanders with disability and the Queensland disability community. EDHAP members have expertise across the areas of public and community housing and understand the housing needs of people with lived experience of disability and the disability housing reform agenda. The EDHAP meets quarterly – both online and in person – to monitor the plan's progress, advise on policy and system improvements, and provide regular updates, including an annual report, to the Minister for Housing and Public Works. Queenslanders with Disability Network (QDN) is the secretariat to the Panel.



Establishment of the Expert Disability Housing Advisory Panel

Membership:

POSITION	NAME	TERM OF APPOINTMENT
Chairperson	Karin Brady (nee Swift)	15 January 2025 - current
Deputy Chairperson	Sara Shams	15 January 2025 - current
Panel Member	Jane Britt	15 January 2025 - current
Panel Member	Dane Cross	15 January 2025 - current
Panel Member	Alan Duffy	15 January 2025 - current
Panel Member	Julie Saunders	15 January 2025 - current
Panel Member	Jasmen Sivyer Youdale	15 January 2025 - current
Panel Member	Nigel Webb	15 January 2025 - current



Meetings and activities

ACTIVITY/MEETING	NUMBER OF MEETINGS
Panel meetings	4
Planning day	1
Out of session meeting	1



Ministerial meeting attendance:

MEETING TYPE	MINISTERIAL ATTENDANCE	DATE
Planning day	Honourable Rebecca Young MP, Assistant Minister to the Deputy Premier and Assistant Minister for Planning, Housing and Better Regulation.	14 May 2025
Panel meeting	Honourable Sam O'Connor MP, Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth.	3 December 2025

Meeting focus areas:

The EDHAP members have structured their meetings in line with the actions from the Partnering for Inclusive Housing Implementation Plan (the plan). This has included the format of having speakers from relevant agencies present on their activities and EDHAP members providing feedback and advice to inform the implementation.

ACTION NUMBER	ACTION	ACTION AREA	SPEAKERS	MEETING NUMBER
3.	Co-design a disability housing monitoring and evaluation framework with the Expert Panel and release an annual report on progress.	General Action.	Department of Housing and Public Works (DHPW) Representatives.	1 and 2
6.	Re-design 'My Housing Options' toolkit and codesign more housing resources that support people with disability to consider their housing and living options, make housing choices and plan for their housing future.	Pillar 1: Integrated Pathways in Suitable Housing.	EDHAP Panel Member Presentation.	2

ACTION NUMBER	ACTION	ACTION AREA	SPEAKERS	MEETING NUMBER
7.	Expand understanding of the housing needs and preferences of people with disability in legacy social housing shared living arrangements and support them to transition into alternative housing if that is their choice.	Pillar 2: Maximised accessible and sustainable housing options.	Alexandra McRobert - Director of Design, Housing Growth, DHPW. Anne Nuendorf - Assistant Director General, Building Policy, DHPW.	2
8.	Examine the future of Queensland Government owned enrolled Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA).	Pillar 2: Maximised accessible and sustainable housing options.	Michelle Bullen - Executive Director, Safeguards, Service Strategy and Quality, Disability Services (DFSDSCS). Max Wise, Deputy Director General, DFSDSCS.	3
9.	Explore opportunities to utilise factory-built systems, such as modular homes that meet the needs of people with disability.	Pillar 2: Maximised accessible and sustainable housing options.	Catherine Dwyer - Principal Project Officer, Housing and Homelessness Services, DHPW. Paul Focic - Associate Director, COX Architecture. Peter Nelson - Director, Design & Modern Methods of Construction, Office of the Queensland Government Architect, with QBuild, DHPW.	3

ACTION NUMBER	ACTION	ACTION AREA	SPEAKERS	MEETING NUMBER
18.	Improve responses for people with disability experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness; and domestic, family and sexual violence by developing practice guidance and capacity building.	Pillar 5 – Enhance crisis and emergency accommodation responses.	Amanda Shipway, Director, Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, Integrated Service Response Team, Office of the Chief Practitioner, DFSDSCS. Karin Swift - EDHAP Chair.	3
19	Undertake activities to encourage awareness and use of the Disability and Homelessness Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction planning tools.	Pillar 5 – Enhance crisis and emergency accommodation responses.	Dr Michelle Villenueve, Associate Professor, University of Sydney. Samuel Symes, Manager, Business Transformation and Strategy, Community Recovery, DFSDSCS.	2



EDHAP Advice Highlights

EDHAP provided lived-experience advice on the following key areas to inform Departmental action and implementation of the plan.

- Emphasised the need to embed accessibility and inclusion across all housing, planning, and development systems.
- Supported rollout of the *My Housing Options Toolkit* and recommended accessible versions for First Nations and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities.
- Endorsed modular and factory-built housing as an effective method to increase supply and reduce build times. The EDHAP highlighted the importance of accessibility, integrated transport links, and engagement mechanisms for tenants, including future tenants to deliver on accessibility and inclusion in design.

- Recommended early tenant involvement in design, feedback post-occupancy, and attention to cultural and digital accessibility.
- Advised that Livable Housing Design Standards and Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) need to:
 - Meet the needs of people with high physical support or complex behaviour needs.
 - Include future proofing, energy efficiency, and disaster resilience.
 - Maintain robust design options and expanded options of Robust ++ to avoid inappropriate institutional, health or correctional placements.
 - Explore practical tools to activate vacant properties in regional areas with focus on underutilised assets.
- Identified intersection of domestic and family violence, housing, and disability as a critical
 area
 - Recommended inclusive crisis and emergency accommodation design and work with people with disability.
 - Supported co-design in procurement and "no wrong door" referral pathways.
- Highlighted need for stronger coordination across housing, health, and disability systems, including the need for more timely options and improved planning in the transition from hospital to home.
- Recommended improving accessibility data, transparency, and public reporting on housing programs.
- Supported activities to improve how accessible housing is identified in the private market, including clearer online listings, education for property professionals about modification rights, and a tenancy connection service to help people find and keep suitable homes.
- Stressed the importance of maintaining public confidence in Queensland's inclusive design standards and the long-term legacy of accessibility reforms.
- Highlighted the Independent Youth Housing Group as a leading example of innovative, tenant-led cooperative housing and recommended that similar lived experience-driven models be explored and supported as part of Queensland's inclusive housing strategy.





In 2025, the EDHAP has:

- Focused on a human-centred approach which places people at the centre and housing that is inclusive, accessible, adaptable, and sustainable.
- Committed time to be educated on initiatives which are underway to inform advice and feedback. This supported informed, timely, and responsive advice on emerging issues and priorities.
- Ensured lived experience of disability can drive policy, design, and implementation.
- Ensured advice and feedback is based on the social model of disability and aligned with the housing principles for inclusive communities.
- Provided their feedback and advice representing a wide diversity of disability
 experiences, cultural identities, and geographic contexts, including First Nations lived
 experience, culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, physical, cognitive,
 psychosocial, intellectual and sensory disability, and carer role.
- Collectively, members have brought deep knowledge across the broad spectrum
 of housing environments ranging from institutional settings, group homes, crisis
 accommodation, youth housing and social housing to private rentals, Specialist Disability
 Accommodation and home ownership supported by extensive expertise in policy,
 advocacy, systems reform, and community-led housing models.



Year ahead - 2026 priorities

- 1. Establish working groups around a small number of priority areas to enable deeper focus on specific action areas.
- 2. Ensure focus and priority is given to people with invisible disability, including people with psychosocial, intellectual disability, autism, and neurodiverse disabilities.
- 3. Prioritise data sharing on implementation progress as well as system level data to ensure EDHAP can provide informed advice and feedback.
- 4. Establish the monitoring and evaluation framework to enable EDHAP members to have clear visibility and overview of progress.
- 5. Prioritise engagement with regions and how to include more rural/remote voices to understand local community level issues and experiences.
- 6. Integrated services and systems across mainstream, disability and housing.
- 7. Ensure feedback and advice is responsive to the emerging changing landscape of disability reforms, including the Royal Commission into the violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of people with disability and the NDIS Review.

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